

# Consultation Outcomes Report

Youth Justice Centre Redevelopment Project

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# 1 Executive Summary

This report describes the community consultation for the Youth Justice Centre Redevelopment Project undertaken in early to mid-2017, including the matters of interest raised by the community and how these are being responded to. Engagement with the community will continue beyond the point in time this report was prepared.

## 1.1 Project overview

In February 2017, the Victorian Government announced that it would build a new youth justice centre near Werribee, to the west of Melbourne. This new centre is part of a significant program of upgrades and improvements to existing youth justice infrastructure to ensure the safety of the wider community, youth justice staff and young people in contact with the youth justice system.

Following a number of reviews into the existing youth justice facilities at Parkville and Malmsbury, the government determined that the best option to respond to the needs of the youth justice system was to establish a new, purpose-built centre.

In light of this, the new, fit-for-purpose, secure, youth justice centre includes 224 beds for remand and sentenced clients, a 12-bed mental health unit and an intensive supervision unit of at least eight beds.

The centre is being built on vacant land in between Werribee and Little River currently owned by Melbourne Water and which is used intermittently for grazing. The site was selected following consideration of a number of possible locations which were assessed against key criteria.

An initial site was selected at Hoppers Lane South, Werribee South. The government agreed to consider alternative sites within Wyndham in response to initial community feedback about this location.

Construction of the new centre is to be completed by the end of 2020.

## 1.2 Consultation

The consultation process for the project focussed heavily on the local community and providing easily accessible information and multiple methods for providing feedback as the project progresses.

The local community overwhelmingly expressed concern about the initial site identified for the new centre at Hoppers Lane South. This concern was significantly alleviated following the announcement of an alternative site near Cherry Creek.

The local community will continue to be engaged through community information sessions, the dedicated project website: [www.engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre) and via the Community Advisory Group established for the project.

## 2 Consultation activities

On 6 February 2017 the Premier announced that the government was building a new youth justice centre in Werribee South. On 15 March 2017 the Minister for Families and Children announced that, following consultation with the Wyndham City Council and community representatives, an alternative location had been identified in Wyndham for the new centre. At the same time, the Minister advised that the government would be advertising for nominations from local community representatives interested in being on the Community Advisory Group for the project. The community was also advised that information sessions would be held to provide the Wyndham community with the opportunity to hear more about the project.

### 2.1 Consultation methods

Letters were sent to all households in the vicinity of the Hoppers Lane South site on 7 February 2017 with information about the project, including details of a project website: [www.engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre), a call centre with a dedicated project telephone number and forthcoming community information sessions. A further letter was sent to those residents, plus those in the vicinity of the Cherry Creek site, on 24 March 2017, to advise of the decision about the new site, and to repeat the project website and call centre telephone number. The call centre line was operational from 7 February 2017, and the website was launched on 27 March 2017.

Information on the website: [www.engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre) at the time of launch included a summary of the business case site selection process, and an addendum that explained the subsequent process to identify the Cherry Creek site. Details of the forthcoming community information sessions were also included, as was a call for expressions of interest from the community for membership of the Community Advisory Group. Individuals were also able to subscribe to receive project updates via email.

### 2.2 Community information sessions

The first community information sessions were held in Wyndham on 7 and 8 April 2017. Details of the sessions were placed in the local newspaper over preceding weeks. The sessions included information booths and displays, with representatives from the following departments and agencies in attendance and available to answer questions from community members:

- Department of Justice and Regulation
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Environment
- Department of Education and Training
- Victorian planning Authority
- VicRoads
- Public Transport Victoria

A total of 43 community members attended the two sessions. Attendees were provided feedback forms to complete if they wished to submit questions about the project, of which eight were submitted.

A document summarising the details of these information sessions and the matters raised by community members in attendance was placed on the project website shortly thereafter.

Another community information session was held in Little River on 24 July 2017. This followed immediately after a meeting of the CAG, and gave attendees an opportunity to meet CAG members and ask questions about the project. 25 community members attended the session.

## 2 Consultation activities

Attendees at this session were advised that expressions of interest were being called for a representative of the Little River community on the CAG. Nominations will be considered by the Minister for Families and Children.

As with the first community information sessions, attendees were provided with feedback forms to request information on specific topics. 15 forms were submitted at the end of the session.

Attendees who provided their contact details were sent an email shortly afterwards that summarised the main issues raised during the session and reminding them of the call for expressions of interest to be a CAG member. This information was also placed on the project website. A set of questions and answers reflecting the subjects raised during the session have since been placed on the website.

