

2. REIMAGINE KINGS WAY UNDERCROFT AS A COMMUNITY SPACE

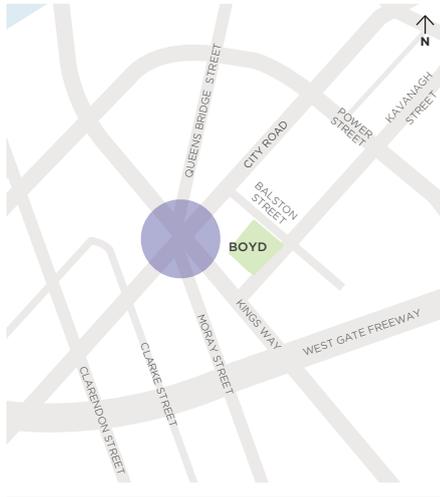


Figure 3.23: Location of Kings Way Undercroft.

The Kings Way Undercroft and surrounding area presents opportunities for pedestrian and cyclist improvements as well as potential open space upgrades.

The undercroft is located adjacent to the Boyd Community Hub, which since opening in July 2012, has attracted an average of 7000 visitors per month. Boyd has been described as the new ‘heart’ of Southbank and offers a diverse range of community services, helping to foster civic activity in the area.

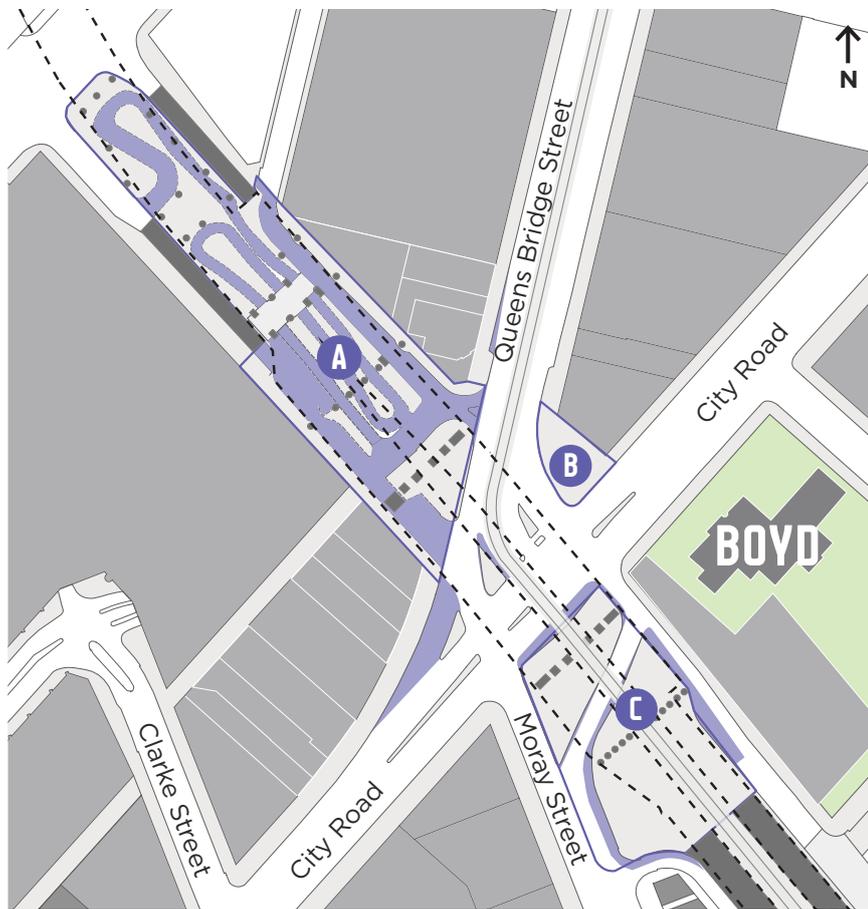
A concept for the Boyd park on the site is currently being developed, however there is seen to be further scope for additional and complementary uses in

the undercroft space that cannot be accommodated in the park.

This action looks to build on the success of the Boyd Community Hub by expanding activity into the redundant spaces of the Kings Way Undercroft (see figure 3.24). By reclaiming some road space and consolidating this with existing pedestrian spaces, three distinct areas can be formed to create a combined area of one hectare of useable public space.

This project aims to:

- Incubate local community activities and local businesses.



