

# CHANGES TO THE FINAL ARDEN VISION

## FOLLOWING CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT ARDEN VISION & FRAMEWORK

### INTRODUCTION

The *Draft Arden Vision & Framework* (the Draft) was released for public consultation in September 2016. The Draft included five strategic directions to guide the future planning of Arden as a distinctive new central city destination with thriving communities and great spaces around a high-capacity transport network.

Each strategic direction was supported by key propositions and principles for development.

The public release of the Draft was followed by six weeks of extensive consultation from September to October 2016. This consultation included numerous events and surveys to gather participants' views. A summary of consultation can be found [here](#).

The consultation indicated an interest in making the precinct an exemplar of innovation, sustainable development and adaptability whilst keeping the existing sense of place and character.

Over the past two years, the VPA has worked in partnership with the City of Melbourne and other Victorian Government agencies to review the feedback received during consultation and incorporate the findings into the final *Arden Vision*. The views gathered through consultation directly shaped the Arden Vision, which will guide the future of the precinct to ensure it becomes a sustainable and exciting place to live, learn, visit and work.

New Victorian Government policies and objectives such as *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050* and *Homes for Victorians* have also been reflected in the vision for Arden.

The final *Arden Vision* sets out both the state and local government's high-level directions and aspirations for the renewal of the Arden precinct, which will inform the detailed planning that will occur through the preparation of the structure plan.

### GENERAL CHANGES TO THE FINAL ARDEN VISION

Below is a list of general changes from the Draft to the final *Arden Vision*.

#### Boundary of the Precinct

The precinct boundary has been altered to exclude land covered by the recent C190 (Macaulay) Amendment to the *Melbourne Planning Scheme* and to exclude undevelopable land between the Upfield rail corridor and Citylink. The size of the precinct has reduced from 56 hectares to 50 hectares.

#### Updated context

The local and strategic planning contexts for Arden are included in the final *Arden Vision* under 'Arden Today' and 'Shaping Arden for Tomorrow'. Please see pages 14-19 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information.

#### Three distinct sub-precincts in Arden

The *Arden Vision* now includes three sub-precincts in Arden: Arden North, Arden Central and Laurens Street, each with its own distinct vision and character. Please see pages 18-19 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information.

### Updated population and job figures

The current population and job figures and projections to 2031 and 2051 in the final *Arden Vision* have been updated to include the 2016 census data and the altered precinct boundary. Please see figure 13 on page 23 of the final *Arden Vision* for more information.

### Further investigations into flooding and integrated water management.

Consultation on the Draft found strong support for the emphasis on integrated water management, resolving flooding issues, valuing water in the landscape and revitalising the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor.

The preparation of the final *Arden Vision* has continued to strengthen this work with further investigations into reducing the potential for flooding issues. The final *Arden Vision* explores the flood-prone nature of low-lying land in the precinct and identifies investigation areas for new blue-green infrastructure to reduce the potential of flooding issues in the precinct. Examples of blue-green infrastructure are included in figure 21 of the final *Arden Vision*.

### Addition of objectives and planned outcomes

Each of the eight key directions now has its own objectives and planned outcomes, which are set out at the beginning of the relevant section. These will be vital in shaping the detailed planning of Arden. They were included following feedback on the Draft on the need for greater clarity on the agreed outcomes that would guide the renewal of Arden.

## CHANGES TO THE KEY DIRECTIONS FOR ARDEN'S RENEWAL

Following consultation, the Key Directions in the final *Arden Vision* have expanded from five to eight:

<b>Strategic Directions from the Draft</b>	<b>Key Directions from the final <i>Arden Vision</i></b>
Urban Transformation	Transforming Arden
Places for People	Designing a distinctive place
A Diverse Public Realm	Embedding sustainable change
A Water Sensitive Approach	Accommodating diverse communities
Sustainable Movement	Prioritising active transport
	Investing in community infrastructure
	Celebrating water
	Creating diverse open spaces

Below is a list of changes that have been made to the key directions from the Draft to the final *Arden Vision*.

### 1. Transforming Arden

The 'Planning for Growth' and 'Synergies with Parkville' sub-sections of key direction 1 (see page 23 and 24) include new findings on the key job sectors Arden is likely to attract and a stronger emphasis on the economic relationship between Arden and the Parkville National Employment and Innovation Cluster.

Please see page 22 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information on Key Direction 1.

## 2. Designing a Distinctive Place

‘Designing a Distinctive Place’ is a new Key Direction included in the final *Arden Vision*.

