

From: Lithgow City Council
Sent: Mon, 22 Feb 2021 08:52:26 +1100
To: Technology One Connect
Subject: FW: Artillery Gun Purchase
Attachments: Artillery Gun Purchase.docx

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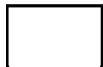
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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 21 February 2021 7:12 AM
To: Lithgow City Council <council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Artillery Gun Purchase

Good morning,

I have attached a copy of my submission regarding Council's invitation to purchase an artillery gun on the recommendation of the RSL.

[REDACTED]



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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this letter in response to the possibility of Council acquiring an artillery gun on a recommendation of the RSL.

Reading the press release regarding this possible acquisition, I have to say I find it very hard to see what possible upside there is for Council and for the wider community. According to Council policy "1.2 Asset Acquisition" Council needs to consider the following:

- * Evidence of community demand for the provision or retention of the asset (of which, I would assume, has been zero before now.)
- * Acquisition and / or development costs (There will be other costs other than just the purchase – transport, building a suitable platform for it at the park etc.)
- * The strategic worth of the asset and its community benefit (which I address in the next paragraph.)

In addressing the worth/community benefit - according to the statement, the weapon was made in the UK and there is no confirmation that Lithgow soldiers used the gun. So, I don't see what "military history" it connects with. It would simply be just another gun. Believe me, if it had a direct relation to Lithgow, I would support this proposal.

Added to that, Queen Elizabeth Park – the most beautiful park in the LGA – already has an artillery gun in it with the memorial. Why does it need more? It is somewhat "tasteful" now – adding more, in my opinion, would be heading toward "distasteful."

The press release says that the RSL believes it would be a tourist attraction. I'm not sure who for – maybe RSL-types but certainly people from Sydney aren't going to see a gun in a park and think "Let's go to Lithgow!" Sure, that is flippant but it is such a ridiculous idea that an artillery gun is in any way a "tourist attraction".

According to the Facebook article on 'LITHGOW 2790 NSW' (where I found the press release) the RSL Sub-Branch posted this comment:

"The Sub-Branch recommended to Council, Queen Elizabeth Park, because at Endeavor Park, there's no real place to put it, South Bowenfels, are the wrong types of guns and the Factory museum have previously stated that they aren't interested other than that no real place to put it."

So, according to that post, the Small Arms Factory aren't interested, they are the "wrong type" of guns at South Bowenfels, and there is nowhere else to put it. That does not read as a glowing endorsement. Yet, they recommend Council put their hands in their pockets and pay for it so the RSL can bask in the glory of it. That is just quite ridiculous. If the RSL want it, then maybe THEY should pay for it and donate it to Council – to be put somewhere other than QE Park.

Finally, without there being a financial cost to consider, then I think "No thanks" can be the only response.

To recap:

- * The weapon was made in the UK.
- * It has no direct link to Lithgow.
- * We don't need more guns in our beautiful park.
- * It isn't a "tourist attraction"
- * We aren't provided with a purchase cost and there are more costs outside the purchase of the gun.
- * The SAF don't want it.
- * It doesn't fit with other gun emplacements.
- * It really doesn't fit with policy guidelines.

Maybe if Council had more idea of costs, placement and benefits to the region, then another call for community input could be useful. But for now, it should be an easy "No."

