



CIVIC BUILDING OPEN DAY

10AM-2PM SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER

**GUIDED TOURS OF THE
FACILITY EVERY HALF-HOUR**



The Civic Building was opened on 2 December 1961 by the City's first Chairman of the Commission, Charles Ryan

- The Ada Ryan Gardens are named after his wife.

The building was originally shared with BHP (used for employee pays), customs, maritime services and incorporated the original Civic Library.



The current staff entrance is the original entrance to the building.

- It was slightly recessed from the rest of the frontage, as seen in the image below.

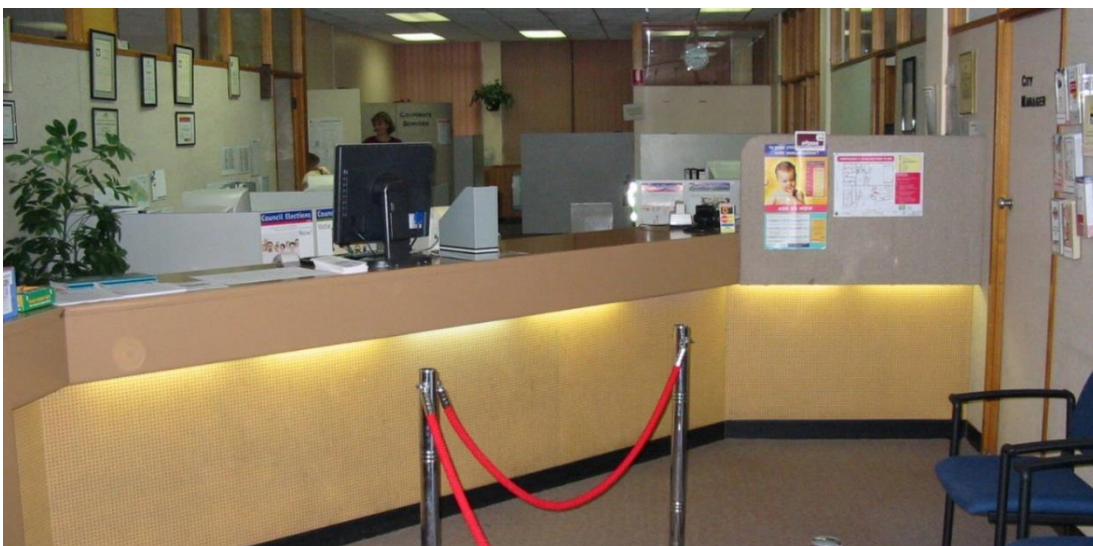
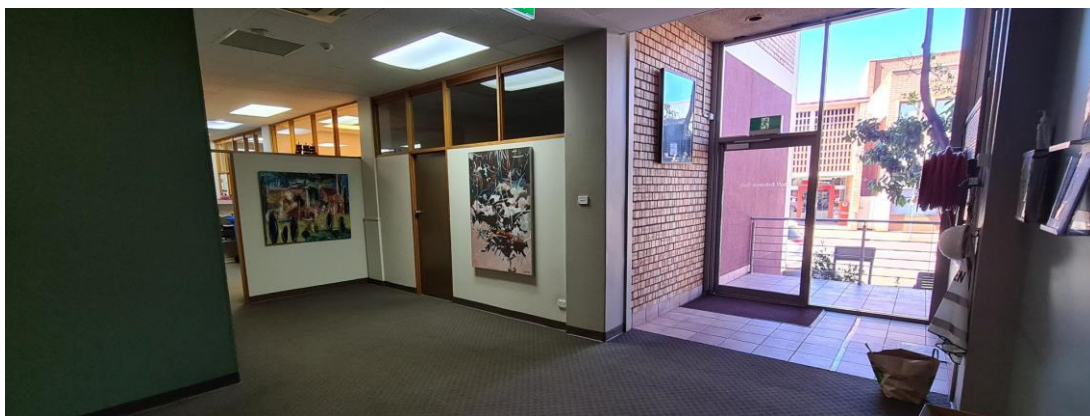


VIPs such as Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister John Howard all came through this entrance.





Customer service was previously located just inside the original entrance.



The main customer service desk was to the right of the main entrance, while Building Services was on the other side – seen below behind Mayor John Smith and Prime Minister John Howard.





As you can see from the image below, this landing was where Queen Elizabeth II was greeted by local dignitaries. She is pictured here being guided by Mayor Aileen Ekblom.



The current Infrastructure area housed customs and maritime services in the early days of the building, as well as the original Mayor's Parlour (later located behind the original Chamber).

The room to the other side of the landing housed the original Council Chamber

- The first Council was formed on 8 July 1970, replacing what was previously the Town Commission.



Keith Wilson was the City's first Mayor. The below image is of the first Council, including Mayor Keith Wilson (front, second from right), as well as the city's next two mayors – Colin 'Murray' Norton (front, left) and Aileen Ekblom (front, right).



