

REVITALISING CENTRAL DANDENONG SITE 11 – 15

SUMMARY PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT

A summary of what we heard from the community in March 2022

Document prepared by

capire

Project background

The Revitalising Central Dandenong (RCD) project is an initiative led by Development Victoria and the Victorian Government to transform Central Dandenong into a vibrant and thriving capital of Melbourne's south-east region. The RCD consists of 170 hectares of land in the centre of the Dandenong CBD.

In December 2020, Development Victoria awarded Capital Alliance the development rights to deliver RCD Sites 11-15 through a competitive public tender process.

Sites 11 -15 (shown in Figure 1 below) comprise five land parcels bounded by Halpin Way to the north, Thomas Street and Cheltenham Road to the east, the rail corridor to the south, and Settlers Square and Dandenong Station to the west.

Capital Alliance is preparing a master plan to guide the development of the sites. The sites will be developed into a revitalised cultural precinct that will celebrate Dandenong's cultural diversity, through various considered community and culturally focused spaces, including revitalising Little India.

The cultural precinct will be delivered within the first stage of the master plan. Construction is expected to commence in 2023 – subject to town planning approval.



Figure 1 An aerial photo indicating the project sites 11 to 15 (Source: Development Victoria)

Document purpose

Throughout March 2022, Capital Alliance's project team undertook a series of engagement activities to seek feedback on the draft master plan of Sites 11 to 15. This summary document outlines the key findings of Phase 1 Engagement for RCD. A list of frequently asked questions during the engagement and their answers are collated in a separate document. Capire Consulting Group, a specialist engagement consultancy, prepared this summary document on behalf of the project team.

Engagement activities

Phase 1 engagement occurred between Tuesday 8 March 2022 and Friday 25 March 2022.

Approximately 50 participants took part. Engagement activities included a mix of in-person and online sessions:

- Webinar (Thursday 17 March 2022)
- Community feedback sessions (Wednesday 23 March 2022)
- Local traders briefings (Wednesday 16 March 2022)
- Survey (online and hardcopy)
- Council meeting (Monday 11 April 2022).

Total number of participants:



Launched 8 March 2022.
Project webpage visitation was not documented



6 registered, 4 attended.
Online Webinar



13 registered, 12 attended.
Traders attended the local trader's briefing session



18 registered, 14 attended.
Community drop-in sessions



12 participants completed an online survey



8 questions asked at Council meeting on 11 April 2022

Engagement findings

The engagement sought feedback on the draft vision and key ideas proposed in the draft master plan for Central Dandenong. Below is a summary of the key feedback received.

The vision

The vision for the draft master plan is to 'restore central Dandenong as the capital of Melbourne's southeast through strategic urban design to create and foster a thriving precinct for the community that will complement the existing urban fabric and pay homage to the diverse culture that is Dandenong.'

Most participants supported the proposed vision for Central Dandenong.

The survey responses (see Figure 2 below) show that most of the respondents (10 out of 12 respondents) either agree or strongly agree with the vision proposed in the draft master plan. There was one response for 'neutral' and one response for 'strongly disagree'.

Level of support for the RCD Vision

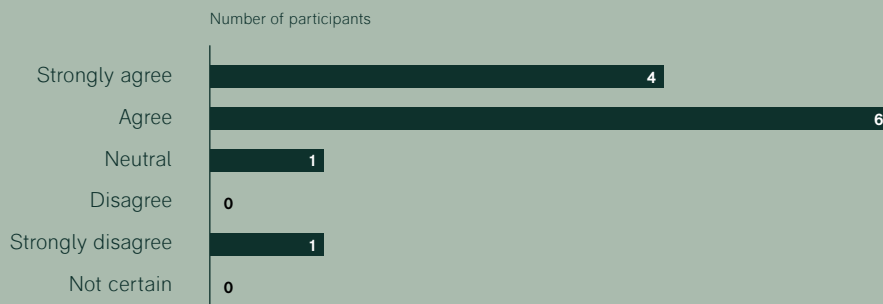


Figure 2 Survey responses (n=12)

IDEA 1: CREATING A VIBRANT, MIXED-USE PRECINCT

This idea proposed that 'the future Central Dandenong will be a vibrant, mix-used precinct with retail, food hub, educational facility, cultural precinct, community hub, incubator/co-working space.'

Most respondents (11 out of 12 respondents) either chose 'high support' or 'support' for this idea. One person was unsure about this idea, whilst there were no responses for 'no support' or 'low support'.

IDEA 2: IMPROVED PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

This idea proposed that 'the future Central Dandenong will have excellent access to all modes of transport, including public and active transport.'

Most respondents (10 out of 12 respondents) either supported or strongly supported this idea. Two respondents were unsure about this idea, whilst there were no responses for 'no support' or 'low support'.

Participants would like to see better connections between Dandenong Station to the precinct, better connection to Little India and improved safety around the station.

IDEA 3: REVITALISING LITTLE INDIA

This idea proposed that **'Little India will be revitalised to provide improved retail offerings, with design led innovative urban design and architecture that pays homage to the area's existing cultural identity.'**

Most respondents (10 out of 12 respondents) either supported or strongly supported this idea. Two respondents were unsure about this idea, whilst there were no responses for 'no support' or 'low support'.

There was general support for relocating Little India to the new laneway, with some concerns around timing of relocation for the traders.

IDEA 4: IMPROVED TRANSPORT ACCESS

This idea proposed that **'Pedestrian access will be improved by enhancing Foster Street and Mason Street, and realigning Gilbert Lane.'**

Most respondents (10 out of 11 respondents) either supported or strongly supported this key idea. One respondent was unsure about the key idea. No responses indicated 'low' to 'no support' for the key idea.

Questions received from the community about the draft master plan can be found in a separate Frequently Asked Questions document.

What's happening now?

We heard that the community would like more opportunities to ask questions about the RCD draft master plan. We will provide an update on our Revitalising Central Dandenong master plan Sites 11 to 15 at upcoming community information sessions.

These sessions will address feedback received from the initial community information sessions held in March and, we welcome continued feedback as we evolve our precinct and project planning.

Capital Alliance's project team invites you to attend the additional sessions to learn more about the draft master plan. The sessions will include the information presented in Phase 1 engagement, as well as a summary of the feedback heard in March.

Event details:

ONLINE BRIEFING SESSION

Tuesday, 11th October 2022

Time: 5:30pm – 6:30pm

Via Zoom meeting

IN-PERSON BRIEFING SESSIONS

Tuesday, 18th October 2022

Session 1: 2:00pm – 4:00pm

Session 2: 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Location: City of Greater Dandenong
Civic Centre – 225 Lonsdale St
Dandenong VIC 3175

To register for the events, email rcd@capitalalliance.com.au

You can learn more about the project from the project website

rcd.capitalalliancegroup.com