

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**Agenda item 6.6****North Melbourne Community Centre Redevelopment Community Engagement****15 August 2023****Presenter:** Elliot Anderson, Acting Director Community Development**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to commence community engagement to inform planning and design for a new community centre in North Melbourne.
2. This project is included in the Council Plan as Major Initiative 42 – *In partnership with the Victorian Government commence construction on a replacement North Melbourne Community Centre precinct for the Melrose Street community and growing Macaulay population.*
3. The recommendation for a new community hub facility in North Melbourne to provide new and expanded services currently being provided by the North Melbourne Community Centre, Hotham Hub and Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre was also included in the Macaulay Structure Plan 2021 and endorsed by the Future Melbourne Committee on 9 November 2021.

Key issues

4. There is strong community need for a new community centre in North Melbourne to replace existing community facilities in the precinct, which are approaching the end of their lifespan.
5. This part of the municipality, including the northern section of North Melbourne and the eastern section of Macaulay is projected to see strong population growth in the next 30 years and new infrastructure is needed to meet increased demand from current and future communities.
6. The new community centre will be located at 91-115 Melrose Street, the current site of Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre and Hotham Hub. This new multi-use centre will include youth, family and ageing services, as well as other services to be decided on following engagement with the community.
7. Insights gathered during past engagements in North Melbourne provide a strong evidence base for existing community needs. This first round of community engagement for a new community centre is intended to build on past engagements and add further detail and context to existing community insights.
8. The first round of community engagement will commence on 16 August and conclude on 22 September and inform the concept design for the new community centre. The draft design will subsequently be shared with community and other stakeholders for further feedback prior to detailed design being finalised. This second round of engagement is likely to take place in the first half of 2024.
9. In planning for this project City of Melbourne will carefully consider the capacity of all Council-owned land and assets in the precinct to meet current and future needs in community services, recreation services, provision of open green space and new affordable housing.
10. Details of community engagement for the new community centre are contained in Attachment 2, including:
 - 10.1. summary of insights gathered in past community engagement
 - 10.2. details of the location and services to be included in the new community centre
 - 10.3. community engagement approach and timeline.

Recommendation from management

11. That the Future Melbourne Committee approves the commencement of the first round of community engagement for the new community centre in North Melbourne.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 2 of 10)
2. Summary of community engagement preparation (Page 3 of 10)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. There are no specific legal implications that arise from the recommendation from management. As the project progresses, legal advice will be provided as required.

Finance

2. The contents of this report do not have financial implications for the project.

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. The arrangements for stakeholder consultation are set out in the contents of this report.

Relation to Council policy

6. The project is included in the Council Plan as Major Initiative 42 under the strategic objective of Access and Affordability.

Environmental sustainability

7. In developing this proposal, no environment sustainability issues or opportunities have been identified.

North Melbourne Community Centre: Community Engagement Round 1

NMCC Redevelopment (Major Initiative 42)



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Building a new community centre for North Melbourne

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City of Melbourne (CoM) is committed to providing a new community centre in North Melbourne to replace existing facilities, which are approaching the end of their lifespan and won't meet future community needs. Providing a new centre is included in the Council Plan under **Major Initiative 42**.

The community and service providers in our facilities have consistently expressed the desire for larger and improved facilities to allow for more spaces for community use and enhance the services that make a positive difference to life in North Melbourne.



Image: North Melbourne Community Centre (NMCC), 49-53 Buncle Street

As well as improving service delivery for the current community, CoM will ensure the new facilities meet the significant growth forecast for the Macaulay precinct.

Macaulay's current population is 3,150 residents[†]. The Victorian Government predicts this will increase to 10,000 by 2051.

Similarly, CoM modelling forecasts a population of 9,300 by 2040^{††}.