This new direction responds to consultation feedback that emphasised the desire for new development to build on the strong sense of place that exists in North Melbourne. Consultation found that the character of the precinct was noted to include the heritage buildings; the wide, tree-lined streets; the mix of uses; the industrial character; and the smaller premises that have attracted creative enterprises.

The design objectives on page 14 of the Draft have been removed and incorporated into the Urban Design and Built Form guidelines for the precinct. This change responds to feedback that the urban design objectives, given their importance in place-making, should be more visible and should be linked to a key direction.

Please see page 25 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information on Key Direction 2.

## 3. Embedding sustainable change

‘Embedding Sustainable Change’ is a new Key Direction included in the final *Arden Vision*.

This new direction responds to consultation feedback that emphasised the opportunities for Arden to be an exemplar of sustainable development. Consultation suggested that there should be greater emphasis on the link between innovation and sustainability, water efficiency, waste management, environmental performance standards for development, urban greenery such as green walls and roofs and urban food production.

This key direction also includes a commitment from the Victorian Government, under the *Climate Change Act 2017*, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for Victoria to zero net emissions by 2050.

Please see page 28 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information on Key Direction 3.

## 4. Accommodating diverse communities

The final *Arden Vision* now includes commitments for:

- at least six per cent of new residential development delivered through mechanisms such as community housing or shared equity
- up to 15 per cent of new housing made available as affordable housing where City of Melbourne-owned land is redeveloped
- at least 10 per cent of all properties in government-led developments prioritised for first home buyers through the Victorian Government’s *Homes for Victorians* (2017) initiative.

This key direction has also been strengthened by recent state and local government policies such as *Homes for Victorians* (Victorian Government) and *Homes for People* (City of Melbourne).

Please see page 30 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information on Key Direction 4.

## 5. Prioritising active transport

The final *Arden Vision* recognises the progress made on the West Gate Tunnel Project since the release of the Draft in 2016.

As part of the Minister for Planning’s assessment of the West Gate Tunnel Environmental Effects Statement, there is currently a North and West Melbourne Scoping Study underway led by Transport for Victoria, in participation with the City of Melbourne and other Victorian Government agencies and departments.

This scoping study will identify any works needed to manage traffic flows from the West Gate Tunnel Project and will align these with the City of Melbourne’s streetscaping works in the *West Melbourne Structure Plan*.

Please see page 32 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information on Key Direction 5.

## 6. Investing in community infrastructure

'Investing in Community Infrastructure' is a new Key Direction included in the final *Arden Vision*. It picks up concepts regarding community infrastructure provision that were outlined in the Draft under 'Direction 2 – Places for People'. It expands on the types of community infrastructure that will be included, and on the contribution that elements such as community hubs make to shaping a community and sense of place.

Consultation on the Draft confirmed that existing facilities such as the North Melbourne Football Club and the Recreation Centre and Pool, though highly valued, would need to be supplemented with new services and facilities to cope with the projected residential and worker populations. In particular, service providers noted that innovative design of facilities could help address the demand for new facilities.

Schools and community facilities were highlighted as facilities that would need to be expanded for both the existing and new populations in Arden and the surrounding area.

Please see page 35 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information on Key Direction 6.

## 7. Celebrating water

The Draft included a key direction on water-sensitive approaches to planning for Arden, in recognition of stormwater challenges there and its proximity to the Moonee Ponds Creek. Consultation confirmed the importance of addressing the flooding issues in combination with creating a water dividend for the community and the environment.

The *Arden Vision* highlights the opportunity to reduce flood risks while also celebrating water as a landscape element and conserving water with Integrated Water Management.

The nearby Moonee Ponds Creek corridor was noted in consultations as a major asset for the area, though needing revitalising. Direction 7 of the *Arden Vision* now starts with the objective of celebrating the creek as a waterway with recreational, environmental and active transport functions and a valued environmental and cultural heritage.

Please see page 37 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information on Key Direction 7.

## 8. Creating Diverse Open Spaces

A diverse public realm was one of the directions in the Draft. Consultation confirmed the importance of the public realm, including streets and open space, as a key asset for the existing and new community of Arden. The many functions of open space were noted, including:

- helping to mitigate climate change in urban areas
- providing space for large canopy trees
- connecting new and existing open spaces
- active and passive recreation.

Planned outcomes for diverse open space were added, while the more technical material on the definition of the public realm from Figure 14 of the Draft was moved to the glossary of the final *Arden Vision*.

Please see page 41 of the final *Arden Vision* for further information on Key Direction 8.