

Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**Agenda item 6.4****City Road Masterplan Update****7 May 2024****Presenter:** Jonathan Kambouris, Director City Projects**Purpose and background**

1. The City Road Masterplan was endorsed in 2016 after significant community consultation. The masterplan includes a curated approach to achieve more safe and enjoyable spaces for a growing community supported by traffic calming and road discontinuance measures. While the masterplan has achieved a number of successes with the completion of Actions 5 and 6, the substantial transformative opportunities have complexities in land tenure and funding. These six action items are listed below.
 - 1.1. Action 1 - Transform City Road west into a great central city street.
 - 1.2. Action 2 - Reimagine Kings Way Undercroft as a community space. (Southern Undercroft - complete)
 - 1.3. Action 3 - Upgrade City Road east to be safer and easier to get around.
 - 1.4. Action 4 - Connect City Road to the Arts Centre and Yarra River. (a future connection included in Stage 2 of the arts centre project)
 - 1.5. Action 5 - Connect the gardens (complete)
 - 1.6. Action 6 - Expand the bicycle network within Southbank (complete)
2. Action 2 includes the design and delivery of the Kings Way Northern Undercroft and City Road Park. The project site is over 5,000 square meters of underutilised road, pavement space and park this is proposed to be transformed into multi-functional and versatile spaces. Some proposed activities in the draft concept are skating, climbing walls, sports courts, group fitness, play spaces and temporary art installations and events which will be shaped based on the community consultation and feedback.
3. If delivered, Northern Undercroft could establish an important precedent project for 20km of underutilised undercroft space across the municipality.
4. The purpose of this report is to present to Future Melbourne Committee the draft Northern Undercroft and City Road Park Concept Plan and Community Engagement approach for approval to consult with the community and stakeholders, prior to finalising the concept plan for endorsement.

Key issues

5. Authorities' approvals including Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) are critical for the progress of the project. DTP plans for City Road may conflict with Council approach.
6. Community engagement on the Northern Undercroft is planned to be undertaken in quarter four of the 2023–24 financial year. The engagement package will include the concept plans for Northern Undercroft and City Road Park. The draft concept plans are included in Attachment 2 of report from management.
7. Engagement is likely to increase community interest in the project and expectations for delivery. This will be managed through transparent communication on funding status. Completion of community engagement could also support securing funding sources.
8. The delivery of Northern Undercroft and City Road Park is estimated \$5.85 million for financial year 2025-26 and is currently unfunded.
9. Northern Undercroft has multiple site constraints that will be investigated as part of the design process. Constraints include extensive underground services, low solar access, dense urban fabric, significant inundation or flood activity and traffic noise. Some alterations to concept deliverables may be required as a result of these investigations.

10. Key stakeholders mostly support the proposal.
11. City of Melbourne will explore the potential opportunity to arrange a shared community engagement pop up with representatives from Department of Transport and Planning.

Recommendation from management

12. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
 - 12.1. Endorses the Draft Concept Design for the Northern Undercroft and City Road Park,
 - 12.2. Endorses the proposed community and stakeholder engagement approach.
 - 12.3. Authorises the General Manager Strategy, Planning and Climate Change or the General Manager of Infrastructure and Amenity to make any minor changes to the Draft Concept Design as required provided they do not materially change the design intent prior to exhibition for community engagement.

Attachments:

1. Supporting Attachment (page 3 of 10)
2. Presentation (page 4 of 10)

Supporting Attachment

Legal

1. DTP has leased the Northern Undercroft to the Council for 39 years and 364 days.

Finance

2. The project is listed as grant funded. The funds are not secured so the project is planned to proceed to community consultation in the hope of qualifying for more funding to deliver 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 general or material conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

Health and Safety

4. Community Health and Safety will be supported through the delivery of the Project by reducing the speed limit in surrounding of the Northern Undercroft.
5. Community health and wellbeing is supported through the planned provision of sports facilities as well as flexible gathering and event spaces.

Stakeholder consultation

6. Targeted engagement with key stakeholders was undertaken in 2021. Feedback from key stakeholders such as Crown and adjacent developer, Rydges Hotel was positive.
7. Combination of an 'Inform and Consult' approach will be taken to broader community engagement due to limited opportunity to accommodate requests for major changes to the project.

