

## RESPONSES FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS LYNCH TO BURNIE ARTS COUNCIL'S QUESTIONS

NOTE: Councillor Lynch has drawn his answers from his speech for mayor which was presented via video at the candidate's forum. He was aware of our questions prior to filming that video, hence addressed many of the issues we raised in the speech. The full video can be seen at [Vote Chris Lynch for Burnie Mayor Facebook page](#).

*"I will take responsibility for a more transparent process of communicating council's thinking and decision making. Regular, open communication regarding decisions and actions taken by the Council, is a must if the council is to regain the trust of the community.*

*The way the Council announced changes to its operations in May of 2021 caused unnecessary anger and confusion. The lack of consultation and detail initially provided by the council, unfortunately also allowed for misinformation to spread which caused further angst to many, and this scepticism is unfortunately alive and well today.*

*Through my direct involvement in the arts on the NW coast over the past 40 years, I understood the impact that the news would have on sectors of the arts, if the details behind the decision were not fully explained in the first instance.*

*My suggestions ultimately fell on deaf ears and the rollout of the information was just dumped in a press release, and the council is still paying the price for that. I personally spent the days and weeks after the announcement, trying to clear up the intention of the council decision with anyone who would listen.*

*The temporary unavailability of dedicated art spaces at the Arts and function centre has disrupted things for a while. But I have been a strong voice on Council for continuing to fund events in the interim however, including our unconditional grant of \$11000 to Paper on Skin to ensure its continued viability, and the opportunity to continue art exhibitions in other spaces around the CBD. For me, my participation in the theatrical arts has continued unabated, much like the many community theatre groups that have continued to thrive without interruption.*

*With the scheduled revamp of our Arts and Function centre looming, I know it will provide an exciting, contemporary, fit for purpose platform for our Arts community to continue to showcase the outstanding contributions of our artists."*