A further community information session was held in Werribee on 11 September 2017, and this was attended by 12 community members. This provided an opportunity for local community members to find out the latest information about the project, and to ask any questions they may have.

A common theme throughout all of the information sessions has been a desire by attendees to better understand the location of the new youth justice centre. In response to this, information has been included on the project website to assist with

locating the site, and to better understand the features of the site. This information includes an embedded map that shows the location of the centre, and which can be switched between a satellite imagery view and a street map view. To complement this, video imagery of the site and surrounding features was collected using a drone and edited into a short video clip. This is also available on the project website.

**Figure 1: Consultation statistics**



## 2 Consultation activities

### 2.3 Community Advisory Group

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the project was established to ensure the local community is informed and engaged as the project progresses. A key role of the group is to provide input during the preparation of the Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan, which is the key document used to inform the consideration of statutory planning approvals, and which sets out the key design and operational features of the centre.

The CAG comprises a diverse group of key stakeholders and active community members:

- Local community members
- Councillors and an officer from Wyndham City Council
- Koori representation
- Victoria Police
- Department of Justice and Regulation
- Independent Chair.

The four community representatives were selected using a competitive expression of interest (EOI) process. The EOI was advertised in the Wyndham local newspaper, outlined on the project website, and explained to attendees at both community information sessions. Thirteen expressions of interest were received, from which five community members were selected to be interviewed. Four community representatives were subsequently appointed from this selection.

A subsequent EOI is being conducted for a Little River community representative on the CAG.

The first meeting of the CAG was held on 19 June 2017, and subsequent meetings occurred on 24 July 2017, 14 August 2017 and 11 September 2017. The group will continue to meet monthly over the life of the project, and a summary of each meeting will be loaded on the project website afterwards.

# 3 Matters of interest and responses

The key matters of interest identified by the community through the various consultation methods were:

- The appropriateness of the initial Hoppers Lane South location
- Future community consultation
- Impacts on local services and infrastructure
- Visual impact of new centre
- Impacts on cultural heritage
- Impacts on the environment
- Security
- Traffic impacts and transport arrangements

	What we heard	What we are doing
<b>3.1 Site location</b>	<p>There was significant community concern about the site initially selected for the new centre on Hoppers Lane South, Werribee South. The community expressed concern about the centre being too close to existing residential areas and the local school. There was also concern about the lack of community consultation prior to the announcement of the site.</p>	<p>The government committed to considering alternative sites within Wyndham and subsequently identified a new site near Cherry Creek to the south west of Werribee.</p> <p>A summary of the project business case outlining the process for identifying and assessing potential sites for the new centre was placed on the project website. Following the announcement of the alternative site near Cherry Creek, and addendum to the business case summary explaining the process for identifying this site was also placed on the project website.</p> <p>Information has been placed on the project website to help the community better understand the location of the new centre. This includes an embedded map that can be switched between a satellite imagery view and a street map view, and a short video showing edited footage from a drone flying over the site.</p>
<b>3.2 Future community consultation</b>	<p>Several community members expressed disappointment that the community information sessions were not held in a location closer to the Cherry Creek site.</p>	<p>A further community information session was held in Little River on 24 July 2017. This followed immediately after a meeting of the CAG, and gave attendees an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the project, and to meet CAG members.</p> <p>Another community information session was held in Werribee on 11 September 2017.</p> <p>A summary of the issues raised during the sessions, or submitted on feedback forms made available to attendees, are being progressively placed on the project website.</p>

# 3 Matters of interest and responses

	What we heard	What we are doing
<b>3.3 Local services and infrastructure</b>	<p>Some community members asked about the impacts of the new centre on existing local services and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Discussions have been held with all relevant utility providers to understand existing services and constraints, and to identify options for meeting the likely additional requirements resulting from the new centre. These requirements will be refined once the design for the centre is finalised.</p> <p>An emergency management plan will be developed in consultation with emergency services to detail arrangements for responding to emergency events at the new centre once it is operational.</p> <p>Services and infrastructure requirements and impacts will be outlined in the Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan, which will be prepared with input from the CAG.</p>
<b>3.4 Visual impact</b>	<p>Several community members expressed concern about the potential visual impact of the new centre within the relatively flat landscape to the west of Werribee.</p> <p>There were also some concerns that light from the new centre will impact on local residents at night.</p>	<p>A visual impact assessment will be undertaken to assist with understanding how the new centre impacts on the visual amenity of the area. The first stage in this involved the preparation of photomontages showing the view towards the new centre – shown by inserting an indicative image of the perimeter wall – from six different external vantage points. These images have been placed on the project website, and were presented at the community information session held in Werribee on 11 September 2017. Further imagery work will be prepared as the design for the new centre is finalised.</p> <p>The design requirements for the new centre will include the need to incorporate measures to mitigate visual impacts, such as through the use of landscaping.</p> <p>The design and operating requirements for the new centre will include the need to design and operate external lighting in a way that minimises impacts on the local community.</p> <p>Design and operating requirements to minimise visual impacts will be outlined in the Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan, which will be prepared with input from the CAG.</p>