Relation to Council policy

8. City Road Masterplan – Northern Undercroft and City Road Park project responds to the following council objectives:
 - 8.1. Council Plan 2021-25 Major Initiative 47: As part of delivery of the City Road Master Plan, the City of Melbourne will design and deliver the upgrades to the City Road Northern Undercroft by the end of 2023-2024.
 - 8.2. Council Plan 2021-25 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. Target - 1.1ha by 2025.

Environmental sustainability

9. Environmental sustainability will be supported through the delivery of the Project by providing improved local community space and anticipating a reduction in the carbon footprint due to decrease use of transport to non-local community spaces

City Road Masterplan Update

FMC Presentation

Date: 7 May 2024
Version: 1



CITY OF MELBOURNE

Strategic Alignment

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. Target - 1.1ha by 2025



Primary Strategy



Supporting Strategies

Southbank Structure Plan

Nature in the City

Open Space Strategy

Skate Melbourne

Transport Strategy 2030

FMC 7 May 2024

Action 1 - Transform City Road west into a great central city street.

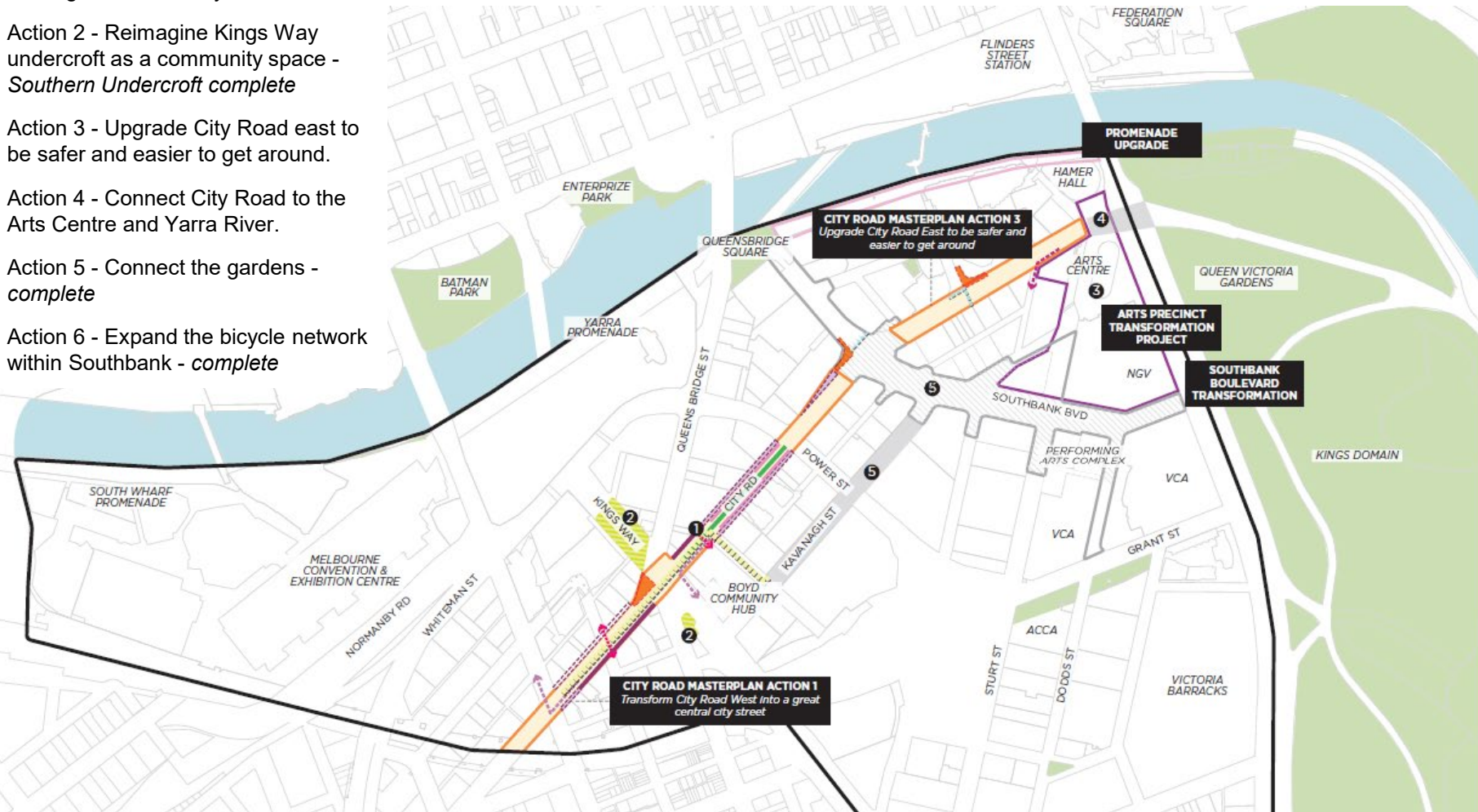
Action 2 - Reimagine Kings Way undercroft as a community space - *Southern Undercroft complete*

Action 3 - Upgrade City Road east to be safer and easier to get around.

