

## Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 6.6

### Southbank Temporary Play Court Options

21 March 2023

**Presenter:** Roger Teale, General Manager Property, Infrastructure and Design

#### Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to notify the Future Melbourne Committee (FMC) of options for the provision of a temporary basketball/multi-sport court in Southbank.
2. At the FMC meeting in Southbank on 22 November 2022, residents asked questions regarding the loss of basketball facilities in Southbank due to the commencement of private developments.
3. As part of Major Initiative 47: City Road Masterplan, the City of Melbourne will deliver a multipurpose recreation area in the Northern Undercroft space. Completion of works is anticipated in 2025.
4. Officers have prepared four options for a pop-up play court to provide public basketball and netball facilities in Southbank prior to the opening of the Northern Undercroft in Attachment 2: Southbank pop-up play court options.
5. Feasibility assessments have been completed based on the options.
6. Option 4 at Melbourne Square is management's preferred option.

#### Key issues

7. There is community demand for public basketball facilities in Southbank, but no current provision with the proposed Northern Undercroft not scheduled to open until 2025.
8. While no external consultation has been undertaken, this action has been undertaken on the basis of this demonstrated community demand for basketball provision in Southbank.

#### Recommendation from management

9. That the Future Melbourne Committee notes that:
  - 9.1. management's preferred option is Option 4: Melbourne Square development site.
  - 9.2. management will partner with the developer OSK to deliver a temporary basketball court.

#### Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 7)
2. Southbank pop-up play court options (Page 3 of 7)

## **Supporting Attachment**

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### **Legal**

1. No direct legal implication arise from the recommendation from management.

### **Finance**

2. All options considered will have financial implications, with estimated costs in Attachment 2. There is no current budget allocation to complete the works and implementation will be subject to funding and approval.

### **Conflict of interest**

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### **Health and Safety**

4. In developing this proposal, no Occupational Health and Safety issues or opportunities have been identified.

### **Stakeholder consultation**

5. No external consultation has been undertaken, actions taken based on demonstration of community demand for basketball provision in Southbank.

### **Relation to Council policy**

6. The Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2021-2025 which recognises the need for the community to be active.
7. Major Initiative 16: Increase the amount of public open space in the municipality with a focus on areas of greatest need, such as Southbank and emerging urban renewal areas.
8. Major Initiative 47: City Road Masterplan

### **Environmental sustainability**

9. In developing this proposal, environmental sustainability issues or opportunities will be considered during the feasibility assessments.



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## Southbank pop-up play court options

Southbank has very limited access to active open spaces and in 2022, two temporary basketball courts were demolished prior to development. These were 'Underpark' on Queen's Bridge Street adjacent to the Northern Undercroft site, and the court at Boyd Park.

As part of the City Road Masterplan, the Northern Undercroft will deliver basketball, netball and mixed ball sports spaces under King's Way close to Boyd Park and is planned to open in 2025.

Options are considered below for a temporary pop up play court until the completion of the Northern Undercroft site. All proposed sites are proposed to include an informal 'play court' with a basketball and netball ring.



Figure 1: Context map

### Option 1: Sturt St Reserve



Proposed play court within green space of Sturt Street Park to be reinstated as green space after completion of Northern Undercroft works. Location shown is indicative only and subject to feasibility and design.

Timeline: estimated 4 months post consultation

Cost: estimated \$80,000 + \$30,000 for reinstatement at closure

- Requires reduction in under-utilised green space in existing Sturt Street Reserve
- Further from central Southbank but accessible by tram/walking
- Open space team report anti-social behaviour here, but would prefer activation

## Option 2: Boyd Park



Proposed temporary pop-up within green space of Boyd Park to be reinstated as green space after completion of Northern Undercroft works. Location shown is indicative only and subject to feasibility and design.

