



Castlemaine Railway Precinct Master Plan

Feedback on Draft Masterplan and Next Steps



What's Happening?

Council and the Department of Transport are co-funding the preparation of a Masterplan for the Castlemaine Railway Precinct.

This Report provides a summary of stakeholder and community feedback on the draft Masterplan, and outlines the changes made to the final Masterplan in response.

This report also summarises the consultation activities that occurred over the most recent round of engagement.

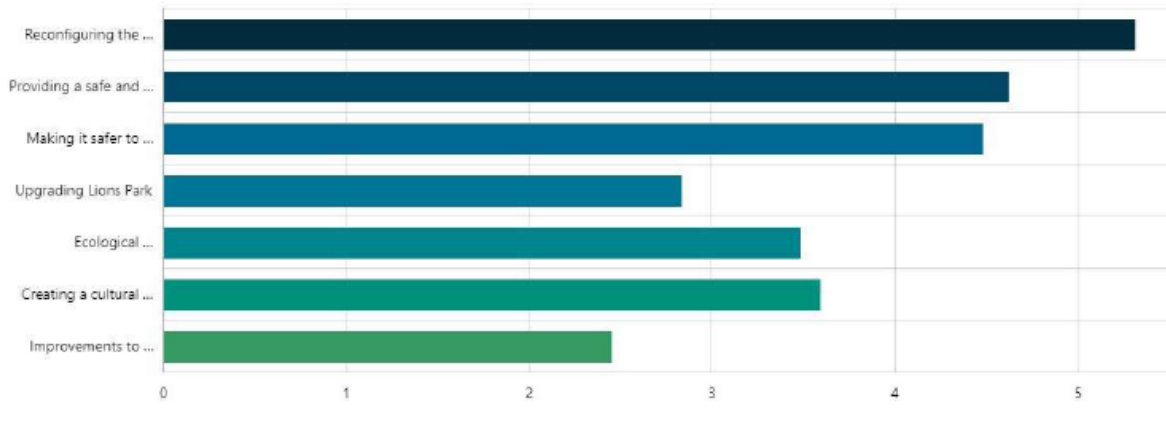


Engagement Activities June/July 2023

- A Project Reference Group was created that consists of tenants of the Precinct, and other key stakeholders.
- Letter drop to residents living in proximity to the Precinct raising awareness of the project.
- Media releases related to the project.
- A dedicated project webpage created on Council's 'Shape Mt Alex' platform, which asked community members to provide feedback on the draft Masterplan.
- Workshop with the Project Reference Group and key stakeholders, government agencies.
- Online survey made available to the community.
- Council pop-up stalls occurred at Castlemaine Farmer's Market and The Bazaar within the Mill Precinct.
- Walking tour of the Railway Precinct with interested community members, led by the urban design team who developed the Masterplan.

Key themes from community engagement

- » Overwhelmingly positive feedback, with emphasis on the need for safety and accessibility improvements
- » 3 priority projects make up the 'Stitching the Precinct Together' key move.



- » Key issues raised included lighting, safety & accessibility, drainage & flooding, maintaining heritage character, car parking, and active transport
- » Comments relating to detailed design have been included as notes in the implementation plan where appropriate, as they are generally more applicable for detailed design and development phase

Lighting

What we heard:

- » Ensure there is adequate lighting throughout the precinct

How this will be reflected in the masterplan:

Precinct-wide lighting considerations will be summarised and added to the Implementation Plan overview:

- » Lighting should consider energy efficiency
- » Lighting should be appropriate to context and be in line with IDSA recommendations

Adequate lighting throughout the precinct will specifically be referenced in Project 1, 2, 3 & 4

Accessibility

What we heard:

- » Prioritise safety and accessibility improvements

How this will be reflected in the masterplan:

Precinct-wide accessibility considerations will be summarised and added to the Implementation Plan overview on page 68:

- » Prioritise safety and accessibility for people with disabilities – ensure that disability needs are considered in detailed design – e.g. appropriate contrast and surface treatments. This is a priority for Project 1.
- » Investigating the feasibility of providing parking / storage for mobility aids at the station will be added to Project 1
- » Providing a changing places toilet will be added to Project 1
- » Consideration for improvements to the accessible routes to the platforms will be included in Projects 1 & 2

Drainage & Flooding

What we heard:

- » Ensure flooding is considered and addressed in engineering and detailed design across the precinct.

