

Airstrip vision

Masterplan to lay out future for visitor gateway

COLLIE airstrip could be a gateway for business and tourist visitors in the future.

A new detailed masterplan will explore aviation and tourism-related investment opportunities.

It will also outline the potential to increase visitation and visitor services to the region.

The masterplan is expected by Decem-

ber after Collie Shire Council endorsed a development option on Tuesday night.

Shire chief executive officer Stuart Devenish described expansion of the airstrip as an “untapped opportunity”.

“We have good, clear airspace over Collie,” Mr Devenish said. “I think the timing is right to prepare plans that will allow for growth.

“We want to be able to set up a frame-

work to be able to accommodate new investment.

“There’s opportunity for new businesses to come into Collie, whether that be new technology in drone operations, or electric aircraft, or small-scale flight training schools.”

The development option endorsed by council provides for expansion without committing to a substantially longer and

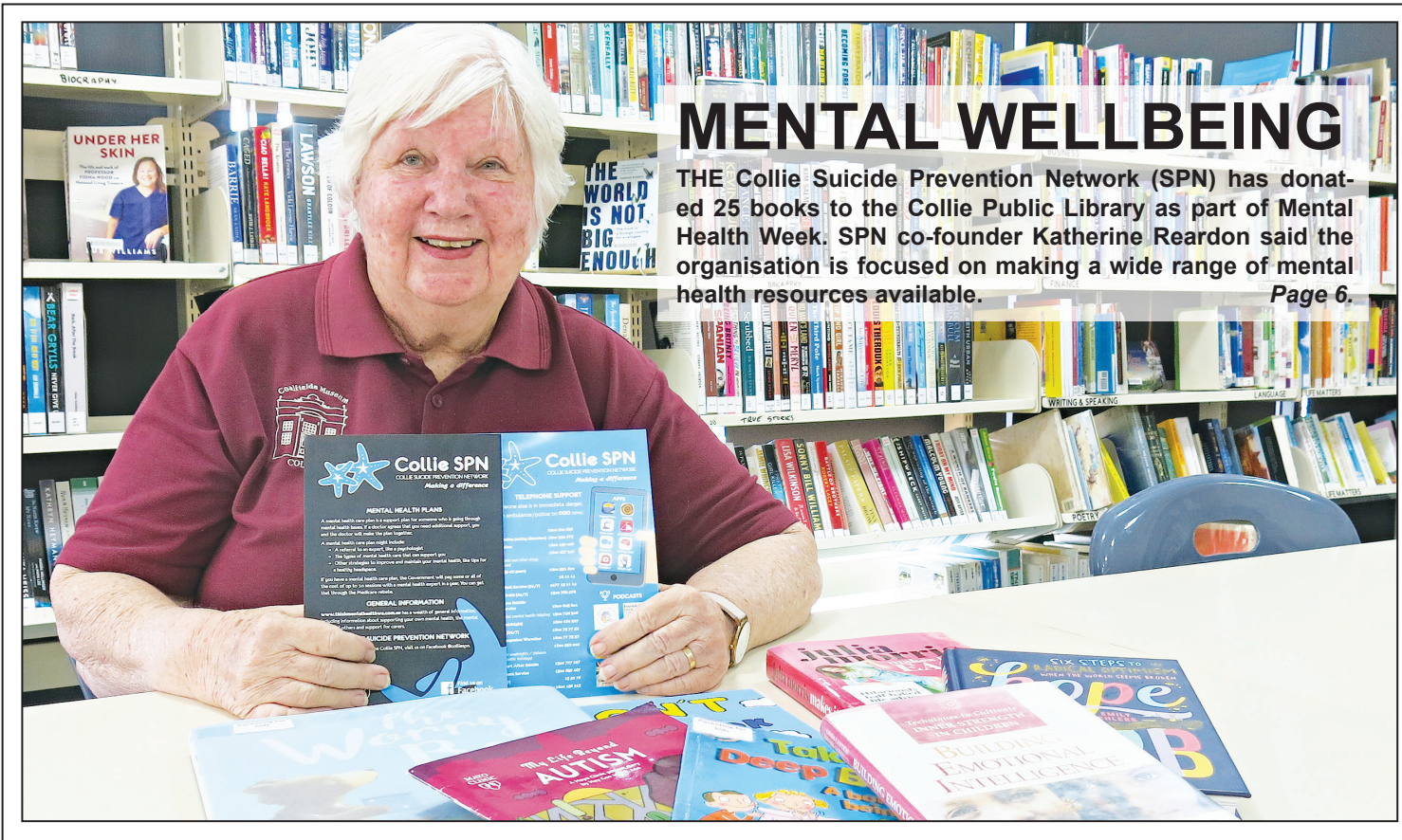
wider airstrip. This paves the way for development of a non-precision approach runway, measuring 1150 metres by 23 metres, which will be capable of accommodating aircraft that have up to 24-30 seats.

Mr Devenish pointed to the importance of developing a long-term framework for expansion.

“Part of that is understanding what the scale of the airstrip itself should be, and that fundamentally comes down to the size of aircraft,” he said.

“We wanted to make sure that we’re designing to a scale of operation which is relevant and appropriate to Collie.”

Consultancy Aviation Projects has been engaged to prepare the masterplan.



MENTAL WELLBEING

THE Collie Suicide Prevention Network (SPN) has donated 25 books to the Collie Public Library as part of Mental Health Week. SPN co-founder Katherine Reardon said the organisation is focused on making a wide range of mental health resources available. *Page 6.*

Riverview project in doubt

THE future of the Riverview Residence retiree units redevelopment remains in doubt after the Federal Government knocked back a funding application. *Page 3.*



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