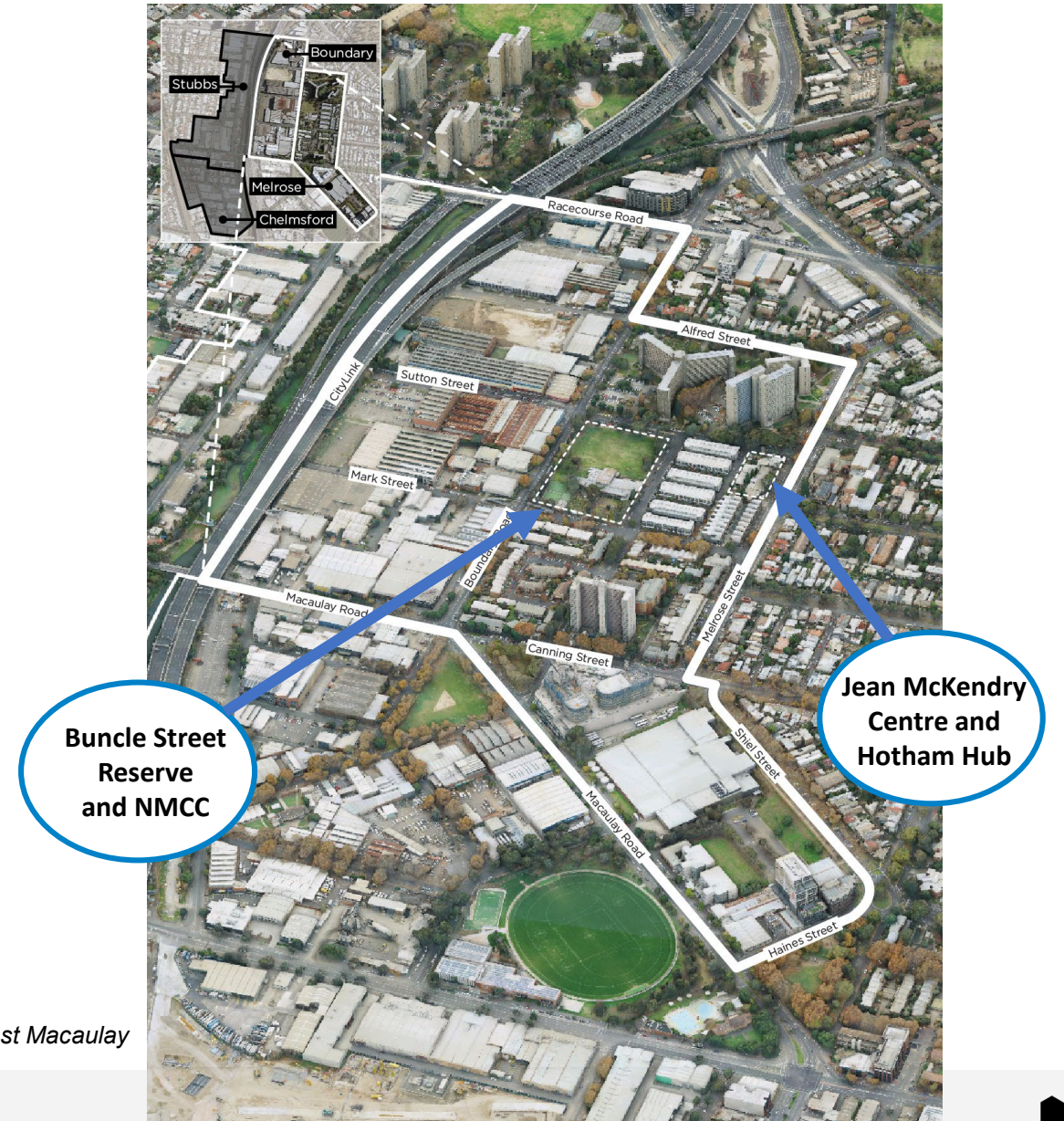


Image: Map of east Macaulay

[†] Australian Census 2016

^{††} Macaulay Structure Plan 2021



What we've already heard from community

CoM has engaged with the community on several topics in the precinct over recent years, including the Neighbourhood Model. Insights gathered have established a solid foundation for community needs in North Melbourne. This first round of community engagement for the new community centre is intended to add detail and context to existing understanding of community needs.

What's been undertaken

Community engagement in North Melbourne over the past 18 months included:

- 772 community members consulted on North Melbourne Neighbourhood Plan
- 252 community members consulted on recreation in North Melbourne

Other significant recent engagement in North Melbourne included:

- Draft Macaulay Structure Plan 2021
- Lady Huntingfield Early Learning and Family Services Centre renewal



We've heard that...

The community values its parks, outdoor open and green space

There's a need for more community meeting spaces including for informal socialising and connection

Community supports high quality design of built environment that responds to community needs, sustainability and cultural safety

It's important for equity and community diversity that people living on lower incomes can continue to call North Melbourne home.

There's flexibility and adaptability in the design and operations of community facilities in North Melbourne

Community facilities with multiple services can act as hubs to bring community together

The recreation facilities in North Melbourne are highly valued by community

Where will the new community centre be located?

The new community centre will be located at 91-115 Melrose Street, the current site of Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre (JMNC) and Hotham Hub. It will be 3,000 square metres in size (for comparison the NMCC is approximately 1,500 square metres).

In selecting the new site, consideration was given to how all CoM land in the precinct could be used to meet future population needs and provide increased community and recreation facilities, open green space and affordable housing.



