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I fully support the changes to the Arden Structure Plan. The vision for the Arden Precinct the plan now represents is notable for its provision of much needed public open space – and would be improved by the allocation of even more.

It is gratifying that the new Structure Plan recognises the important role The Huddle plays in the community, and it is to be hoped that the facility will continue to be supported as the precinct grows.

The new plan places the North Melbourne Football Club – men's and women's teams, the Huddle and the visible presence of the club and its personality in the North and West Melbourne communities – front and centre.

The Arden Precinct has to work for the community and it is vital that facilities with established links like The Huddle are given space to grow with the local population.

Existing residents enjoy that now rare privilege of living in an area that has an identity and history associated with a long standing footy club, and the future residents of Arden will soon be able to join them.

I am also pleased that the new plan has such ambitious schemes for water management and the rehabilitation of Moonee Ponds Creek. Its pollution and degradation was the result of the actions of others whose connection to the area was only to exploit it. Existing and future residents will now be able to restore and nurture this wonderful asset.

The plan is a remarkable achievement, long in the making, and a clear answer to the many outsiders of limited vision who denied such restoration and carefully developed transformation was possible. I look forward to seeing the precinct grow and develop, and maybe even becoming a resident member.

