

Email/text sent to all council candidates, Tuesday 18 October 2022:

Dear council candidate

The Art Museum of Kangaroo Island, is a visionary and adventurous proposal which would reveal Kangaroo Island art to the world and draw world art to Kangaroo Island. For more information about the value of AMKI for Kangaroo Island, please see [the AMKI Business Case](#).

Arts and cultural tourism is the strongest growing sector of global tourism and tourism plays a major role in the Kangaroo Island economy. The wellbeing benefits of the arts in practice and consumption are also clearly documented – benefits the fire-affected community of Kangaroo Island will continue to need.

The Art Museum of Kangaroo Island committee would appreciate candidates' responses to these questions:

1. Do you believe that Council should be an active supporter of and advocate for the arts on Kangaroo Island?
2. Do you support the community-based Art Museum of Kangaroo Island proposal?
3. Do you support AMKI being built near Kingscote on Lot 460 Seaview Road overlooking the Bay of Shoals.

Please respond by the end of this week, Friday 21 October so that we can share the information with our many supporters.

Thank you

AMKI Establishment Association committee

### **Responses in order received**

#### ***Jeanette Gellard***

Dear AMKI Committee,  
Thank you for your interest and engagement with the Council election process.

One of the principal roles of a council is to encourage and develop initiatives within its community for improving the quality of life of the community. This is supported by a number of Council functions set out in the Local Government Act.

- To provide for the welfare, well-being and interests of individuals and groups within its community, and
- To establish or support organisations or programs that benefit people in its area or local government generally

Given the strong arts culture and cohort of artists living and working on Kangaroo Island I can only agree that Council has a role to play in supporting and advocating for the arts on Kangaroo Island. An Arts Museum would benefit the community in many ways – as a place to showcase Island art, as a venue for travelling exhibitions that would enrich cultural life for residents, and as a significant attraction for visitors.

I have been a strong supporter of the AMKI proposal since its inception and have been involved in the development of its initial strategic plan and community consultation activities. My support for this project continues.

I have followed the identification of Lot 460 Seaview Road as the preferred location for AMKI and support the assessment that was undertaken to arrive at this conclusion. I am also aware that there was strong support during the community consultation for this site.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views with you.

Warm regards  
Jeanette

**Pat Austin**

Yes to all 3 questions.  
Cheers  
Pat

**Richard Cotterill**

Good day, and thank you for taking an active interest in this election.

My responses to your questions follow;

Q1 I do believe that council should be an advocate for the arts on the Island. I have stated recently in the chamber and at the Candidates Q and A that council seems focused on advocacy and support for sports, but there are many in the community who have other interests.

I am currently drafting a motion that I hope to put to the November council meeting aimed at reinstating community grants, which will be available to support and promote arts of all types.

Q2 I publicly stated my support for this project in the Council chamber when AMKI gave a presentation to the Council last year.

I said at that time that AMKI is a dedicated group of local people with a vision to match a number of large-scale developments on KI.

I acknowledge that such a large and complex project will require significant determination and resources.

Q3 This is such a significant grassroots project that it will attract a wide variety of views across the community. This has already manifested itself in discussion regarding the use of community land. The disparate views regarding community land use extend to all proposals for the use of such land. There is often opposition to any proposal to develop community land.

I believe that this is an outstanding and innovative project. I think it is important enough that various options need to be considered to enable an outcome to be achieved.

I agree that AMKI's preferred site would be an ideal location for such an iconic development. However I wouldn't like the project to be impeded due to the failure to achieve that outcome. I would like to see further discussion around options for other sites that might equally meet the needs of the project.

I would also like to hear options for a staged development of this project.

I think there is work to do in bringing more people on board to best utilise community land, but I know this will not be an easy task.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this with AMKI.

Regards,  
Richard Cotterill

**Rosalie Chirgwin**

Thank you for your interest in my views on the proposed museum, and the invitation to supply answers to the 3 questions.

As I am a fire effected islander, I am curious to know what benefits I will continue to need, and how your group plans to provide them. ( par. 2 )

In answer to your questions:

1. In the provision of carriageways, waste management, and other essential services, Council supports all residents and their enterprises.

2. Conditionally, yes.

3. Captain Morgan's Park is community land. Council must be impartial in its dealings, and faithfully preserve the legacy of its constituents.

AMKI group is at liberty to purchase its own property, and apply for developmental approval like any other commercial or public body.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in your survey.

Disclaimer: These are my personal views and do not reflect on KI Council.

