

Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub

Fact Sheet - Project Overview

July 2017



What is the Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub project?

The Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, an anticipated \$23m project, is being designed as a state of the art community facility. Located next to Banyule's iconic art-deco Town Hall in Ivanhoe, it will offer a host of much needed facilities supporting learning, culture and increased community engagement.

It will include:

- A modern library
- A gallery, with community spaces and an associated artists' studio, to host touring exhibitions and the Banyule Art Collection
- Community meeting rooms and working spaces
- Informal theatrette
- Community lounge and cafe
- Maternal and Child Health consulting suites
- An outdoor civic plaza

Our plan is for the Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub to be a welcoming, safe and comfortable place promoting cultural connections, creativity, sustainability, education and technology. The building and associated outdoor plaza will provide flexibility and multipurpose spaces to suit a wide range of community needs, as well as different zones suiting quiet, active, solo or group use.

Why do we need a new library?

The current library is in a 52-year-old building which does not meet accessibility standards and is no longer fit for purpose. Problems with the existing library include:

- As a three level building, stair-only access between levels severely limits or denies access to all.

- Because it is so small, it can no longer adequately house its existing collection let alone accommodate bigger collections in high demand areas. There is no space for the library to expand or innovate.
- There is also not enough space to accommodate the number of computers, new technology or training facilities required to meet the community's expectations of a library as a contemporary place meeting lifelong learning needs.
- There is neither a distinct area nor a large enough area for children's activities. A children's area also needs to be located and designed so it does not disrupt other library activities.
- There is no dedicated space for adult activities, such as book and technology launches, authors' talks or information sessions.
- There are no quiet, comfortable reading spaces, study areas, group study spaces or meeting rooms.

The current library is 551 square metres in size, with the proposed development providing 2,640 square metres of space, comprising:

- Library - 1,035 square metres
- Meeting and work space - 310 square metres
- Community space - 180 square metres
- Gallery and arts spaces - 470 square metres
- Back of house - 270 square metres
- Amenities and services - 375 square metres

What about the heritage value of the area?

The proposed Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub is being designed to provide modern facilities while responding sensitively to the heritage value of the existing Town Hall, which is on the Victorian Heritage Register and will be retained. The current library is not on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Council commissioned significant and independent heritage assessments in relation to the current library and Town Hall, which are all available on our website at www.banyule.vic.gov.au/ivanhoeHub.

What about parking around the new development?

A traffic and parking assessment relating to the current use of the site and the proposed project was done by GTA Consultants. Their assessment noted:

- 277 car parking spaces within the Ivanhoe Civic Centre site, with another 81 spaces next to Bryant Reserve.
- A peak occupancy of 238 spaces, with, at the time of the survey, 91 spaces occupied as a result of Council's then corporate office being located within the Town Hall building.
- With the relocation of Council office staff to Greensborough, a future peak demand of 173 spaces could be expected.
- The proposed redevelopment retains 238 spaces, which is considered sufficient for future parking needs.
- As now, at times when large special events are held, particularly at The Centre Ivanhoe, overflow parking would continue to be met by on-street parking.
- While traffic levels are not expected to exceed those at the time of the assessment, further investigation may be required in the future.

Where can I view the latest concept plans?

The latest information about the proposed development, including concept plans, are on Council's website at www.banyule.vic.gov.au/ivanhoeHub.

You will also find links on that page to our community consultation site, Shaping Banyule, where we engage with the community - shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au.

What are the proposed timelines for the project?

Approximate timelines are:

June 2017 onwards - Community consultation and continuing design work

September 2017 - Submission of planning and associated permits

September 2018 - Contract awarded

October 2018 - Construction starts, with an estimated 18-month build

How do I get involved in the community consultation?

Community consultation is an important part of this project and is occurring at key stages.

Information about the project, including consultation opportunities, will be publicised on Council's website as well as on its consultation site, Shaping Banyule, and via other means, such as social media and local media as appropriate.

Who is designing the project?

Croxon Ramsay are the project's architects. They bring a high degree of experience and understanding to the project, with the lead architect Catherine Ramsay having been involved in designing many similar facilities. She is also currently working on the Balwyn Library redevelopment and the Hume Global Learning Centre, and was involved in designing the interior of the Kathleen Syme Library and Community Centre in Carlton.

What was Council's Resolution on this project?

On 14 March 2017, Council resolved that it:

1. Prepares concept plans and cost estimates for the proposed public plaza/landscaping adjoining Upper Heidelberg Road. The public plaza is to be designed to integrate with the proposed Community Learning Hub and to provide for future active frontages. Prepares a Community Learning Hub Delivery Plan and Consultation Plan which features:
 - a. The proposed new library and community learning hub (based on the Croxon Ramsay concept plan);
 - b. More detailed concept plans for the proposed plaza and landscaping with emphasis on activation opportunities for the civic plaza; Retention of existing "at grade" car parking where possible (no new decked car park);
 - c. Provision of additional "at-grade" car park on remaining library land (total "at grade" car parking of approximately 236 spaces);
2. Develop a detailed engagement plan to undertake consultation on the Community Learning Hub Delivery Plan.

Register for updates and keep informed

The next fact sheet will discuss the heritage component of this project.

If you want to keep up to date with this project:

- Visit www.banyule.vic.gov.au/ivanhoeHub
- Visit shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/ivanhoehub and sign up to be kept informed about the project's progress.

If you have any questions about the project, contact Robbie Colosimo on 9457 9943 or via roberta.colosimo@banyule.vic.gov.au