



Harbour Esplanade

Master plan

Places Victoria is currently working with the City of Melbourne to develop a master plan for the Harbour Esplanade area. This plan will provide a blueprint for the Harbour Esplanade precinct that will drive the next stages of development.

The master plan builds on the strategic plans that guide the development of Harbour Esplanade. These include the Docklands Public Realm Plan and Open Space Strategy.

We believe it is important to continue the conversation with the community about the development of Harbour Esplanade to ensure current thinking about proposed civic space, buildings and facilities meets the needs of everyone who will use it.

The development of Harbour Esplanade will be delivered in stages and over a number of years, subject to planning approvals and funding. It is important we understand the community's aspirations and priorities so we can move quickly when there is funding available.

You can have your say about the Harbour Esplanade development by completing the online survey...

Background

Docklands is one of the largest urban renewal projects in Australia and is still a work in progress. By 2025, the number of residents is expected to grow to 20,000 and the number of workers to over 60,000.

Since the inception of Docklands as a development site, Harbour Esplanade has been identified as an important public and civic waterfront space for Docklands' future communities. From the early 1900s as Melbourne's hub of economic and maritime activity to a business and residential hub, Docklands and Harbour Esplanade have been the connection between the CBD and the water.

Harbour Esplanade is set to be transformed into a significant public waterfront destination that is used every day of the year. To achieve this, we need to find the right balance between open and green space, buildings and recreation opportunities which respect and reflect the heritage of Docklands, and embrace the water.

Since 2007, Places Victoria and the City of Melbourne have carried out extensive consultation with the Docklands community, including the 'Melbourne's Verandah' concept for Harbour Esplanade in 2008, followed by the broader Docklands Community and Place Plan in 2010/11.

Some aspects of the 'Melbourne's Verandah' concept have already been delivered, including:

- Realigning the tram tracks
- Installing dedicated bike and pedestrian paths
- Creating a tree-lined boulevard.

This year Places Victoria will continue to remove ageing, structurally unsound wharves and commence installation of new sea walls, with the intention of beginning rebuilding at least one wharf deck in the next year or two.

Delivering such a large and important project in stages provides an opportunity to check in with the community to ensure that the development is meeting their changing needs. The May 2014 engagement program will not be the last conversation, but will help to establish next steps and a blueprint to move forward.

Community Engagement

Places Victoria and the City of Melbourne have consulted with the Docklands and wider Melbourne community on a number of occasions about the development of Harbour Esplanade to ensure it is transformed into a space that is valued by the community.

The community consultation for the Docklands Community and Place Plan reinforced key themes that were consistent with feedback about the 'Melbourne's Verandah' concept.

These themes include:

- A place for community and everyday activities
- Cultural vitality and creativity
- Diverse, comfortable and active public spaces
- Waterfront heritage
- Harbour destination
- Connected Docklands

To progress the implementation of the Docklands Community and Place Plan, Places Victoria is re-engaging with the community about Harbour Esplanade. The City of Melbourne is supporting this engagement by hosting an online forum for the public at Participate Melbourne (www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/participate).

The May 2014 engagement program will allow us to test some of the design elements that could be applied to bring these themes to life. For example, previous engagement indicated that the community wants to enjoy the waterfront with some protection from the elements. One way of achieving this might be in the form of publicly-managed buildings that provide spaces for public activities.

Importantly, this engagement program also intends to capture thoughts about how the community wants to use this important public space in the future.

City of Melbourne recently sought input from the Docklands community to inform the implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy. This community feedback will also inform the character of the Harbour Esplanade landscape.



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