Legend	
A	Northern Undercroft
B	City Road Park
C	Southern Undercroft
	Potential road space reclaimed for use as pedestrianised public space
	Kings Way (above)
0 50m 100m	

Figure 3.24: Kings Way Undercroft and surrounds

- Further integrate the recently upgraded tram stop and bus stop with the surrounding public spaces.
- Address flooding issues and the urban heat island effect.
- Consider the role this space could play in complementing the existing Boyd Community Hub and upcoming Boyd Park.

Design concepts on the following pages illustrate ways each of these three sites could be re imagined. We want to start a conversation about ways the undercroft could better serve the local community.

‘Surely something more presentable can be achieved at Kings Way Undercroft.’

Mike, resident



Northern Undercroft design concept

The Northern Undercroft is located under Kings Way overpass on the northern side of City Road.

It is currently occupied by a large redundant taxi rank and provides on and off ramps to the Crown Casino car parks. It connects to rear service lanes for properties facing Queens Bridge Street and City Road. Large concrete pylons support Kings Way overhead.

By consolidating redundant space, an area of approximately 5000 m² can be created. This is the equivalent in size to approximately 12 basketball courts.

Figure 3.25 presents a design concept for re imaging the Northern Undercroft as a multipurpose space that provides for a range of community activities.

Possible uses and improvements of the Northern Undercroft could include:

- Skate park / parkour
- Climbing walls
- Sports courts
- Group fitness space
- Play spaces
- Temporary art installations / events
- Pop up pavilions / studios

The following experiences of the Kings Way Undercroft were shared by the community:

‘Safety is an issue at night under Kings Way for pedestrians. This is a common short cut for Crown workers who finish at night.’

Steven, resident



After

Street art spaces

Multipurpose sports courts

Figure 3.25: Artist’s impression of potential uses that could occur in the Kings Way Northern Undercroft space

Commonly used pedestrian route to and from Crown Casino with very poor amenity and a lack of surveillance

Redundant taxi rank

Proposed development sites will front the space



Before

Figure 3.26: Existing conditions of Kingsway Northern Undercroft

Poorly lit and unsafe space

Large, poorly maintained spaces prone to flooding



Climbing walls

Seating

Studio spaces / makers' spaces / art spaces / equipment storage

City Road Park design concept

City Road Park is a small park on the corner of City Road and Queens Bridge Street directly opposite the Boyd Community Hub.

The park is owned by the City of Melbourne, however currently contains two covenants that restrict the height of planting and other structures to a maximum of 1.5m.

City Road Park currently lacks adequate shelter, seating or protection from traffic. It is exposed to the adjacent roadways and is dominated by a large advertising billboard.

Figures 3.28 and 3.29 present design concepts for reimagining City Road Park as an attractive, sheltered public space with opportunities to sit and gather.

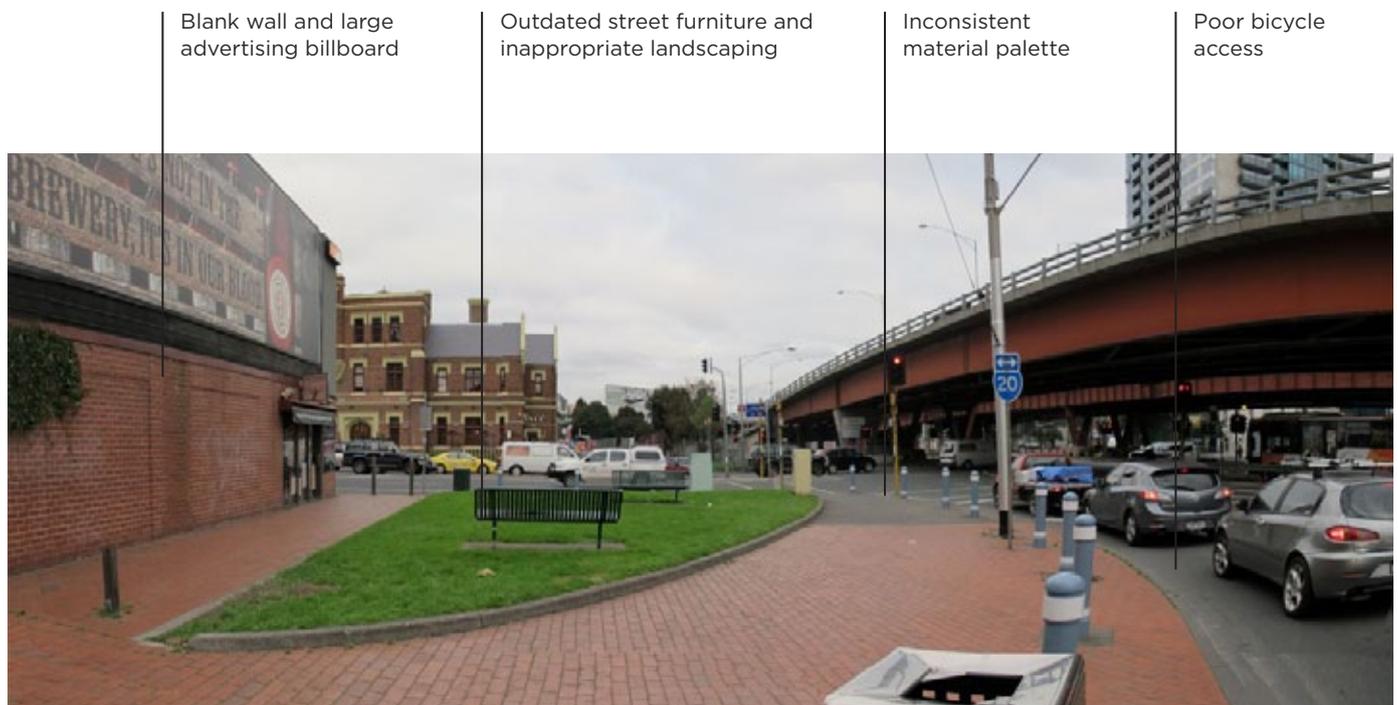
The redesign of City Road Park could include features such as:

