

## The Brief

St Mark's Chapel at UNE wants refreshed church facilities on its existing land capable of catering for all of our existing activities and needs (see excel list). We are uncertain if we can afford to build a new all-in-one complex. We are also uncertain about the feasibility and cost of building a new complex (whether in whole, in part, or in stages) versus refurbishing our existing complex. Therefore we are seeking formal advice on the feasibility and comparative cost of the option to build a new complex (or part thereof) versus refurbishing our existing chapel to meet our needs.

### Scope:

This is a scoping exercise to determine the relative costs of feasible options. We are not seeking a floorplan or concept designs; rather we require advice on the feasibility and cost of our two main options (refurbish/extend vs new building), that keeps a tight budget in mind. Therefore, the general parameters are:

- A site masterplan (a responsible footprint allowing future build/refurbish/site access)
- Advice on the feasibility and cost of:
  - Refurbishing the existing building to cater for 300 to 350 seats
  - Building a new facility to cater for 300 to 350 seats
- Any option must enable all existing activities to continue in our facilities
- A budget limit in the vicinity of c.\$2M

### Established priorities:

The following are the guiding priorities in order established by St Mark's Chapel Council:

- a. increased auditorium space (to seat 300-350 people) either through new building or refurbishment of existing building;
- b. enclosed break-out/foyer space;
- c. fenced playground; and
- d. upgraded kid's club/ministry office space.

### Options to be advised on:

#### ***New auditorium build:***

- 300-350 seats (fixed vs flexible seating)
- Toilets
- Welcoming area/capability
- A location for a fenced children's playground accompanied by protected parent/adult informal congregating space (nb. site management)
- Items that may be included within the new build or relocated to existing chapel facilities (to be refurbished at a later date) are:
  - "Break-out" meeting space/foyer, crying room, kitchen, kids/youth ministry space, staff offices

vs

#### ***Refurbish/Extend existing auditorium:***

- 300-350 seats (fixed vs flexible)
- Toilets
- Welcoming area/capability

- A location for a fenced children’s playground accompanied by protected parent/adult informal congregating space (nb. site management)
- Items that need to be retained/created within the refurbished/extended chapel facilities are:
  - Break-out” meeting space/foyer, crying room, kitchen, kids/youth ministry space, staff offices

**Notes:**

The site currently includes the main Chapel Building, a demountable Ministry Centre, a small fenced play area, two storage shipping containers, and a car park.

The demountable presents a range of problems (re: fit-for-purpose and end-of-life). We are open to its immediate removal or slow phase-out/replacement as may be required. An indication of the plausible cost/timeline of the approach recommended for this facility needs to be provided.

The main Chapel may be extended in any direction required in order to achieve a feasible/cost-effective refurbishment/extension. Any extensions plan should keep in mind that - currently: (i) car park access is on the building’s south side; (ii) the congregation enjoys meeting outside, informally, on the south side of the Chapel; (iii) site management should keep an eye on leaving space for future building footprints, and vehicular access from carpark to Trevenna for people with mobility issues, weddings/funeral cavalcades, and deliveries/movement of equipment.

**Questions**

Questions about this brief may be directed to the Chair of the St Marks Building Committee, Mr Caleb Dobos ([caleb.dobos@gmail.com](mailto:caleb.dobos@gmail.com); 0421 515 751) or the Senior Minister of St Mark’s Chapel, the Rev. Tom Melbourne ([tomm@unechurch.org](mailto:tomm@unechurch.org); 0423 180 357)