

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

WRITTEN QUESTION

Mrs Lambley to the Minister for Tourism & Culture:

The Strehlow Research Centre - Museum of Central Australia, Alice Springs

The Strehlow Research Centre has undergone refurbishments over the past few years.

1. Could you provide details as to what work has been done and how much this work has cost?
2. What is the plan for future refurbishment of The Strehlow Research Centre?
3. Why is the Strehlow Research Centre undergoing this refurbishment and at what cost? Is it possible to view the plans?
4. Are there any plans to change the purpose of the current building known as the Strehlow Research Centre?
5. What plans are there to change the location or nature of the Strehlow Collection? Will it return to its original purpose?
6. Is the Government considering providing accessible items from the Strehlow Research Centre to the proposed Ntaria Cultural Centre?
7. If so, what exactly are the plans for the Ntaria Cultural Centre?
8. How much will it cost to set up the Ntaria Cultural Centre?
9. Will the Strehlow Research Centre provide the Hermannsburg Historic Precinct with the accessible items?
10. Why is this being considered?
11. Are there plans to relocate the Strehlow Collections to Hermannsburg?.

If this is being planned or considered, could you provide information on issues such as:

12. The staffing and security of the Precinct or Cultural Centre for the Strehlow Collection items
13. Operational issues for the Strehlow Collection, being so far from Alice Springs
14. Operational costs of having items from this very valuable collection based in any remote NT communities
15. The protection and on-going research into the Strehlow Collection?

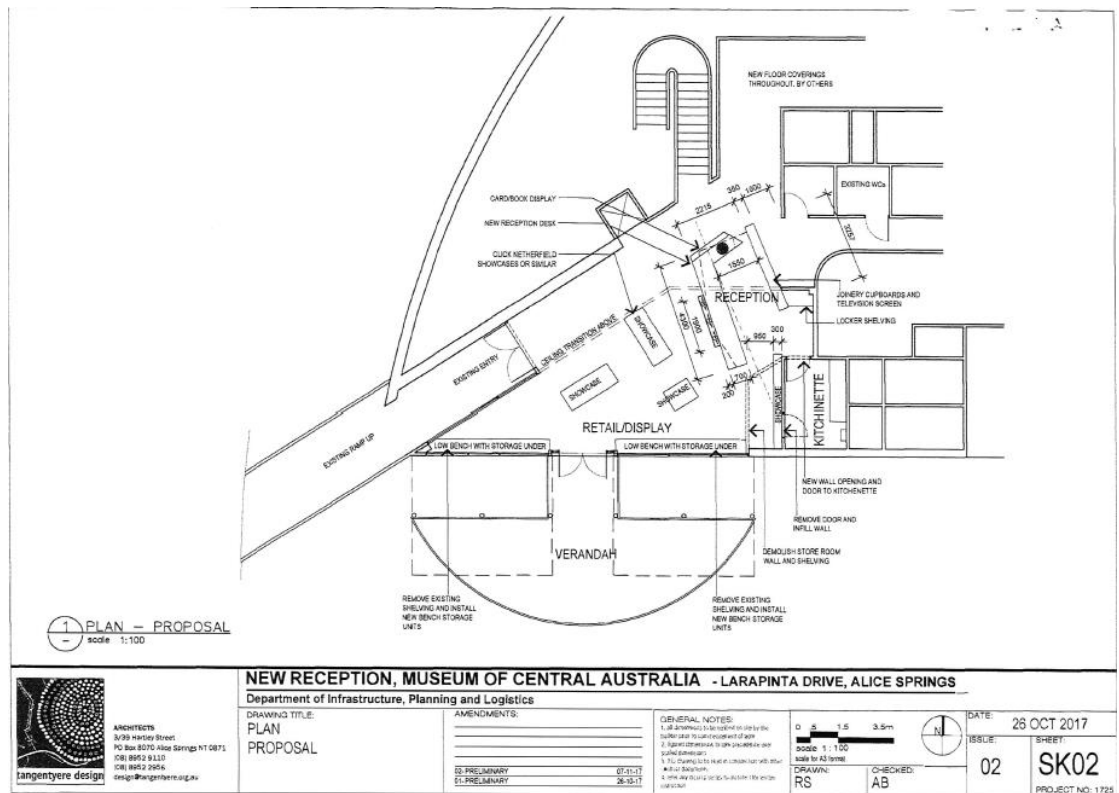
16. Why is the ground floor of the Strehlow Research Centre being refurbished?
 17. What will the ground floor of the Strehlow Research Centre be used for after it is refurbished?
 18. What changes will be made to the Strehlow Research Centre with the refurbishment of the ground floor?
 19. What are the current opening hours of the Strehlow Research Centre?
 20. Is there or has there been an issue or problem with allowing members of the public into the Strehlow Research Centre?
 21. What are the current staffing levels of the Strehlow Research Centre?
 22. Why is the Strehlow Research Centre only allowing limited access to the Strehlow Research Centre?
 23. What is the security and confidentiality policy of the Strehlow Research Centre?
 24. Are there any restrictions placed on people attending the Strehlow Research Centre for work or for pleasure?
 25. Please provide an update on the Strehlow Research Centre and the Strehlow Collection.
 - a) What is the current status?
 - b) Who are the members of management, members of the board?
 - c) What is their role?
 - d) What is the ratio of membership – interstate/Alice Springs/Darwin?
 - e) What is the future and direction?
 - f) What are the current challenges?
 26. How are decisions made about the future and direction of the Strehlow Research Centre and the Strehlow Collection?
 27. Is the Annual Report 2016/17 available to the general public and if so, where can it be accessed?
 28. Recurrent changes and plans for the Strehlow Research Centre, do they comply with the relevant Act for the Strehlow Research Centre and collection?
 29. What consultation with the Alice Springs community and relevant stakeholders is undertaken to ensure the future of the Strehlow Research Centre and the Strehlow Collection is done sensitively and practically?
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- The Strehlow Research Centre (SRC), located within the Museum of Central Australia (MCA), Alice Springs has undergone various refurbishments as part of the Northern Territory Government's infrastructure program to maintain public assets which includes the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory (MAGNT) and its six sites across the NT.

