

Work commencing on \$6.8 million upgrade to Marino Community Hall

The City of Marion will begin work on the \$6.8 million upgrade of the iconic Marino Community Hall.

The redevelopment is set to transform the building into a state-of-the-art community hub. In a joint effort, Marion Council has pledged \$3.3 million, the Federal Government has committed \$3 million towards this transformative initiative, while the State Government is contributing \$500,000.

Built over the 1940s-50s, the hall has been a cornerstone for various groups and clubs throughout the decades, including art and sewing groups, dance groups, martial arts classes, yoga and fitness, and church groups. The hall has also hosted market days, roller skating, ball room dancing, film screenings, and more.

Rob George, the president of the hall, reflected, "As the old Marino Community Hall is being demolished it's a good time to reflect on all the activities hosted in the building and the connections made. The hall was a well-used and loved community facility that was becoming dated and frayed around the edges but now it is about to get a shiny new replacement."

Current user groups have temporarily relocated to various locations. Many await the new hall, expecting to expand and attract a fresh wave of members.

A revitalised Marino Community Hall promises:

- Diverse community activity spaces
- Inviting and casual café area
- Enhanced connectivity and a prominent façade
- Expanded parking facilities
- Versatile amenities to accommodate a variety of community program
- Thoughtfully designed landscaping to create a welcoming environment.

Mayor of Marion, Kris Hanna, expressed enthusiasm, saying "It is an exciting time for the Marino residents. The hall will provide a place for the recreational and social opportunities we want our community to enjoy."

The project is scheduled to be completed by mid-2024.

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