Lew Rojahn

From: Gwen Deemal-Hall <gwen.hall2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 2:42 PM
To: Lew Rojahn
Subject: Lease of old Police Station

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Re: Consideration for historical significant building -old Hope Vale Police Station repurpose
Please consider this letter as an expression of interest for a lease for the old Hope Vale police station.
This building is one of the remaining historically significant building within Hope Vale community.
I am seeking an opportunity to have a lease for this building with a view to have the building fully restored and to be used as a community research and history area site.
University of Melbourne- Architecture Program will be involved to develop the designs which would be submitted to Hope Vale Council as part of your DA process.
The architecture program will assist with not only approval plans but also have experience in working with restoration for culturally significant buildings- Which this one is. I would be looking to have it energy compliant to meet councils' net zero targets.
The aim is to have a specific historical building dedicated for community research which is different from the IKC model(Indigenous Knowledge Centres funded via Qld State Government) which are public libraries and knowledge hubs.
Please advise what is the process to register a formal application for the Old Police Station.
My contact details;
Email: gwen.hall2@hotmail.com
Ph: 0456-544-533

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Lew Rojahn

From: Kieran Eustice
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2026 3:09 PM
To: Lew Rojahn
Subject: Lease of Old Police Station Repsonce

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Hi Lew,

This is in connection with the email received from Gwen Deemal. My response is below.

I am supportive of restoring older buildings where they hold significant historical or cultural value. At this stage, however, I am not convinced that the old police station warrants retention in its entirety given is historical use.

We have previously reached out to community members and received some stories about the police station and its history. There has also been some interest in acknowledging the site or retaining an element of the building. However, nothing received to date has indicated strong support for preserving the entire building.

Council's current view is that the site may be better suited to future housing development and community growth.

If this proposal is to be taken to Council for consideration, I believe we would need further information around the proposed scope, including:

- the planning and timing of the design and restoration works;
- estimated capital and ongoing operational costs;
- how the restoration would be funded;
- the level of community consultation and historical research undertaken; and
- whether the proposed community research/history facility has been tested to determine likely demand and ongoing use.

With that information, Council would be in a better position to consider whether restoration represents a worthwhile long-term use of the site compared with its potential for future housing or other development.

Regards,

Kieran Eustice | Capital Works Manager
Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council
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GWEN JEEVAH - POLICE STATION.

Lew Rojahn

From:	Lew Rojahn
Sent:	Friday, August 28, 2026 9:20 AM
To:	gwen.hall2@hotmail.com
Cc:	Kieran Eustice
Subject:	Restoration of old Police building

Good Morning Gwen
Thankyou for your expression of interest in the preservation of the old police station here in Hopevale.

You may or may not be aware that Council has put a survey to the community about whether this has any value to the community and there has been minimal response. There does not seem to be any strong sentiment to preserve the building but there has been a suggestion that some part of it could be held to acknowledge its existence.
The problem with the building from Council's point of view is that it is essentially condemned and isn't worth restoring based on the termite damage and the current danger it is to the community in its present state. To restore it would be expensive and time consuming and Council does not have it as a priority at this time.

Council is planning to look at creating additional community housing on that whole block and we believe that is more important than preserving a building that doesn't seem to have any support from the community.

However, because you have submitted your EOI for this building and now we have the results of the survey, I will submit both to Council so we can decide whether it is worth your while in proceeding based on Council's intentions for that area.

If Council is will to look at your proposal, we will require a lot more information before any project could be approved.

Information such as;

- The planning and timing of the design and restoration works (There would be significant replacement required and I question its historical content on that basis.)
- Estimated capital and ongoing operational costs.
- Who would underwrite the cost of the restoration and who would oversee the project
- The level of community consultation and historical research to be undertaken to confirm it as an authentic museum
- The basis of assessment for likely demand for such a facility
- The Capacity of any organization to enter into a lease of the premises over the anticipated period.
- Preparation of working drawings and plans indicating works to be undertaken and the provision of parking and toilets etc.

Thankyou again for your enquiry.