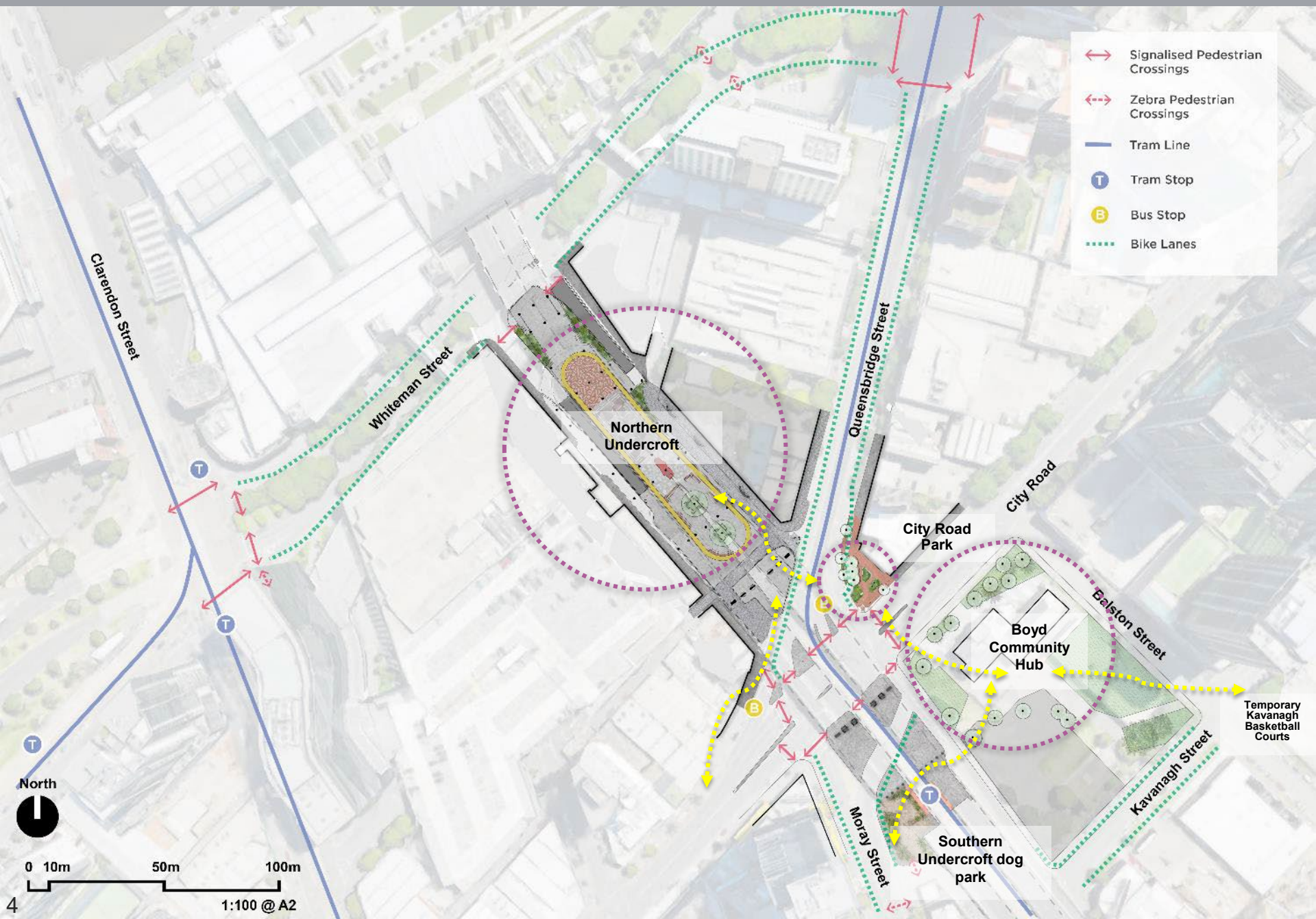
Action 4 - Connect City Road to the Arts Centre and Yarra River.

