

**From:** [Gregoria Todaro](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** CM: SUBMISSION TO ARDEN STRUCTURE PLAN & DRAFT AMENDMENT C407  
**Date:** Tuesday, 19 October 2021 3:19:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [Correspondence E Hillebrand 11 October 2021.pdf](#)

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RMIT Classification: Trusted

Good afternoon,  
Please see our submission attached.  
Kind regards, g

**Gregoria Todaro**  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



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*RMIT University acknowledges the people of the Woi wurrung and Boon wurrung language groups of the eastern Kulin Nations on whose unceded lands we conduct the business of the University. RMIT University respectfully acknowledges their Ancestors and Elders, past and present.*

*RMIT also acknowledges the Traditional Custodians and their Ancestors of the lands and waters across Australia where it conducts its business.*

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11 October 2021

Attention Emily Hillebrand  
Director Employment Areas  
Arden Urban Renewal Team  
Victorian Planning Authority  
Via email – [Arden@vpa.vic.gov.au](mailto:Arden@vpa.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Hillebrand,

## **SUBMISSION TO ARDEN STRUCTURE PLAN & DRAFT AMENDMENT C407**

Further to our submission on 24 August 2020, RMIT University (RMIT) takes this opportunity to congratulate the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) on the release of the Arden Structure Plan and draft Amendment to the Melbourne Planning Scheme for the Arden Precinct.).

RMIT notes Arden's Future Urban Structure with a particular interest in the area earmarked for innovation use and development in Arden Central. Specifically, RMIT is supportive of the proposed use and built form directions in this precinct and the opportunities associated with transport and public open space given the linkages to RMIT's own Social Innovation Precinct anchored in the CBD North campus. The development of this precinct approach forms part of RMIT's ongoing location strategy, which also includes partnering in Melbourne Innovation District (MID) across CBD North and connecting with other key location partnerships in other parts of Melbourne.

RMIT is keen to see the activation and growth of innovation clusters appreciating the unique economic, physical and networking stimulus and associated opportunities these types of knowledge and innovation clusters bring. In addition to the nine factors driving success of innovation precincts highlighted in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's *Unlocking Enterprise in a Changing Economy* (2019), which we note has been adopted by the Arden Precinct, RMIT would add the importance of the role that partnerships and connection in place will play in the success of innovation and associated placemaking for innovation districts both now and in the future.

In partnership with the Department of Education and Training and in collaboration with the Victorian Government and key stakeholders more broadly, RMIT has embarked on the development of a masterplan for RMIT's Social Innovation Precinct in CBD North. This is the land bounded by Swanston, Lygon, Victoria and Queensberry Streets. The proposed masterplan includes a green spine that spans from the City Baths at Franklin Street up through Cardigan Street prioritising public open space, the safe activation of the streetscape at ground level and active transport.

RMIT notes the objectives in the Arden Structure Plan and would encourage and support the connections between the innovation clusters not just by way of opportunities for research and innovation partnerships but indeed the physical connections in place through active transport, public open space corridors and associated land use and development.

RMIT looks forward to continued exploration opportunities to further unlock and forge stimulus for jobs, economic activity and applied innovation for Victoria. Leveraging capabilities and investment in Victoria's high growth knowledge-based industries within the Arden precinct and supporting surrounding innovation clusters will be critical.

Please contact Gregoria Todaro, Urban Specialist Innovation Precincts on [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] u or me to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely



Tom Bentley  
[REDACTED]