

14.3 Attachment 14.3C – Cummins Theatre Proposed Fees and Charges

Cummins Theatre changes of note:

The Theatre fees have changed significantly from previous years and the proposed costs are not easily comparable to past pricing.

Previously, the theatre hire structure included a tiered system of 'basic', 'intermediate' and 'advanced' hire packages. Different spaces were accessible and different staff/ technicians time were included in the various levels.

The Administration has removed all staff/ technicians time from the hire cost, and only the space and some basic equipment is included. Staff time will be charged as a separate fee accordingly.

This approach has been recommended for a number of reasons, which are outlined below.

- To allow the Shire of Merredin (the Shire) to appropriately account for the staff time involved in delivering each hire, as each hire can significantly vary.
- The Shire does not have a qualified technician on staff. When a technician is required, we hire them from Perth and provide them accommodation. The proposed change allows us to pass this cost on accordingly, plus 10% to allow for administrative time and management.
- The Administration believe this approach is easier for the hirer to understand the fees and charges.
- This structure will also provide more consistent quotes to hirers, with all elements clearly defined.

New Theatre Categories

1. Auditorium Hire – Hall Only

- a. Included: Auditorium floor only
- b. Examples of use: dance, boot scooters, Zumba, meetings

2. Theatre hire – for functions – auditorium, stage, raked seating

- a. Inclusions:
 - i. Auditorium, stage, raked seating
 - ii. Basic equipment included. Examples microphone, projector, aux cable for sounds.
 - iii. Lighting and sound equipment can be used by qualified person. Hirers without qualified person will incur additional staff costs.
- b. Examples of use: funerals, weddings, private functions, parties, discos, school balls

3. Theatre hire – for performances - auditorium, stage, raked seating, dressing rooms, basic equipment

- a. Inclusions:
 - i. Auditorium, stage, raked seating, dressing rooms and Tivoli
 - ii. Light, sound and AV equipment. Access to theatre equipment on site (excluding those listed in the fees and charges)
 - iii. Lighting and sound equipment can be used by qualified person. Hirers without qualified person will incur additional staff costs.

- b. Examples of use: Amy Shark, Wiggles, Hotel California, Celtic Illusion, Rocky Horror, Song Fest etc

Theatre Costing Structure

The following principles have been applied across the theatre hire spaces:

- Community rates are at a 30% discount on Commercial charges
- Out of hours, per hour fee is at a 20% increase on standard
- The per day fee is based on 6 hours of the per hour fee
- All consecutive day hires will receive a 20% discount on the consecutive days (Day 1 will be charged at the full rate)

Changes to the Tivoli

The Tivoli is one of the more desirable Shire spaces available for hire, providing a venue for meetings and functions. As such, the venue is hired out at a more expensive rate than other areas. The Administration has evaluated this cost for 2023/24 and this fee is more than double the cost of hiring the auditorium in the theatre or Room 7 in NMPS precinct.

The recommendation is to reduce the cost to bring it to a more comparable level, noting the amended fee is now 1.5 times the cost of the auditorium. This has been deemed as justified due to the space being nicer and providing an intimate venue with more options and easy access to the bar and kitchen. The cost starts at \$10 per hour more than Room 7. Room 7 is also cheaper due to its recommended capacity being around 20 people, where the Tivoli can accommodate significantly more people depending on the function type.

Further to the space hire fee, charges will apply for the audio/ visual set up (tv, microphone, speakers etc), staff time (set up, pack down, general support etc) and equipment hire (as per the fees and charges).

Staff Charges

Staff charges have been redescribed and categorised.

- Technician – as described above, the Shire does not currently have, and does not expect to have a qualified technician on staff. Therefore, this specialist skills is required to be hired. The fees and charges now reflect that this cost will be passed on to the hirer.
- Staff charges – duties which can be undertaken by Shire staff are to be charged at \$75 per hour, with a 2-hour minimum charge. This has been reduced from a 3-hour minimum.
- Staff member on site – this charge is new. This charge will be incurred if the hire is outside of normal office hours and requires a staff member to be on site, but the hirer only requires limited support. An example of this includes funerals, parties or higher risk events. This allows the Shire to have a staff member on site to reduce organisational risk, and reduces the cost passed on to the hirer as it will only be charged on a cost recovery basis.