- Art and sculpture installations
- Play elements
- Water Sensitive Urban Design opportunities / rain garden
- Interactive music and sound
- Seating
- Greening

The following experience of City Road Park was shared by a member of the community:

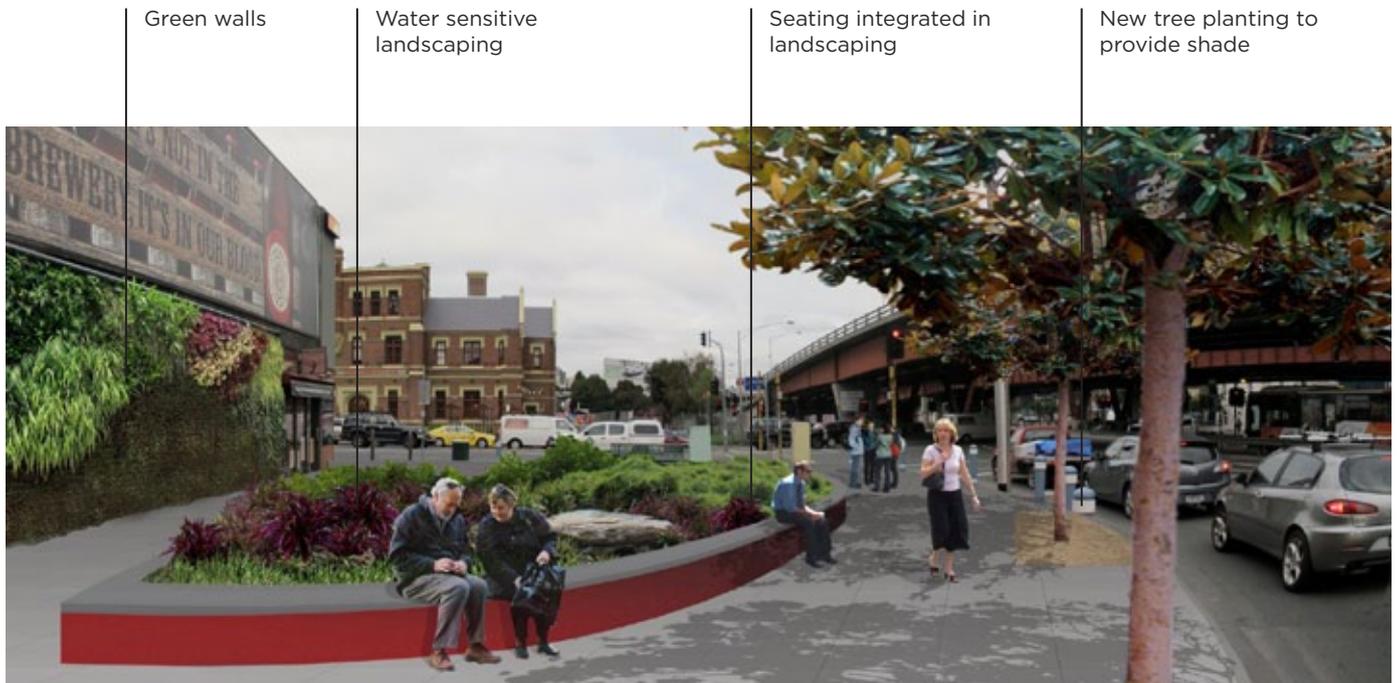
‘A playground for the kids would be nice.’

