



Community opposition to loss of
community-zoned land and facilities
at 78-84 John St, Yeppoon

Livingstone Community Voice

cqcommunityvoice@gmail.com

<https://linktr.ee/LivingstoneCommunityVoice>

Representing Community

Livingstone Community Voice represents...

1. Users of the community centre and grounds
2. Community members with a direct connection to the community centre and its history
3. Community members with strong concerns about due process and the future of the community centre and services



Community Concerns

- The Yeppoon Community Centre and grounds have significant community value as a space (not just as a venue) and the connection to that space is critical to community members
- The ecological, social and cultural value of the location should not be overlooked
- It is not acceptable to just lift and relocate the buildings, or build new alternatives elsewhere – the precinct is more than just the buildings or a venue for services
- The plan to build a new library elsewhere enables expansion and development of the community centre to meet future growth and current needs;
 - it does not mean that the remaining services and facilities at the John Street property need also be relocated;
 - it does not mean that the John Street precinct should be taken from community, and new or existing community groups.



What Is Our Position

- We **do NOT oppose** progress or investments in affordable housing
- We **do NOT oppose** staff having safe workplaces
- We **do NOT oppose** council properly maintaining assets and facilities
- We **do NOT oppose** increased services for homeless or at-risk individuals
- We **do NOT oppose** an increased footprint of community facilities across the shire
- We **do NOT oppose** investment in improved services and infrastructure
- We **do NOT oppose** improvements to existing buildings or community facilities
- We **DO oppose** community-zoned land being cleared, rezoned, swapped, or sold-off
- We **DO oppose** any downsizing of the amount of community-zoned land in the shire
- We **DO oppose** the lack of genuine, timely consultation about community assets and services

Community Views

Email sent to councillors and mayor following the 18 July 2026 Community forum (organised by the community).

Sent: Saturday, July 18, 2026 8:31 PM

To: mavor@livingstone.qld.gov.au <mavor@livingstone.qld.gov.au>; pat.eastwood@livingstone.qld.gov.au <Pat.Eastwood@livingstone.qld.gov.au>; wade.rothery@livingstone.qld.gov.au <Wade.Rothery@livingstone.qld.gov.au>; andrea.friend@livingstone.qld.gov.au <andrea.friend@livingstone.qld.gov.au>; lance.warcon@livingstone.qld.gov.au <Lance.Warcon@livingstone.qld.gov.au>; glenda.mather@livingstone.qld.gov.au <glenda.mather@livingstone.qld.gov.au>; rhodes.watson@livingstone.qld.gov.au <Rhodes.Watson@livingstone.qld.gov.au>

Subject: Re: Community Meeting: What's your view about the future of the Yeppoon Community Centre?

Good evening Councillors

Thank you for those able to attend parts or all of the community forum today. As committed at the meeting, please see below the core community concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Yeppoon library and community centre arising from today's community forum:

1. Demolition of the existing site is broadly opposed – why is it necessary when there are so many reasonable alternatives?
2. Location - Whatever does happen with the library and community centre, the priorities need to remain central location and accessibility;
3. Timing – whatever does take place, it's critical that all services have an established place to access and operate before anything changes at the existing Community Centre;
4. Site retention – is demolition & sale of the site actually necessary, even if either the library or parts of the Community Centre do relocate? Can't it be retained for future use?
5. Alternative sites - If there's a need for affordable housing development, why cant alternative (already vacant) sites be developed instead?
6. Development – what (if anything) can be done to ensure that any sale and development genuinely delivers community benefits? Or once it's sold is all control handed over to private owners (like the Station land)?
7. What options exist (and are being genuinely considered) to retain the existing site and use it effectively into the future?
8. What options exist to relocate the library and retain the site for development to house the community needs?
9. Conservation – we oppose the loss and clearing of the trees, gardens and natural environment that has been grown and built by the community on the existing site;
10. Preservation of heritage – we oppose the loss of heritage that would result from demolition. The site should be retained;
11. Community access - There is a strong and urgent need to retain community access to free, usable spaces like are currently available at the existing site;
12. Sense of Place – community members have a deep and enduring connection to the existing site and it's aspects and any plan to sell and demolish will result in a loss of our Sense of Place (and community ownership);
13. Community input – can Council guarantee that the public will have a say in any decision to sell, demolish or relocate the existing facilities, land and services BEFORE any such decision is made and BEFORE any sale is negotiated?
14. Consultation - How can community members influence the development of the plan for the site and services?
15. Parking – any further development or community services decisions need to ensure adequate and accessible parking is prioritised;

Community members at the forum have collectively expressed their opposition to the sale and demolition of the existing centre and site. A resolution to retain the site and urge Council to explore alternatives was passed in the majority.