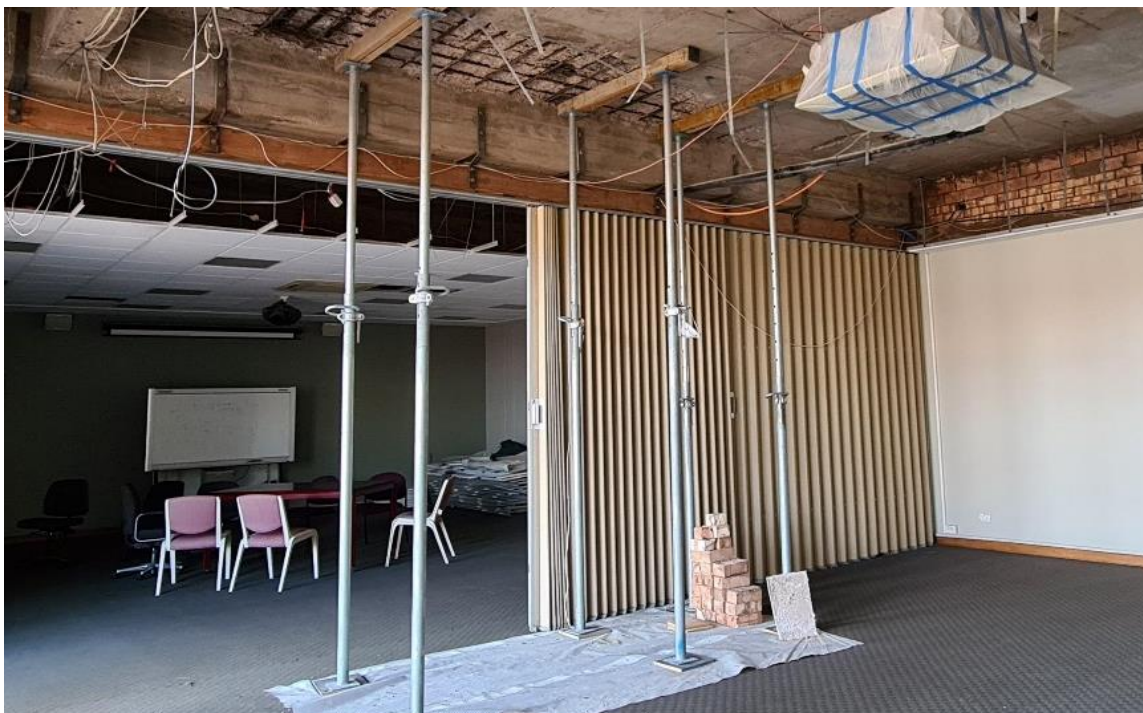


The balcony outside the original Chamber is where the infamous image was taken of Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh waving to the community.



This area now highlights the level of degradation inside the building and the reason it is being vacated.

- Box guttering inside the structure of the building created water ingress over many decades, leading to eroding concrete and reinforcing.
- ‘Band-aid’ fixes like you see in the image below have been applied over the years, but these are no longer an option.
- The building requires \$4.5m simply to make it safe in the long-term – without including any additional features / functionality / accessibility / community space – this is a cost that can’t be justified on a building at the end of its useful life.
- There are no immediate safety concerns, but Council needs to vacate by the end of the year and make a decision on the building’s future by mid-next year.
- The move to Eyre High is temporary – Council will investigate various options for a long-term home (demolish / rebuild in the current location, upgrade Eyre High, build on a new site) and consult the community to determine the preferred option.





Council took over the former cinema building to build the current Chamber / Mayor's Parlour / offices.

- These areas were built in the mid-2000s and are positioned inside the lower area of the former cinema.
- It was during these works that the current entrance was built.



All Council meetings are held in the Chamber, including the final ever Ordinary Council Meeting in the building on Monday 16 October 2023.

The room has hosted several Prime Ministers – including Malcolm Turnbull – and the ABC also filmed some of their Australian Story Whyalla episode there.



The area below is where the cinema entrance was located prior to its closure in the 1990s (see bottom image for street view from the 1990s).





The current front foyer / customer service area is where the original theatre / cinema entrance was located.





The snack bar was located in Council's current compliance / customer service team areas.

- The curved ceiling in the below image is still visible in those areas.



The cinema toilets are still in the original location.



The structure of the current Chamber can be seen inside the former cinema building on the lower level.

- The same wall / ceiling structure still exists, but all of the cinema-related equipment (screen, projector, speakers, seats etc) has been removed.
- The theatre played host to major acts like The Angels, Billy Thorpe, AC/DC, and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra
- The lower area was also used as a laser tag facility in the late 1990s (some of the artwork is visible on the wall in the bottom image)
- This building has also been subjected to significant water damage related to box guttering inside the building structure.

