Accessibility, Arts and Assistance Dogs in the Ballarat CBD Project – Text only

We are seeking your feedback about the concept design for the guide and assistance dog toileting area that is planned for the greenspace nearest Target (Doveton St South) in the Ballarat CBD.

This project has emerged through engagement with the Disability Advisory Committee and is reflected in an action within the City of Ballarat Disability Access and Inclusion Plan 2022 – 2026. It is being funded in partnership with Regional Development Victoria, through support from the Living Local Fund.

The intent of this project is to provide a safe place for guide dogs and assistance dogs to be taken to toilet, meeting the needs of these trained dogs, while also acknowledging the needs of their handlers while they wait. As part of this project, some temporary artwork reflecting the theme ‘Inclusive Ballarat’ will be co-created with the community and installed.

This project is seeking to provide an improved space so that people with guide and assistance dogs and their family and friends, can comfortably stay longer in the CBD. Increasing awareness about the needs of people with guide and assistance dogs is also a key feature of this project.

The guide and assistance dog relief/ toileting area will include:

• A shelter with seat

• Some fencing (not completely fenced)

• A nearby drinking fountain

• Access to a bin

• Temporary art installation

• Signage.

The first stage of this project will take place in June/ July with the artwork (second stage) planned for later in the year. We are particularly interested in making sure that you, as a potential user of the facility, feel that the design is safe and user friendly.

**Non-negotiables** – timelines are fixed, facility will be installed for assistance dogs, accessibility, location, having a shelter that is designed with a frame, having pet friendly turf on a suitable base, having the area partially fenced, having a seat/ drinking fountain/ nearby bin/ accessible path, new lighting requests are not part of this project, underpinned by universal and gender sensitive design

**Negotiables** – the shelter (re: location on the site, colour, height, seat positioning, side panels, opening), the fencing arrangement (to align with any movement to the shelter), the location of the drinking fountain, signage (location, size, colour, type), artwork (composition)

# **Where will the guide and assistance dog toileting area be located?**

The planned site for this project is on Doveton St South, using the greenspace area nearest Target that is beside the multi-storey car park. If you travel from Target towards the Dana Street traffic lights, on your left-hand side there is an entrance to the car park, then a trolley bay with a short wall beside it. Next to that is a grassed area with a tree towards the back of the area, nearest the tall wall of the multi-storey car park.

## **Concept Design**

From the footpath on Doveton St to the wall of the multi-storey car park is 13.6 metres. There is a short concrete wall closest to the car park entrance which will form the fence line for the left-hand side of the planned space. This wall begins 3.8 metres from the footpath and then angles to the left to make the area wider at the back (4.5 metres).

The assistance dog relief area will have a small-curved asphalt path at the front that connects it from the existing footpath to the shelter. A drinking fountain with dog water bowl is indicated on the asphalt near the front of the shelter on the left-hand side.

The shelter is located on the left-hand side between the asphalt path and the small concrete wall. The entrance will be through the shelter. The shelter will have synthetic grass in it and will be level with the large synthetic grassed area on the other side of it. There is a tree towards the back of the synthetic grassed area on the right-hand side. The area from the shelter to the back wall is about 9.8 metres.

There will be a fence made of cypress posts with black tubular pool fencing panels between the posts and a plinth board at the bottom. This will start at the back right hand side of the shelter and go across 1.57 metres towards the south before continuing 9.8 metres towards the east and ending at the tall wall of the multi-storey car park.

The existing grassed area will continue on the outside of this space and a bin will be located nearby along an adjoining path.

## **Proposed shelter design**

The proposed shelter is on a green metal frame that is shaped like a square letter U and has a curved roof. The frame is indicated in the ground with the synthetic flooring level with the ground. The image depicts a cottage green Colourbond roof with the underside in shadow grey. On the left-hand side, oiled spotted gum hardwood horizontal slats are used to about half-way up the side with the roofing material continuing down to meet it on that side. No siding is shown at this stage for the right-hand side.

A seat is located only on the left-hand side of the shelter, is 37.5 centimetres wide and 1.39 metres long with a gap of 41 centimetres on either side of it. The height of the shelter is 1.92 metres (1.73 metres at the shortest point) and the floor width at the front and back is 1.37 metres at the base which is the narrowest point.

For further information about the concept design, including the shelter, please contact Bernadette via email bernadetteduffy@ballarat.vic.gov.au or phone on 0429 437 552. She can also provide you with an audio described explanation of the plans and elements.

Assistance dog handlers or puppy raisers can provide feedback here: [https://forms.office.com/r/hTCkpjT7FZ](https://protect-au.mimecast.com/s/-EZACANZz2TZ3PKJtGe0I7?domain=forms.office.com).