Timeline: estimated 4 months until opening

Cost: estimated \$80,000 + \$30,000 for reinstatement at closure

- Requires reduction in highly utilised open space at Boyd Park, likely to impact existing users
- Contaminated soil would require retaining onsite to add to existing mounds

### Option 3: Northern Undercroft site

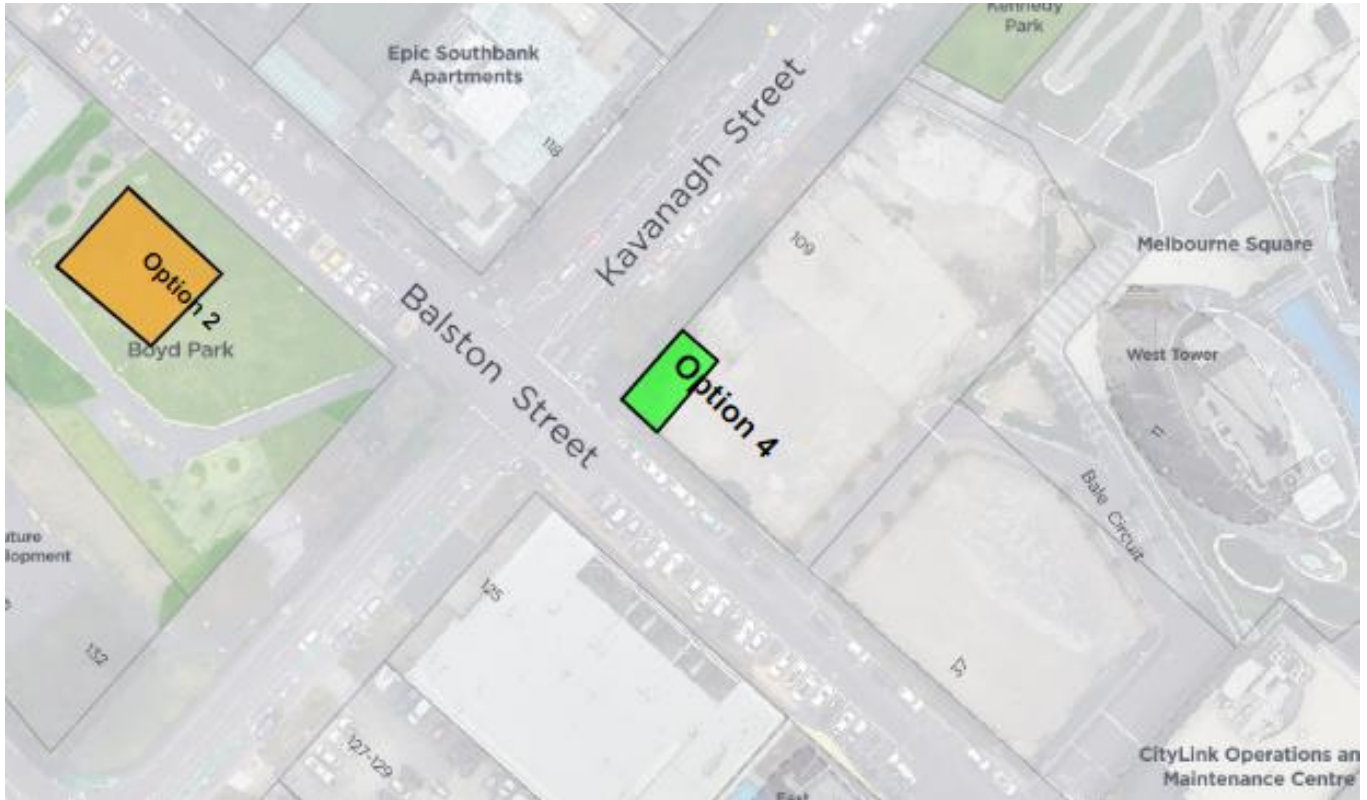


Timeline: estimated 12 months

Cost: estimated \$300,000

- The site is currently open to through traffic and to close traffic access requires pending DTP approvals and civil works. These are due in line with construction timing to commence in 2024 for completion in 2025.
- Projected timelines would allow for opening of a pop-up park at the same time as planned construction commencement of Northern Undercroft works. A pop-up court would need to be closed for construction of the Northern Undercroft site.
- The ground at the site is highly undulating due to subsidence of the paving with spike down kerbs, and requires significant civil works to bring back to a safe and level playing surface.
- VicPol and Crown both have concerns about safety in the space and do not support the project without comprehensive activation of the space to promote passive surveillance. DTP approval requires support from VicPol and Crown.

### Option 4: Melbourne Square development site



Proposed temporary pop-up within Melbourne Square development site Stage 3 or 4

Timeline: 6 months or less

Cost: To be confirmed, limited potential cost to CoM for design advice, planning support.

- Proposed at FMC.
- Potential to partner with developer OSK to deliver temporary activation as part of staging plan.
- Being considered by Planning team.