

must ensure that the way in which it is used is not a burden, that its acquisition is in fact an asset rather than a liability.

I, for one, would not support any use that is unsustainable, impractical or destructive to the heritage nature of the Villa itself.

Finding or developing a solution is not impossible.

As I said last year, it would make sense for council to sell the current inadequate municipal offices in the CBD and use those funds to build a new facility on the land adjacent to Fortuna Villa.

This would mean the gardens and the Villa itself are maintained while the site which consists of some 7.5 hectares is fully and positively utilised.

We could build an appropriate office complex to meet the requirement of our growing municipality and provided the require parking for both staff and visitors.

In essence it could become an integrated civic precinct which would be the envy of municipalities across Australia.

The Villa itself could then be properly managed as a community facility providing space and facilities for a variety of both council and community functions and exhibitions.

This allows this icon to be accessible and appreciated by the local community and the many visitors it would attract.

Finding the solution for Fortuna is going to be a long and involved process but at the heart of this issue is the fact that Fortuna should be an asset of the City, developed to benefit the city, and managed as the National Heritage Icon it is.

For our desire to become a reality we need to have vision, we need to have commitment, we need co-operation and energy.

We need a large cross section of the community together with council and both the state and federal governments to work together with the focus and goal of making this happen.

*Simon Mulqueen,
Quarry Hill.*