How this will be reflected in the masterplan:

The need to consider flooding impacts on the precinct and provide appropriate drainage/mitigation strategies will be included in the recommendations for Project 2, 3, 6 & 7

Heritage character

What we heard:

- » Ensure that future works are sympathetic to heritage character

How this will be reflected in the masterplan:

The need to respect and enhance the historic value of the Railway buildings and infrastructure will be added to the Implementation Plan overview on page 68 and will be strengthened as recommendations in Project 1 & 4

Car Parking

What we heard:

- » Concern around reduction in parking provision

How this will be reflected in the masterplan:

The following specific references will be included:

- » Consider shading car parking with sails or structures - Project 1
- » Improved parking layout - Project 1
- » Ensure markings and signage in car parks facilitate ease of movement - Project 1

Active Transport

What we heard:

- » Suggestions to support active transport usage to and through the precinct
- » Suggestions for provision of outdoor fitness infrastructure

How this will be reflected in the masterplan:

The following specific references will be included:

- » Ensure appropriate, clear and consistent wayfinding and signage to support active transport around Precinct – Priority Projects 1, 3, 6
- » Ensure there is adequate bike parking at key destinations – Priority for Projects 1 & 4
- » Outdoor gym stations around precinct could be considered at Gingell Street Park, Lions Park, or Camp Reserve

Project specific changes to the Masterplan



1 Reconfiguring the Station Forecourt

Feedback was generally in support of this project and outlined further considerations that will be included in the final Master Plan.

This project was rated as the number one priority by the community – highlighting the strong community desire for increased safety in the station forecourt, and safe, clear connections through the precinct.

