

Lara Town Centre Expansion

Creating a vibrant town centre to meet the needs of a growing community

Project Update No. 3 April 2010

The Lara Town Centre expansion project will provide for a new full line supermarket, specialty retail shops and an expanded and beautified Austin Park to create a new vibrant town centre for Lara. Expansion of the Centreway site will build on the existing natural hub of the town which includes retail core and railway station. Council officers are continuing to work on the various processes required to deliver this important project for the Lara community.

Acquisition of Land

After investigating the possibility of a lease option Council is now actively pursuing the sale and purchase of the portion of Austin Park required for the retail expansion.

The Department of Planning and Community Development and the Department of Treasury and Finance have committed to assisting the delivery of the project and will work with Council through the sale of land process.

Council has begun the costing work for the relocation and provision of infrastructure and facilities in the area.

Expression of Interest

Council will commence an Expressions of Interest process in mid 2010.

Interested parties will be invited to make submissions in relation to developing the site.

Council's Urban Designers have prepared a site analysis plan to help inform a design response.

This process will assist Council in short listing a preferred developer.

Inter-Agency Working Group

Council has set up an inter-agency working group that meets monthly to ensure all levels of Government are across the project.

The group consists of representatives from DPCD, DTF and DSE who are all committed to the delivery of the project.

Planning Scheme Amendment

Council has submitted a planning scheme amendment authorisation request to DPCD.

The amendment (known as C225) will rezone the site identified for the future expansion to a Business 1 Zone and apply a Design and Development Overlay to the site. This process will include public exhibition giving the public an opportunity to make submissions.



Native Title Resolution

Extinguishing Native Title over Austin Park remains an integral component of delivering the Lara Town Centre expansion.

The traditional owners of Lara have expressed their support for the project and recognise it as important to the Lara township.

Council is working with the Native Title Tribunal, Department of Sustainability and Environment, traditional owners in the area and other key stakeholders to deliver this project in a way that respects and acknowledges traditional owners.

Council will continue to progress other aspects of the project while Native Title solutions are pursued. It is anticipated Council will have a resolution for Native Title by the end of the year. This will co-inside with the rezoning and expression of interest processes.

Project Updates

A regular community update will be provided to the community and all stakeholders.

For the latest information on this project please refer to the website

www.geelongaustralia.com.au

or for further information contact the Project Manager, Sarah Storen on 03 5272 4814 or via email sstoren@geelongcity.vic.gov.au