Action 5 - Connect the gardens - *complete*

Action 6 - Expand the bicycle network within Southbank - *complete*



Action 2: Southbank Context Plan – Connecting the Dots



- ↔ Signalised Pedestrian Crossings
- - - Zebra Pedestrian Crossings
- Tram Line
- T Tram Stop
- B Bus Stop
- ⋯ Bike Lanes

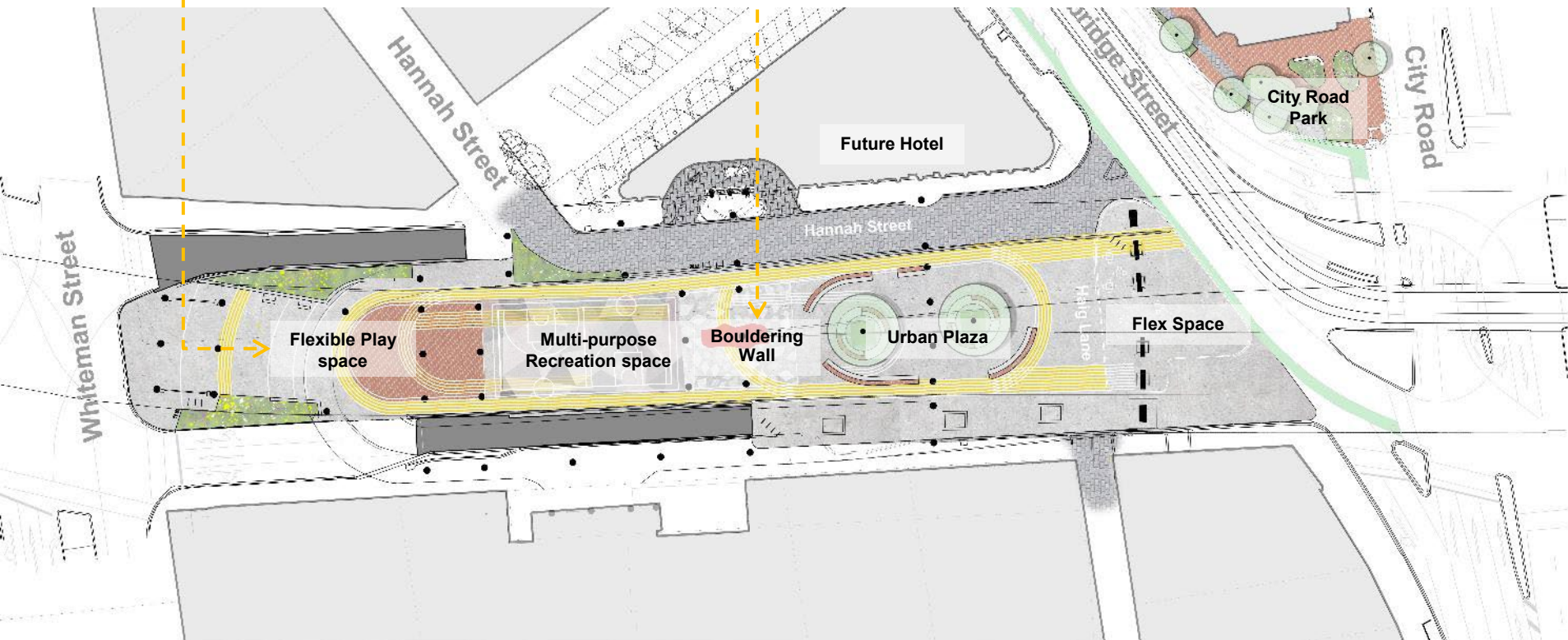
North

0 10m 50m 100m

1:100 @ A2

Temporary Kavanagh Basketball Courts

Action 2: Northern Undercroft – Draft concept





Artists Impression

Status

- Key stakeholders consulted
- 40 year lease secured from DTP
- Unbudgeted, Subject to Grants
- \$5.85 million project cost TBC
- Multiple site constraints
- FMC 7 May 2024
- Community consultation June 2024 (4 weeks, IAP2 Consult)



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