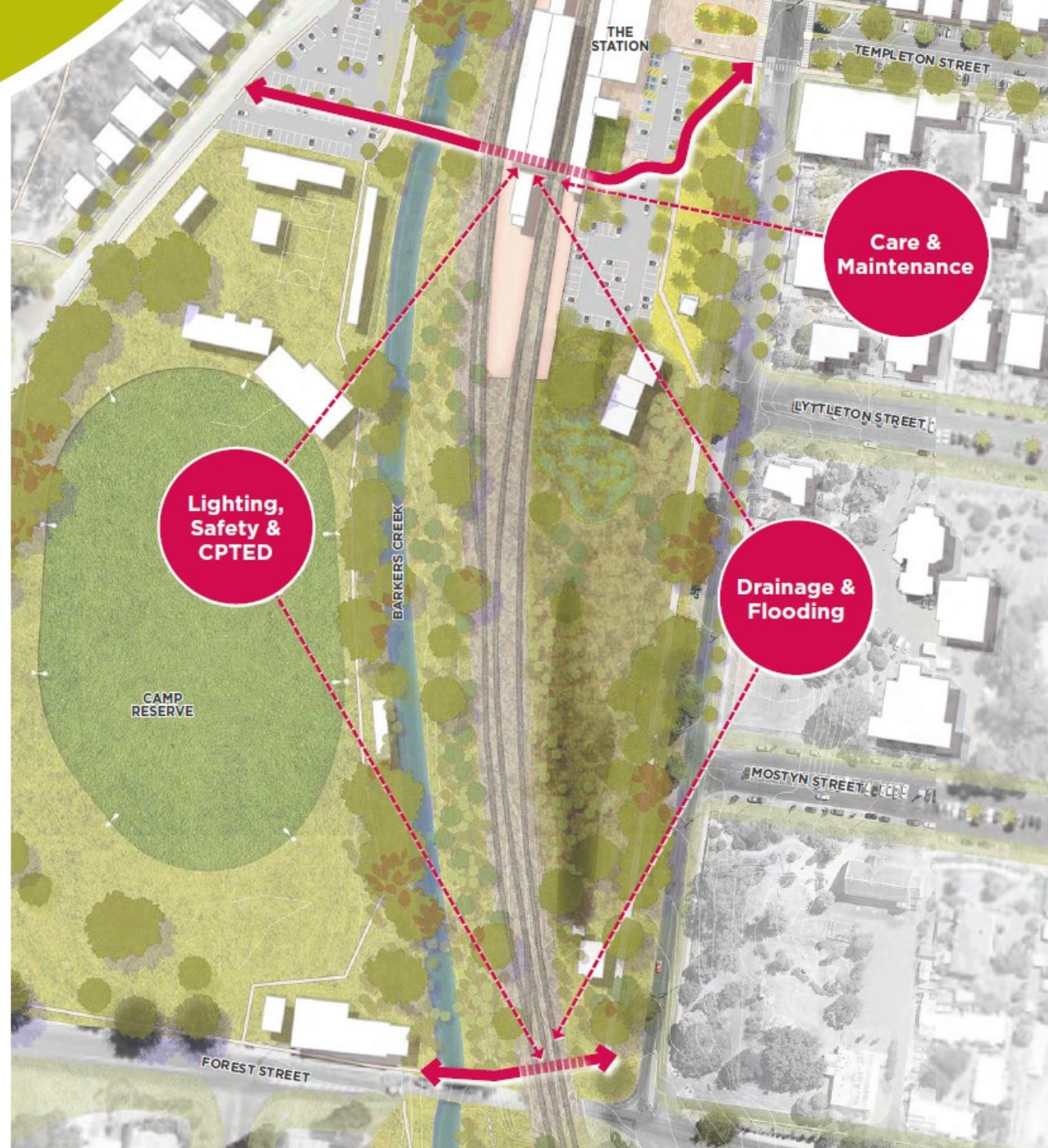


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Creating a safe & accessible east west connection across town

Feedback was generally supportive of the approach taken in recommending future provision of an east west crossing.

There was strong advocacy for delivery of an accessible rail and creek crossing point. This project was rated as a key priority by the community – highlighting the strong community desire for increased connectivity across the precinct and the town.



