



CIVIC & CULTURAL PRECINCT

Vision

To strengthen the precinct's role as with cultural and community heart with new development enhancing the civic focus that encircles Johnstone Park.

Objectives and Strategies

Activities

Enhance the precinct as the region's principal focus for art, culture and civic administration.

Public Spaces and Access

Protect and enhance Johnstone Park as an important heritage landscape and as a setting for a variety of recreational, social, civic and cultural activities.

Create a network of attractive walkways linking conveniently throughout the precinct and to adjoining areas.

Enhance pedestrian access and safety in streets throughout the precinct.

Buildings

Create attractive frontages onto streets approaching the railway underpasses.

Respect the character of the civic precinct around Johnstone Park and contribute to its civic focus.

Reinforce the pattern of buildings in grounds along the east side of Latrobe Terrace to integrate development with heritage buildings, and to address the impacts of traffic.

Issues and Opportunities

This locality is the focus of civic administration cultural activity including:

- Geelong Performing Arts Centre (GPAC)
- Geelong Gallery
- Geelong City Library
- Geelong Heritage Centre (formerly Geelong Historical Records Centre)
- Courthouse Youth Arts Centre
- Gordon Gallery
- The Peace Memorial, band rotunda,
- City Hall
- State Government offices
- Barwon Water headquarters
- Law Courts and Police Station
- Geelong Station
- The original and principal campus of the Gordon Institute of TAFE.

The frontage of Johnstone Park to Mercer Street contributes to Geelong's important central city entrance into Malop Street.

The park has become encircled by major public buildings, contributing to its civic grandeur. Use of the park as an amphitheatre for events such as festivals and the annual Carols by Candlelight reinforce its community importance.

The Johnstone Park cluster of civic buildings is a valuable strength of inner Geelong and a major asset for the region. The important role of this grouping as the focus for regional arts and cultural institutions, as well as community activities, should be confirmed and consolidated, building on its synergies and critical mass.

Opportunities should be explored to address the need for expanding accommodation for functions that are outgrowing their current building capacity (such as the Library, Gallery and municipal administration), while maintaining their presence in or near the precinct, and their links with the inner city. This may include reconfiguration of functions among existing buildings or establishment of 'outpost' components along a 'creative corridor' into the Inner Wedge precinct.

Opportunities to build on synergies between various functions and activities should be explored, such as festivals or joint events, as well as the need for expanded refreshment and dining choices, particularly on evenings and weekends. Retaining the growth of the Gordon and public administration functions is also important to maintaining a lively base of activities

For further details, including a full copy of the Geelong Western Wedge Framework and proposed planning scheme amendment visit the City's website www.geelongaustralia.com.au or call customer service on 03 5227 0270.