# 3 Matters of interest and responses

	What we heard	What we are doing
<b>3.5 Impacts on cultural heritage</b>	Community members expressed the need to acknowledge the past use of the site, particularly the long history of use by Aboriginal people, and to not disturb any artefacts that may be present.	<p>A cultural heritage management plan will be prepared for the site. This will be informed by a cultural heritage survey overseen by the appropriate Registered Aboriginal Party.</p> <p>Measures to assess and manage potential impacts on cultural heritage will be outlined in the Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan, which will be prepared with input from the CAG.</p>
<b>3.6 Impacts on the environment</b>	There was community interest in understanding the potential environmental impacts of building and operating the new centre, and how these would be managed.	<p>The project will be subject to environmental approval processes by both the Federal and State Governments. Documentation prepared to seek these approvals, and any that may be required to be prepared as a result of any approval conditions, will be made publicly available, including by being placed on the project website.</p> <p>Ecological, geo-technical and hydrological studies will be undertaken to understand the current conditions and values of the site, to identify the potential impacts of building the new centre, and to inform the siting, design and operation of the new centre. This will include targeted, on-ground surveys to identify whether any specific threatened plants and animals are present on the site.</p> <p>Based on these studies, the new centre will be located within the overall land available to minimise the impact on the ecological values of the site. Where these impacts cannot be avoided, native vegetation offsets will be provided through an appropriate mechanism that meets the approval conditions of both the Federal and State Governments.</p> <p>Ecologically Sustainable Development principles will be applied during the design development stage of the project.</p> <p>Measures to assess and manage potential impacts on the environment as a result of construction and operation of the new centre will be outlined in the Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan, which will be prepared with input from the CAG.</p>

# 3 Matters of interest and responses

	What we heard	What we are doing
<b>3.7 Security</b>	Community members were interested in understanding how the centre will be built and operated in a secure manner.	<p>The centre will be a secure facility, and will incorporate a six metre concrete perimeter wall.</p> <p>The security arrangements for the centre will be established through the design and tender processes, and will be informed by innovative, leading-edge expertise in correctional and youth justice facilities</p> <p>An overview of the design and operating security features will be included in the Youth Justice Centre Facility Plan, which will be prepared with input from the CAG.</p>
<b>3.8 Traffic impacts and transport arrangements</b>	Community members were interested in understanding what impact the centre will have on local traffic flows, and what public transport will be available.	<p>A traffic impact assessment will be undertaken to understand the likely impact on local traffic flows as a result of traffic movements to and from the centre. This information will be used to inform the design of the interface between the new access road to the centre and Little River Road. VicRoads will be consulted on the design of this interface, and will be the approving authority for the Traffic Management Plan for the project.</p> <p>A shuttle bus service will be established to provide public transport access between the centre and Werribee.</p>

## 4 Next steps

Information and technical advice will continue to be collected to help inform the construction and operation of the new centre. This will include undertaking a number of studies, including:

- On-site, targeted surveys to identify the presence or otherwise of specific threatened species of flora and fauna
- A geotechnical and soil contamination assessment
- A cultural heritage survey
- A traffic impact assessment
- A visual impact assessment

Documentation will be prepared to seek the necessary environmental and planning approvals for the construction of the new centre, and will be informed by the above studies.

A contract was awarded in September 2017 for the principal consultant and architect to lead the development of the design for the new centre. Following this, a competitive process will be undertaken to select a managing contractor, who will be responsible for the overall construction of the new centre. The managing contractor is expected to be appointed around March 2018.

It is expected that construction will begin in mid-2018 and be completed by the end of 2020.

Updates will be placed on the project website as the project progresses, and the CAG will continue to meet throughout the life of the project.

Further community information sessions will be held, including in locations within close proximity of the Cherry Creek site.

For further information head to the project website  
[www.engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre](http://www.engage.vic.gov.au/youthjusticecentre) or email [youthjustice@justice.vic.gov.au](mailto:youthjustice@justice.vic.gov.au)

### **Acknowledgement to Traditional Owners**

The Department of Justice and Regulation acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land of Victoria and pays respect to their Elders, both past and present.

