

Councillor Question Time

Question from Councillor Pearl

Can officers provide an update on the South Melbourne Town Hall, which is currently closed. Would the money allocated to the draft 2021/22 budget allow for the hall to reopen, regardless of proposed funding from the Australian National Academy of Music, and if so what's the ETA on that opening date?

Lachlan Johnson, Executive Manager Construction Contracts and Operations, advised that the current status of the project is that Council is about to commence procurement to undertake detailed design for the South Melbourne Town Hall refurbishment process, which has been outlined in the CEO Report. Funding in the draft budget would pay for the design work to prepare the building, and to commence delivery works in 2022. Mr Johnson took the question around the budget implications on notice

Response

The repair and renewal work at the South Melbourne Town Hall is scheduled to be completed by June 2023. At that stage, the building will be in a basic, tenable condition. The works are funded through a combination of asset renewal reserve funds, rates funding and insurance. These works do not rely on funding from any external parties.

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time and Councillor Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*