3 Making it safer to move along Kennedy Street

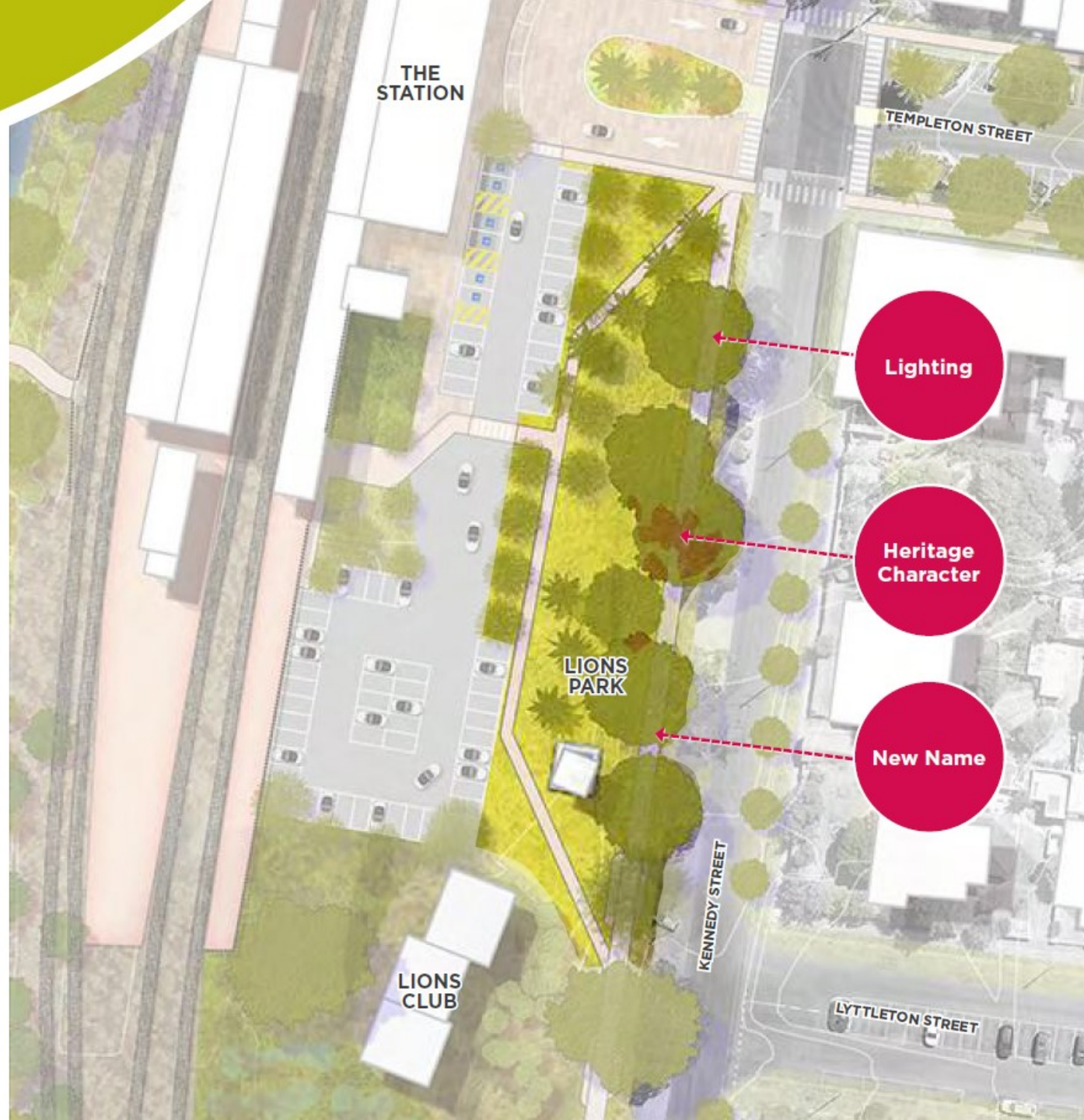
This project was rated as a key priority (one of three projects) by participants in the Community Engagement - highlighting the strong community desire for increased connectivity across the precinct and the town, and safer active transport connections



4 Improving Lions Park for locals & visitors

Feedback was generally in support of this project, with most people responding positively to the idea of a more welcoming space at the gateway to the station, however this was one of the lower priority projects.

Heritage Victoria noted in their feedback that while they understand the need to upgrade Lions Park, they have concerns regarding the introduction of contemporary structures in this location.



5 Restoring ecology to the Hollow

Feedback was generally in support of this project, with no recommended changes. It was ranked as a medium priority in the community consultation survey.