The Department of Tourism and Culture (DTC) in consultation with MAGNT manages the infrastructure program. The breakdown of Asset Expenditure, for SRC, between 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2017 is in the below table:

Cyclical Maintenance	\$77 524
General Repairs and Maintenance	\$294 703
Minor New Works	\$13 718
Total Expenditure	\$385 945

The 2017-18 infrastructure program allocation for additional refurbishment works is \$474 000, which includes the refurbishment to the upper floor entry to the facility and reception. It is estimated this work will cost \$212 000 and include replacement of the flooring, lighting and refurbishment of the foyer reception desk to meet work health and safety requirements as well as improved accessibility for visitors and staff. Additionally two chillers, the boiler and a connecting Building Management System are all to be replaced during 2017-18.



2. Planning for future refurbishment works for the SRC includes:
- sealing of a rammed earth wall to stop egress of damp through to display area;
 - replace flooring, painting and lighting on the lower ground floor exhibition space; and
 - replacement of the old carpet on all stairs and the ramp.

At this time these projects are in the planning phase only.

3. The MAGNT through DTC identified the refurbishment of the upper floor as a priority to improve the entry and amenity of the facility. The request was supported and works are planned to begin in April 2018. The new chillers, the new boiler and connecting Building Management System are being replaced as part of a life cycle analysis which deemed the systems beyond economical repair. The total costs is \$474 000.

- 4 to 8. There are no plans to change the purpose of the SRC building.

There are no plans to change the location, nature or purpose of the Strehlow Collection.

There is no proposal for a Ntaria Cultural Centre. If the question is relating to the Hermannsburg Historical Precinct the recently released *Hermannsburg Regional Visitor Experiences Action Plan* outlines NTG's current action to support visitation and engagement in the region.

- 9 - 10. MAGNT has not received any requests from the Hermannsburg Historic Precinct.

- 11 to 14. MAGNT has no plans to relocate the Strehlow Collection.

15. The Strehlow Collection is protected consistent with all of MAGNT's collections, with additional cultural protections where appropriate. MAGNT has significantly increased the resources for research into the Strehlow Collection in recent years.

