

Games Bid a key to Cultural expediency

Chris Kogler reports

After numerous GCCC and limited public committees, a national ideas competition and 18 months of in-house Council debate two firms of architects were engaged consecutively to develop a master plan.

This plan is now on public display via; www.gchaveyoursay.com.au/culturalprecinct.

It has just been placed on line and feedback closes on 18th March 2011.

Public debate has been severely restricted on the master plan and yet it has far reaching implications. It is important that thinking people and committed Gold Coasters like you become involved now. Stakeholders were given just two days' notice to attend a hastily thrown together workshop for this important piece of civic architecture and the much needed development of our cultural heritage.

SDGCI members have been active within the Council's Urban Design Advisory Board to argue for a better outcome but a lot will depend on how active the community is during this brief contact phase to get their message through to Council.

A trigger for the hasty resolution could be the Commonwealth Games Bid where, if successful, state and federal funding could be used to construct a larger theatre to host special events for the Games. A legacy would be a new large 2,200 seat hall for the Gold Coast. This is indeed a good reason to do something but it should not be a trigger for mediocrity.

If you are concerned or interested and would like to know more please send us an email or ring one of our executive officers.