We would appreciate any feedback or responses to the above so that they can be circulated to the attendees at the community forum today.

Regards

Livingstone Community Voice

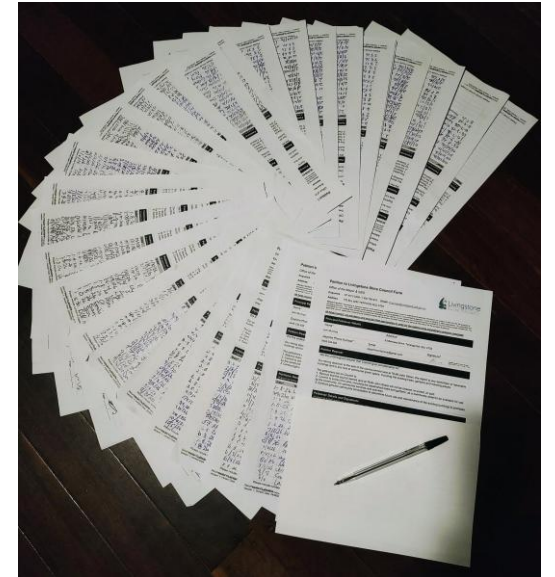
Petition Excerpt

"We the undersigned request that Council give consideration to:

*Our strong objection to the sale of the council-owned land at 78-84 John Street.
We object to any demolition of repairable buildings and to any loss of communal green space, including the existing trees, gardens and meeting places.*

The petitioners call on Council to:

- 1. Resolve that the council-owned land at 78-84 John Street will not be cleared, re-zoned, or sold.*
- 2. Commit to protect this land, including the established trees and gardens, as a community asset to be available for use by the community, for community services and activities.*
- 3. Conduct genuine community consultation to determine future use and maintenance of the existing buildings & premises."*



Petition Overview And Progress Status

- Petition has received >600 signatures at time of writing
- We will submit the petition formally once closed at the end of the month



Recent media about the campaign



<https://cqtoday.com.au/all-digital-editions/cap-coast-today-25th-july-2026/>



CAPRICORNIA BREAKFAST →
Breakfast
Wed 5 Aug 2026 at 6:35am

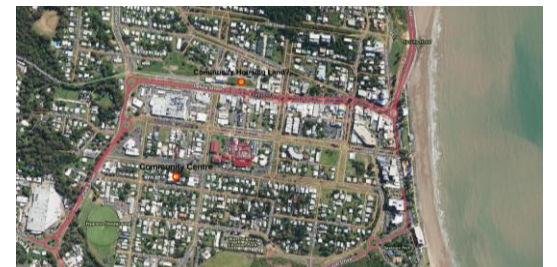
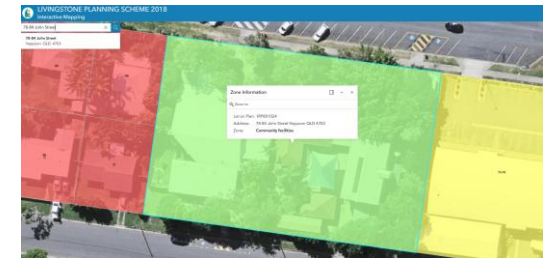
<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/capricornia-breakfast/breakfast/106986904>



<https://cqtoday.com.au/all-digital-editions/cap-coast-today-8th-august-2026/>

What Is The Alternative?

- Retain the John Street precinct for community use
- Retain the unique, immersive space; the established trees, gardens, shade and habitat
- IF the community seeks a new, improved library and IF this means the library relocates from the western side of the John Street, then, with community input and consultation ...
 1. Retrofit the western side of the John St property (utilising the existing building or otherwise) to increase the amount of space available for community activities.
 2. Transition community groups, services and programs to the western side while undertaking any necessary repair works on the structures on the eastern side of the block.
- Council to work with Vinnie's to identify suitable alternative sites for their affordable housing development



Concluding Remarks

- There are many alternative, suitable locations for Vinnie's to invest in affordable housing
- It is unreasonable for council to fund demolition or site preparation AND sell the land for below-market rates, especially when Vinnie's already own land that has not been developed and other parcels of land are available without requiring similar ratepayer investment and subsidy
- Other points
 - The John Street community zoned land should always be retained for community activities
 - There are many community groups that could make use of the existing spaces if other services move to new 'purpose-built' community services assets
 - Why are there apparently so many structural and "not-fit for purpose" issues with the existing buildings?
 - Why haven't the existing buildings been maintained?