Alan, resident



Before

Figure 3.27: Existing view of City Road Park looking south towards Boyd Community Hub



Green walls

Water sensitive landscaping

Seating integrated in landscaping

New tree planting to provide shade

After

Figure 3.28: Artist's impression of potential changes to City Road Park looking south towards Boyd Community Hub



After

Figure 3.29: Artist's impression of potential changes to City Road Park looking south towards Boyd Community Hub

Consistent materials palette

Planting around perimeter of site to provide separation from traffic

Southern Undercroft design concept

The Southern Undercroft is located to the south of City Road adjacent to Moray Street.

The Southern Undercroft accommodates a recently upgraded tram stop, large fenced gravel areas that cut across this space and a cut-through road and bicycle connection from Queens Bridge Street to Moray Street. This space is very difficult for pedestrians to move through. Fences, a lack of paving, flooding issues and poor signage all contribute to a feeling of a leftover and forgotten space.

Figure 3.30 presents a design concept for reimagining the Southern Undercroft as a green open space with trees and direct bicycle and pedestrian connections to Boyd and the tram stop.

Possible opportunities for improving the Southern Undercroft could include:

- Removing barriers to pedestrian access
- Tree planting
- Green open space
- Play elements
- Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Rain gardens
- Seating
- Further tram stop upgrades
- Lighting upgrades

‘The area around the intersection of Kings Way with City Road has lots of potential but actually looks awful. There is much potential for planting trees on the south-west corner of the intersection.’

Angelo, resident

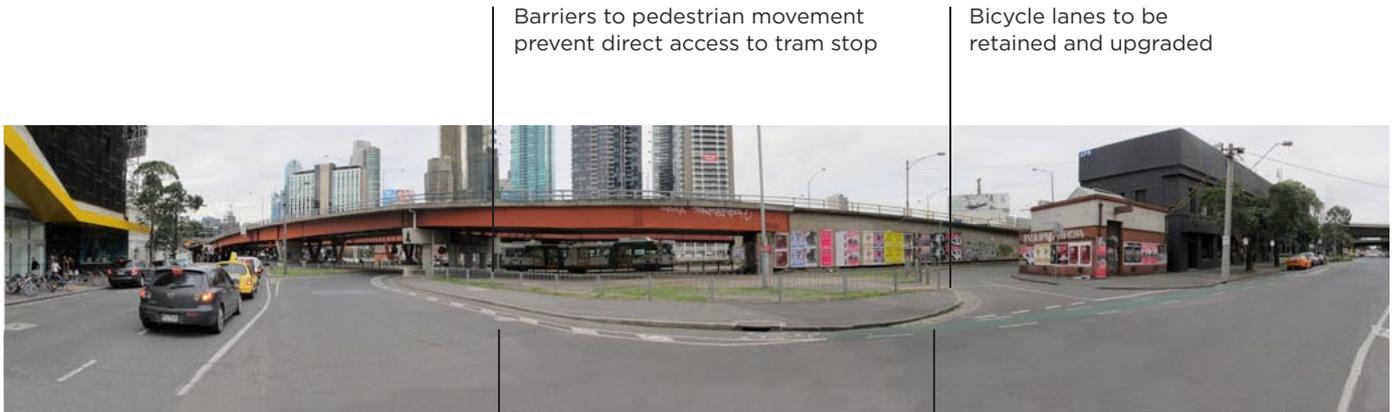


After

Figure 3.30: Artist’s impression of potential open space upgrades looking north towards Kings Way Southern Undercroft

Opportunity for tree planting

Integration with tram stop



Barriers to pedestrian movement prevent direct access to tram stop

Bicycle lanes to be retained and upgraded

Before

Figure 3.31: Existing view looking north towards Kings Way Southern Undercroft

Fast moving traffic through to Moray Street creates unsafe pedestrian environment

Area is prone to flooding



Safe bicycle access

Increased permeable surfaces help address flooding issue

Water sensitive urban design