Coburg Library and Piazza Vision, Objectives and Scope

Merri-bek City Council

Coburg Library and Piazza Vision

Coburg Library will be a place of connection, cultural expression and life-long learning. With flexible spaces to read, learn, make and connect, the library will evolve to meet the diverse and changing needs of the community. The adjacent piazza will welcome all to gather, play and rest. It will reflect and respect Country and contribute to environmental regeneration, resilience and biodiversity. Together, the library and piazza will embody Coburg's unique identity and form the heart of the precinct.

Coburg Library Objectives

A Leading Library	Coburg Library will be a dynamic place of creativity, lifelong learning, and social connection. Public programs and curated collections of books, magazines and learning resources will respond to the social and cultural needs of the whole community. A dedicated children's and family area will spark imaginations and foster early learning. The new library will embrace technological innovation and support digital access throughout. Different types of spaces to meet, study and gather will enable more people to access the library more often.
Culture & Creativity	Coburg Library will serve as a vibrant hub for culture and creativity, expanding Merri-bek's rich history of supporting the arts. The new library will create opportunities for the whole community to engage in arts and culture through performances, exhibitions and hands-on creative activities. It will also provide a platform for sharing and celebrating the stories, identities, histories, and values of our diverse community. The library's design will integrate engaging and innovative public art approaches.
Welcoming & Safe	Coburg Library will feature a distinctive and welcoming civic identity that reflects the community's unique character, including the rich culture of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung peoples. Accessibility, inclusivity and safety will be prioritised through thoughtful design ensuring people from all backgrounds, faiths and abilities can fully enjoy the facility. The library will serve as a vibrant hub that maximises

	visitation and benefits for the community and provides essential social services.
Flexible & Future Ready	Coburg Library will be designed for maximum flexibility and adaptability, allowing for multiple uses, services and activities to occur simultaneously. The provision of quiet spaces and louder areas will ensure the library remains a dynamic and inclusive space for all. This flexible space design will ensure the library is future proofed for changing demand and evolving populations, as spaces will be able to have the ability to adapt over time and respond to emerging community needs.
Sustainable	Coburg Library will be a leading example of sustainability and respond to climate challenges by reducing its environmental impact during construction, operation and end-of-life reuse with user comfort and safety front of mind. It will showcase principles of the circular economy with recycled materials and smart design to save energy and water. The building will feature thriving plants and greenery, and the spaces in and around the building will have flexible areas for people to relax and gather. The building will be equipped to serve as a refuge during extreme weather events, providing a safe place for the community.

Piazza Objectives

Inclusive and welcoming	The Piazza will engage people of different backgrounds, genders, abilities and ages. It will be universally accessible, and active throughout the day and evening. It will be a place that all people feel equally safe and welcome to visit and use.
The heart of the community	The Piazza will be interactive, multifunctional and creative. It will foster a variety of experiences, conditions and activities, from quiet gathering to large events and celebrations. Its well-proportioned scale will provide a sense of place and enclosure, creating a vibrant urban space.
Sustainable and resilient	The Piazza will contribute to the resilience of the local environment through climate positive design, leadership in integrated water management, regenerative landscape and

	urban biodiversity, and sustainable and durable materials. The design will feature native plant species and celebrate the local ecology while embracing innovative technology and solutions.
Connected to nature	The Piazza will be a place where people feel connected to nature and which maximises soft landscape, water and shade. It will be a comfortable, well-greened space featuring natural materials and integrating extensive planting and tree canopy.
Connected public space	The Piazza will be a vital focal point and connector in the street network of Coburg, linking an east-west green spine from the Upfield rail corridor to the civic precinct. It will be edged by streets full of activity supporting vibrant public life. It will provide a welcoming arrival to the library and connect the indoor and outdoor spaces.

Coburg Library and Piazza Scope

Library size: 3,000m2 (gross floor area), multi-storey building
Piazza size: 2,000m2 (footprint)
Cost: $60 million
Library, Community and Cultural Centre features and elements: Library General: 1200m2 • Collection and displays, computers and wifi, study spaces, meeting rooms, makerspace, and reception desk Library Family's and Youth: 300m2 • Children's and youth areas with a games/digital area Culture and Creativity: 60m2 • Artists studios and integrated exhibition spaces on recessed gallery walls Commercial and Community Use: 600m2 • Spaces for commercial leasing, Café, and Community Centre with a kitchen, showers and lockers (which could be used during extreme weather periods) • Staff Area: 240m2 • Staff offices, storage areas, returns area, and home library service facilities

Amenities: 600m2

- Facilities including prayer/sensory rooms, toilets (male, female, all-gender, and accessible), and accessible bicycle parking and facilities

Piazza features and elements:

- An open gathering space able to support a variety of community and civic events
- Welcoming arrival space at Library frontage
- Abundant seating catering to individuals and different sized groups
- Integrated furniture, flexible dining/ working/ socialising spaces
- Integrated flood mitigation and stormwater management
- Water sensitive urban design
- Generous understorey planting
- Substantial, large tree canopy coverage

Amenities included:

- Lighting - functional and integrated/atmospheric
- Litter bins - general waste and recycling
- Drinking fountain
- Public toilet

A range of potential additional features will be explored through the design to provide a unique and vibrant space

Environmentally Sustainable Design features:

- Orientation of library within the piazza to maximise passive solar gains
- High quality thermal performance through increased insulation, building-sealing and air-tightness.
- Reduction of embodied carbon impacts through circular economy principles and preference for natural, low-carbon alternatives to concrete and steel (i.e. mass timber solutions).
- Indoor environmental quality will be maximised through high levels of daylight and natural ventilation.
- Commitment to an industry-leading sustainability certification.