



# EMERALD HILL PRECINCT DESIGNS

## Fact sheet

The City of Port Phillip's vision is to make Emerald Hill an engaging civic, community and arts hub.

Council has developed draft designs for Emerald Hill that include improvements to the Library and Heritage Centre forecourt and the South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt and surrounding streetscape. The designs build on plans outlined in the Emerald Hill Master Plan which was adopted by Council in April 2012, following community consultation.

## DESIGN FEATURES

The Emerald Hill Master Plan focuses on the heritage of the precinct, landscaping, improving pedestrian accessibility between the South Melbourne Town Hall, Library and Heritage Centre and surrounding streetscape and integrating public art into the area. Council has prepared designs for the Library and Heritage Centre forecourt and for the South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt and surrounding streetscape.

### Library and Heritage Centre forecourt

The Library and Heritage Centre forecourt design proposes:

- inclusion of a large, deciduous, Jacaranda tree and two small colourful deciduous trees
- installation of curved garden beds and seating around the trees
- use of steps which create a stage and seating along a wall.

### South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt

The South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt design proposes:

- enhancing the use of the lawn area in front of the South Melbourne Town Hall and a permanent stage to accommodate events
- landscaping and slightly raised lawn terrace
- new planting around the memorial fountain.

### Surrounding streetscape (overall precinct)

- slightly narrowing Bank Street to create safer pedestrian crossings
- slightly narrowing the road on Perrins Street to slow vehicles as well as implement Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features
- inclusion of kerb outstands to improve accessibility and pedestrian safety between the police station, Library and Heritage Centre and South Melbourne Town Hall
- increase footpath width around the Town Hall to improve accessibility
- additional seating in Daly, Layfield, Fishley Streets.

### Car parking

The number of parking spaces in the overall precinct will be reduced to improve access to and around the South Melbourne Town Hall. In total 28 car parking spaces will be removed, 6 spaces in Fishley Street, 3 spaces in Layfield Street, 11 spaces in Daly Street and 8 spaces in the Bank Street slip lane. Vehicle access to the South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt will be maintained for emergency vehicles.

The reduction of car parking will be staged to manage car parking demand in the area. Since the adoption of the Emerald Hill Master Plan an additional 4 car parking spaces have been integrated into the design in Layfield Street.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay) or contact

Elena Kalnin, Place Manager via ASSIST on phone 03 9209 6777.

## DESIGN THEMES

The following design themes were identified by the community during consultation on the Master Plan in 2012. These key themes have helped inform features of the designs.

### **Focus on heritage and Indigenous history**

The designs maintain heritage features in the area including the memorial fountain, fountain setting and lights on Bank Street. Important vistas from Park Street along Perrins Street and from Bank Street to the Shrine will be maintained and enhanced. The designs carry on the legacy of Emerald Hill as a traditional gathering space by reactivating the site as a place where people can come together to relax or take part in recreational and creative activities.

### **Soft landscaping**

The designs enhance the lawn area in front of the South Melbourne Town Hall to provide an enclosed, safe area with greater separation from the road. Landscaping will aim to provide protection from prevailing south-west winds and will also include a slightly raised lawn terrace to accommodate recreational experiences.

Throughout the South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt and Library and Heritage Centre forecourt a planting scheme which includes a mixture of exotic and native plants will be developed. The planting will focus on seasonal colour and scent. Where possible, Indigenous plants that have traditional uses in ceremony and artwork will be incorporated.

### **Public art**

A public art workshop in 2012 identified opportunities to incorporate public art into the precinct design. Future public artworks will aim to facilitate temporary public art programming, landscaping and enhancing view points and lighting to accommodate artistic practice.

### **Enhancing community access**

The widening of footpaths around the South Melbourne Town Hall and inclusion of kerb outstands will improve accessibility and pedestrian safety between the police station, the Library and Heritage Centre and South Melbourne Town Hall. Additional seating will be provided in Daly, Layfield, Fishley Streets around the South Melbourne Town Hall.

## TIMEFRAME

The Emerald Hill Master Plan highlights short, medium and long term actions. The Library and Heritage Centre forecourt will be the first project to be delivered to complement the Emerald Hill Library and Heritage Centre upgrade which is currently underway. Improvements to the South Melbourne Town Hall forecourt and overall precinct will be undertaken at a later stage subject to budget allocation.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

To view the designs for the Emerald Hill Precinct and provide your feedback online visit [www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay](http://www.portphillip.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

Come along to the drop-in sessions at the South Melbourne Town Hall, Bank Street, South Melbourne. Council staff will be available to present the designs and answer any questions.

- Thursday 21 February 12 – 2 pm
- Thursday 14 March 6.30 - 8.30 pm
- Saturday 16 March 10 am – 12 pm
- Monday 18 March 12 - 2 pm



Consultation closes Friday 22 March 2013.