Image: Detailed map of Buncle Street Reserve and 91-115 Melrose Street, North Melbourne

What will be included in the new community centre?

This new multi-use centre will include youth, family and ageing services, as well as services to be decided following community engagement. This will ensure we service both current and future needs of the neighbourhood.

Existing facilities and services

Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Community Centre and Hotham Hub (Melrose Street)

Services and facilities:

- Ageing and Inclusion administrative and consultation spaces
- Community hall and meeting rooms
- Commercial kitchen
- Toy library (in Hotham Hub)



North Melbourne Community Centre (Buncle Street)

Services and facilities:

- Maternal Child Health and Family Services administrative and consultation spaces
- Youth services provided by Drummond Street
- Community hall and meeting rooms
- Kitchen for community use (non-commercial standard)
- Gym
- Indoor basketball court



Future facilities and services

New community centre (Melrose Street)

Services and facilities:

- Maternal Child Health and Family Services administrative and consultation spaces
- Youth services provided by Drummond Street
- Ageing and Inclusion administrative and consultation spaces
- Community hall and meeting rooms
- Commercial kitchen
- Other services and spaces to be determined through community engagement including potential toy library

Recreation facilities at North Melbourne Community Centre (Buncle Street)

- Future redevelopment of the recreation facilities in the NMCC (gym and basketball court) will be undertaken as part of the City of Melbourne's longer-term planning.
- The NMCC, including the basketball court and gym, will continue to operate during the construction of the new centre.

Community engagement approach and timeline

Purpose	What feedback is being sought?	Planned engagement activities
<p>The community engagement will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform community of the location and details of the new centre – the inclusion of Family, Youth and Ageing services. • Invite discussion on design, mix of services and purposes of use for the centre. • Build on existing knowledge of the community priorities and needs • Engage a broad cross section of the North Melbourne community • Ensure meaningful and inclusive participation particularly for those whose first language is not English 	<p>We want to increase our understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How people use JMNC and NMCC • Barriers to using current facilities and who experiences those barriers • CoM's existing knowledge of priorities and needs in the precinct by gathering community responses that rank priorities for services and design objectives • Design elements the new centre will need to ensure it works for community members and service providers • We will also test community's response to CoM's guiding principles for the purposes of the project 	<p>The engagement methods and activities have been designed to capture a wide and representative section of the North Melbourne community and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate Melbourne page and survey • Mail out, print media and website postings • Translation options on Participate Melbourne page and surveys • Flyers and posters with QR codes • Pop-up sessions (10-15) • Stakeholder and community workshops (3-5) target mix of people with particular topic focus

Thu 10 August



Tue 15 August



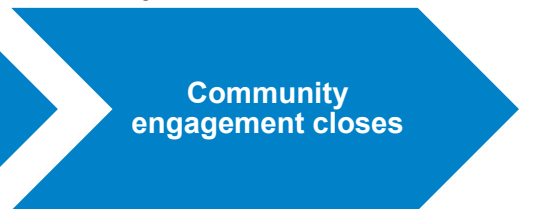
Wed 16 August



Tue 19 September



Fri 22 September



To help meet current and future needs of North Melbourne's vibrant and diverse community, CoM is moving ahead with plans to develop a new community centre (Major Initiative 42 in the Council Plan).

Building a new community centre

- The new centre will be located at 91-115 Melrose Street, the site of Jean McKendry Neighbourhood Centre (JMNC) and Hotham Hub (HH). The new centre will be 3,000 square metres in size (for comparison the NMCC is approximately 1,500 square metres).
- This multi-use centre will include youth, family and ageing services, as well as services to be decided on following community engagement.
- Alongside the family, youth and ageing services, City of Melbourne is investigating the potential for this site and other available sites including Buncle Street Reserve to support open green space, recreation facilities or new affordable housing.
- The family, youth and ageing services at NMCC and JMNC will shift activities and service provision to the new centre. Future redevelopment of the recreation facilities at NMCC will be undertaken as part of the City of Melbourne's longer-term planning for recreation needs in the precinct.
- Services at JMNC and HH will be relocated during construction. NMCC, including the basketball court and gym, will continue to operate during construction.
- Construction of the new centre is estimated to begin within 18-24 months. The construction timeline is dependent on site conditions yet to be assessed and design adjustments following community engagement.

Community engagement approach

- Two rounds of community engagement will be undertaken. Round one will seek community input on the services and spaces to inform design and will start 16 August and end 22 September 2023.
- Round two of community engagement (likely to be in 2024) will present a draft design to test with community and other stakeholders.