The Vision for Arden Newsletter

Prepared by the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA).

July 2018

This is an accessible version of *The Vision for Arden* newsletter and does not include plans and figures. Please contact the Structure Planning Manager at the VPA (telephone (03) 9651 9600) if you require accessible versions of plans and figures.

Arden will be a new destination for Melbourne

Located less than 2 kilometres from the Central Business District (CBD), Arden is strategically placed to become an innovation precinct, with a focus on technology, life sciences, health and education sectors.

The precinct will have a lively public realm, high-quality and affordable places to live, community hubs, new schools and diverse open spaces.

At the centre of the precinct will be a new underground train station, due to open by 2025. This new North Melbourne Station will provide direct links to the CBD and the Melbourne Biomedical Precinct in Parkville.

The *Arden Vision* will guide the development of Arden over the next few decades.

Figure 1 shows Arden’s context to Parkville and the CBD. Please contact the VPA for an accessible version of this figure.

HOw will Arden Change?

Arden will have three distinct neighbourhoods – Arden North, Arden Central and Laurens Street – each with its own character and qualities. Arden’s neighbourhoods will be well integrated with surrounding areas, creating a great place to live, learn, work and visit.

Figure 2 shows the key features of the Arden Vision. Please contact the VPA for an accessible version of this figure.

HIghlights of the Arden Vision

Arden will:

* Create a new destination for Melbourne that is a great place to live, learn, work and visit
* Accommodate more than 34,000 jobs and 15,000 residents by 2051
* Deliver a major transport hub around the new North Melbourne Station
* Enhance the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor to become a valued asset for existing and new communities and the natural environment
* Create two new urban boulevards which will create a civic heart for Arden
* Build on Parkville’s growing role as a technology, life sciences, health and education precinct
* Provide at least 6 per cent of all new housing in the precinct as affordable for low to moderate income households
* Reinforce natural and built heritage to create a new character for the precinct
* Be developed under urban design guidelines that build on Arden’s evolving character
* Be protected by innovative solutions to manage flooding, make better use of water and expand spaces for recreation and biodiversity
* Deliver innovative community hubs and two to four new schools.

Key Directions for Renewal

Eight key directions have been shaped through consultation with community, stakeholders and government partners to reflect the environmental, social and economic vision for the Arden precinct:

Transforming Arden

Arden will advance Melbourne’s strengths as a progressive, innovative and connected local and global city. The new North Melbourne Station will catalyse Arden’s transformation into a new employment hub. There will be significant opportunities for better and diverse ways of working, living and learning, as it evolves from an industrial area into an innovation precinct.

Designing a distinctive place

Arden will be shaped by exemplary urban design and built form, anchored by the valued characteristics that make the suburbs of North and West Melbourne special to its residents and workers. Public areas will respond to the existing environment and strengthen the evolving identity of the precinct.

Embedding sustainable change

Best practice standards for environmental, social and economic sustainability will underpin planning for the new communities and buildings, making Arden an exemplar of sustainable urban renewal.

Accommodating diverse communities

Arden will cater to a diversity of households across a range of ages and incomes, and address different needs with affordable housing. New homes will be well-designed, accessible and sustainable.

Prioritising active transport

Arden will provide direct and efficient connections in and around the precinct through safe and attractive public areas. This will include active and public transport networks that will complement the new North Melbourne Station.

Investing in community infrastructure

Arden will support the existing and new community by providing infrastructure that is integrated with the existing area. The design of community facilities, such as schools, will reflect best practice and community input.

Celebrating water

Arden will incorporate water as a feature of the landscape through innovative and creative flood mitigation solutions. The Moonee Ponds Creek corridor will be valued as an environmental, recreational and active transport asset, and an integrated water management approach will ensure that water is shared and reused across the precinct.

Creating diverse open spaces

Arden will be a cooler and greener version of the central city, with a generous and well-connected open space network, providing multi-functional spaces for recreation, socialising, active transport and biodiversity.

Figure 3 is an artist’s impression of the potential future Fogarty Street Boulevard, indicative only. Please contact the VPA for an accessible version of this figure.

Next Steps

Structure Planning Process

The next step for planning the Arden urban renewal precinct is the development of a structure plan.

The Arden Structure Plan will provide a basis for new planning controls, including the rezoning of land to enable development.

Detailed planning of the Arden Structure Plan will be supported by ongoing consultation with the community and other stakeholders.

Stay Informed

Preparation of the Arden Structure Plan will continue to involve members of the community, workers, landowners, businesses, traders, potential future residents and potential investors.

To receive updates about how you can get involved in future engagement activities, visit: <https://vpa.vic.gov.au/project/arden/>

Figure 4 is a diagram of the planning process for Arden. Please contact the VPA for an accessible version of this figure.

Figure 5 is an artist’s impression of the future Arden precinct, indicative only. Please contact the VPA for an accessible version of this figure.