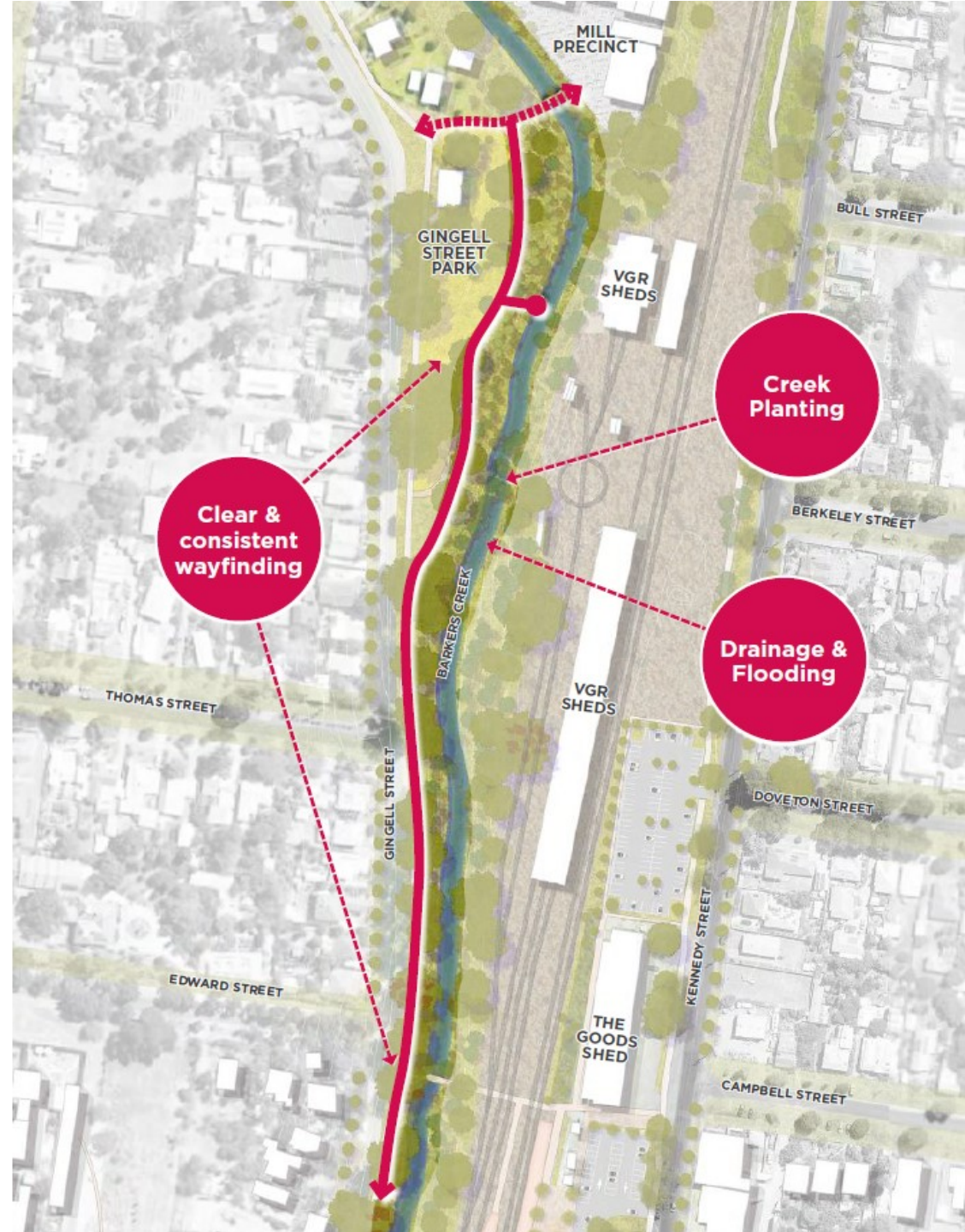


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Creating a Cultural Trail along Barkers Creek

Feedback was generally in support of this project, with a positive response to referencing indigenous culture within the Precinct and in relation to Barkers Creek.

There was a desire to see regenerative planting continued along the Creek, as well as were concerns raised about the effects of flooding.



What's Next?

After Council's Project Team incorporated feedback into the final Masterplan, the Team then sought Councillor adoption of the Masterplan.

Councillors considered the Masterplan for adoption at it's Council Meeting on Tuesday 19 December 2023 and voted to adopt the Masterplan.

The Masterplan includes an implementation plan to guide the next steps in the precinct's development. It provides Council, State government agencies, the landowner of the precinct and potential developers and tenants recommendations on how to implement each project.

A copy of the Masterplan will be provided to the landowner, VicTrack, the Department of Transport and Planning, V/Line, Djaara Corporation, Heritage Victoria, Department of Energy, Environment and Planning, Regional Development Victoria, and tenants of the Precinct. A copy is also available on Council's webpage.

Delivery of the identified actions is contingent on the outcomes of stakeholder support, further design work, and the availability of the required funding. Some projects could potentially be commenced earlier if opportunistic grants become available.

Some projects may be delayed due to funding or unforeseen constraints. Importantly, implementation on all projects can happen incrementally when resources and funding become available.

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