



Old Bega Hospital (R.180050) Reserve Land Manager

3 Corkhill Place Bega NSW 2550 - PO Box 382 Bega NSW 2550 - Email: reservetrust@obh.org.au

The Hon John Barilaro MP
Minister for Regional Development
Level 17
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Repair of the Old Bega Hospital

Thank you very much for your letter (ref: A286874) received on 8 February 2019 confirming that the government has made a reservation of up to \$3m from the Regional Communities Development Fund for restoration of the Old Bega Hospital. That is a very welcome development in what has been a very long saga to get funding to repair the building following the 2004 fire.

The proposed funding followed our unsuccessful application to the Regional Cultural Fund (RCF) for \$2.921m as part funding for a 'bare bones' repair of the main building at the Old Hospital to get it to a habitable condition, so that it can be once more used as the heart of a community and cultural centre on the site. The total cost of the bare bones restoration is \$3.421m, based on a quantity survey dated 20 September 2018 by Wilde and Woollard of plans produced by Sibling Architecture of Melbourne, plus the estimated cost of project management (spreadsheet attached). Funding for that professional work was provided under a Heritage Activation grant from the Office of Environment and Heritage.

The difference of \$0.5m between the RCF funding applied for and the building cost estimate was to be funded by the February 2015 offer of grant under the Regional Assistance Fund, initially offered by the then Deputy Premier, the Hon Troy Grant MP, which the Hon Andrew Constance, Member for Bega, had advised us last September was still available. We wrote to you regarding that offer of grant on 6 September 2017.

Conditions on the 2015 offer included finding the remainder of the funds required to complete the project. With the reservation of up to \$3m under the Regional Communities Development Fund, we are finally able to meet that condition.

The purpose of this letter is to ask if we can now reactivate the 2015 offer, so that together with the up to \$3m under the Regional Communities Development Fund we will have sufficient funds to deliver the bare bones proposal. We emphasise that \$3m is not sufficient on its own to deliver the project, and as it is already a 'bare bones' proposition there is little scope for further cost reductions.

In your 8 February letter you indicate that the up to \$3m commitment is subject to the Reserve Land Manager providing a full project delivery plan and confirmed updated project costings. We do not anticipate any difficulty meeting the requirement for a full project delivery plan, though we need to be

advised what is required. We intend to engage Public Works Advisory to manage the project and may request their expert assistance if required - though we are unable to engage them until funding is secured. We prepared a comprehensive and well documented business case for the project as part of the Regional Cultural Fund application. We presume the 20 September 2018 quantity survey meets the requirement for a confirmed up to date project costing. We will be happy to liaise with your department regarding precise requirements, noting that at this stage the Reserve Land Manager has no funding for further professional work so will be reliant on its own volunteer resources for any additional inputs.

All relevant existing documentation, including the stage 1 'bare bones' plans, the quantity survey and the RCF business case, is available on the Old Bega Hospital website, www.obh.org.au.

Yours sincerely

[signed]

Patricia Jones

Chair

15 March 2019

cc The Hon Andrew Constance MP, Member for Bega