

Our Ref: S026 T00010 - 4486998

27 May 2021

Bernie O'Neil
Co-Convenor
A Better Eurobodalla
abettereurobodalla@gmail.com

Dear Bernie

Thank you for your email dated 10 May 2021 regarding access to Council exhibition spaces.

The Shire has a significant number of public facilities, including a diverse array of community halls that are available for public hire. These facilities are typically designed to be multifunctional to accommodate a range of different community uses, including art exhibitions. The Malua Bay Community Centre is a good example of a facility that supports regular art exhibitions but is used for a variety of other uses as well. In addition, the shire's libraries are equipped with lighting and hanging space that have provided free options for artists for many years.

The expense associated with fitting out facilities to have hanging and lighting systems means that we only have a few public facilities across the Shire such as Moruya Mechanic's Institute Hall, Basil Sellers Art Space (Bas) and the gallery area in the new Batemans Bay Regional Aquatic, Arts and Leisure Centre that have been specifically designed to hold art exhibitions. Our Creative Arts team are always looking at funding opportunities to support facility improvements and will continue to aspire to achieve additional resourcing to improve our facilities.

However, there are a number of halls and spaces that many groups and individuals have used that have hanging rails or easels for exhibition purposes. We also support and promote a number of opportunities for artists such as Art on the Path, Open Galleries network, Arts Exchange and external funding opportunities that engage local artists as tutors or participants.

The Bas is the shire's premier exhibition space and as such has supported over 100 artists to exhibit their work and is a programmed space.

...../2

The venue fees listed in your letter are accurate, however; they do not apply potential discounts for non for profit groups and/or regular users. This discount ensures that the hire of public halls in Eurobodalla is comparable and often less than other regional local government areas. In addition, South Durras Community Hall is equipped with a hanging system.

Table 1: Hire of Moruya Mechanical Institute Hall applying discounts

	Non for profit group (regular user)	Non for profit group (casual user)	Private (regular user)	Private (casual user)
Discount	40%	20%	20%	N.A.
Two day hire	\$207	\$276	\$276	\$345
One week hire	\$264	\$352	\$352	\$440

The hire fees for public halls ensures that Council has funds available for reinvestment back into the facilities through maintenance and renewal works. A review of hierarchy and fees will be commenced in 2022-23.

Council has developed this fee system to support community groups to balance the demand for those that are not for profit and those that use public facilities to support individual revenue or profit. All types of users will be required to pay fees for the use of facilities. It is not appropriate for Council to be subsidising commercial activity by reducing fees or providing insurance coverage, hence the range of fees, as outlined above.

If you have further queries please do not hesitate to contact Kathy Arthur, Director – Community, Arts and Recreation Services on 4474 1051 or council@esc.nsw.gov.au .

Yours sincerely



Councillor Liz Innes
Mayor