16. The upper ground floor of the building (entry level) is being refurbished in April 2018 to improve its amenity. No works have been undertaken on this floor since the building opened in 1991.

17. There will be no change to the SRC purposes. That is, the purpose of the foyer, reception, gift shop and exhibition spaces will continue.

18. The refurbishment will include upgrades to flooring, lighting, cabinetry and reception desk. A new exhibition will be installed following this work. The current exhibition has been on display since 1991, far longer than museum best practice. The intention is that Alice Springs will have a new exhibition every 12 to 24 months in future.

19. The SRC is open from 10am to 4pm weekdays and from 11am to 4pm on weekends.

20. The MCA is open to the public and the SRC is accessible through a booking system, noting that there are restrictions to certain parts of the collection for cultural reasons (see answers 22 and 24).

21. The MCA is a part of MAGNT, and as such, its operations are supported by staff in both Darwin and Alice Springs. At the end of January 2018, MAGNT will have approximately 11 staff based in Alice Springs.
22. There are protocols overseen by the SRC Board and senior staff to access secret and sacred Aboriginal material, which may limit access to some materials and /or artefacts. A key / fob is required to access the SRC, with only staff and visiting researchers having access to a key/ fob. Visiting researchers are required to make an appointment with the Manager to obtain access clearance, and sign in and follow the security protocols.
23. Security standards are in line with the requirements for Cultural Institutions, including, security systems, CCTV monitoring, security data collection, reporting and externally provided security patrols.

MAGNT adheres to the Northern Territory Public Service Code of Conduct in relation to confidentiality.

24. No. However, there are protocols in place in regards to accessing secret and sacred Aboriginal material.
25.
 - a) The SRC is a Centre that exists within the MCA, and is managed by MAGNT, along with the Strehlow Collection

The SRC Board and the MAGNT Board oversee the SRC and the Strehlow Collection is managed by MAGNT.
 - b) Members of the MAGNT Board and senior staff are listed on the MAGNT website (magnt.net.au). MAGNT's full staffing is available in the DTC Annual Report and website.

The SRC Board members are Mr Michael Liddle (Chair), Mr Michael Sitzler (Deputy Chair), Dr Kathleen Strehlow, Mr Phil Gordon, Mr Rob Borgas, Mr Edward Rontji and Professor Peter Kell.
 - c) The SRC Board has responsibilities relating to the acquisition and disposal of collection items at the SRC, and the repatriation of ceremonial material. Section 10 of the *SRC Act* outlines the functions of the Board as follows:
 - (a) to provide advice to the Minister in relation to the acquisition of objects to be included in the collections;
 - (b) to consider requests for the repatriation of objects from the collections to their traditional owners;
 - (c) to provide advice to the Minister in relation to the disposal of objects from the collections;
 - (d) to promote community involvement in the activities of the Centre;
 - (e) to provide advice to the Minister in relation to the activities of the Centre;
 - (f) any other functions conferred on the Board by the Minister for this Act.
 - d) The ratio of membership of the SRC board is interstate/Alice Springs/Darwin 2:3:2

- e) MAGNT published a Strategic Vision 2017-2020 which covers Strehlow and all other MAGNT venues. This is available at <http://www.magnt.net.au>.
 - f) Key challenges are in relation to ongoing funding and storage.
26. This is outlined in the *Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory Act 2014* and *Strehlow Research Centre Act 2014*.
 27. The Minister for Tourism and Culture is required to table the MAGNT 2016-17 Annual Report by the end of the second Sitting week of 2018. The Annual Report will be circulated to key stakeholders and will be available on the MAGNT website, once tabled.
 28. Yes. Recurrent changes and plans for the Strehlow Research Centre comply with the relevant Act.
 29. MAGNT maintains active and open engagement with all stakeholders. The reinstatement of a manager position in Alice Springs in April 2016 has strengthened central Australian relationships. The creation of the Artwe-Kenhe (Men's) Collection Researcher, working on the Strehlow Collection in 2016 has also enhanced the SRC's consultation capacity.

MAGNT receives funds from the Commonwealth Government through its Indigenous Repatriation Program. These funds pay for much of the Aboriginal consultations. MAGNT also receives funds from other sources to undertake consultations with Aboriginal communities in relation to the Strehlow Collection.