Cr Rosalie Chirgwin

**James Newcomer**

Thx and my answers follow:

1. Yes
2. Yes
3. Having been present in the Council Gallery during informal discussions of this location, I feel that the current proposed location could be untenable and that it is likely that an equally suitable site could achieve a long-term lease on private land near Kingscote.

Best regards,  
James Newcomer  
Candidate for Mayor of Kangaroo Island

**Shirley Pledge**

The arts and art play an important role in most communities. And on kangaroo island there is a vibrant community doing just this.

I cannot speak for council but I believe community well being plays an important role.

Any decision on the proposed museum must come to the newly elected body and be put through all the processes again. it will be decided by all not just individuals.

I do not see financial support for a museum as a high priority given that meeting our core services and responsibilities uses most of our budget.

We have reduced debt to a more manageable level but I see road maintenance and improvement still the major concern.

Cheers Shirley Pledge

**Ken Liu**

I acknowledge receipt of your questions seeking a response for your supporters regarding the establishment of an art museum on KI.

Although I have a view on the matter, it is improper for me to answer them at this time.

Kind regards  
Ken Liu

When pressed for answers:

As I will focus on 3Rs if re-elected, it was my polite way to say No, No and No to your questions asked by your supporters.

Kind regards  
Ken Liu

**Veronica Bates**

Dear Committee,

Thank you for seeking my opinions about the proposed Art Museum. I acknowledge that local art has for many years been a popular past time of many island residents, we have a large and very talented art community and it continues to grow.

Whilst I am personally supportive of an Art Museum for Kangaroo Island I cannot speak as a councillor, as I have not been elected and not been a past councillor I have little understanding of the current plans or issues. That will be discussed within the new group of elected members.

Due to the parlous state of Council finances I guess spending must be prioritised to essential areas, to first support the whole island community. Hopefully the council will initially be able to support and advocate for this project, if not financially.

Such a museum could certainly be a drawcard for visitors to the island and I think the site would be stunning. Good luck with future planning and I hope this can become a reality in the future.

Kind regards, Veronica Bates

**Bob Teasdale**

The Art Museum of Kangaroo Island committee would appreciate candidates' responses to these questions:

1. Do you believe that Council should be an active supporter of and advocate for the arts on Kangaroo Island? **Absolutely!**
2. Do you support the community-based Art Museum of Kangaroo Island proposal? **Yes, but only if it is built on private land, not land owned or under the custodianship of Council.**
3. Do you support AMKI being built near Kingscote on Lot 460 Seaview Road overlooking the Bay of Shoals. **See above.**

**I think my views are well known. I'm very concerned that the AMKI's financial planning is too optimistic, and construction on Council land poses a potential risk to Council should the project not ultimately be financially viable. I've seen nothing in recent months to convince me otherwise.**

**Greg Miller**

Thank you for your email.

The Art Community plays a major part in our island culture and the council must acknowledge and support the growth of this.

It has been and will continue to be part of our Tourism offer.  
As long as it is financially sustainable i would support the establishment of of an Arts Museum  
and i believe the location in Kingscote would be an ideal one.  
Thank you for the opportunity fo me to put my views across  
Kind Regards  
Greg Miller

***John Holmes***

**1. Do you believe that Council should be an active supporter of and advocate for the arts on Kangaroo Island?**

**YES** - There is no doubt about the role of Council being an active advocate for the arts. We all want our Council to advocate for us, and with us, on a wide range of aspects of our diverse lives. Sometimes we seek clarity, or more overt encouragement. Other times we artists are happy to get on with our lives without requiring advocacy, or any major support. At the moment, positive encouragement and co-operative interactions would be a huge boost to the arts communities across the Island.

**2. Do you support the community-based Art Museum of Kangaroo Island proposal?**

**YES** - This is a major project. It requires a sound business case based on clear evidence and community support. This proposal has that. Documentation shows that it is exceptionally well researched and prepared. I support this visionary and thrilling proposal.

**3. Do you support AMKI being built near Kingscote on Lot 460 Seaview Road overlooking the Bay of Shoals.**

**YES** - My support is there. Lot 460 is superbly beautiful and is situated in the Island's major town. How this 'first choice' plays out is the big issue. Doubtless there could be a range of options, but these options, as with the preferred site, ought to be negotiated with goodwill and a feeling of advocacy by Council.

*I believe that there is across the Island a great desire for excitement and for positivity in the arts, culminating in a major state and national Arts Museum on Kangaroo Island.*