

Wendouree Library and Learning Centre

Project Cost: \$23 million



Overview

The new Wendouree Library and Learning Centre (WLLC) will be a creative learning and community space offering a comprehensive library, Parent Place services, a maker space, community study, activity and relaxation spaces, a café area and free Wi-Fi.

The WLLC will be built on a new site at Weeramar Park, Wendouree, allowing easy access for residents of Wendouree, the future Northern Growth Area in Mount Rowan and Miners Rest, and small townships and localities in the north of the municipality. The project site is at the intersection of two major arterial roads, and close to a major retail precinct and kindergartens.

It is a key project in the City of Ballarat Community Infrastructure Plan 2022–2037 and has been warmly welcomed by the Wendouree community during the initial phases of community engagement.

Benefits

Community

The WLLC will be a safe, welcoming and accessible place in one of the city's most disadvantaged areas, a meeting place for residents of all ages and abilities to study, read and socialise.

The WLLC will provide library and community services to future residents of Ballarat's new northern growth zone which is expected to be home to 18,900 new residents in the next 10–15 years.

It will replace the existing library, which is in a repurposed shopfront at Stockland Wendouree shopping centre, is much smaller (250 square metres), has a limited collection and no capacity to expand programs to meet demand.

Despite these limitations, the present library is well patronised by residents from Wendouree, Wendouree West, Lake Gardens, Alfredton and Lucas, who will welcome increased access to resources, programs and opportunities.

The new facility is easily accessible for residents in the Ballarat West Growth Area, which is forecast to accommodate 48,500 people by 2035–2040. It is also nearby for residents of small townships to the north and northwest of Ballarat.

Economic

The project will support 110 local jobs and add \$17.2 million in economic value during the construction phase.

Analysis of the economic benefits from public library services in Victoria shows the overall (economic) community benefits equate to \$4.30 for every dollar invested in a public library (source: State Library Victoria, Public Libraries Victoria Network report, 2018), meaning the new WLLC will bring a projected community benefit of \$98.9 million.

Environmental

The building will be designed and constructed in alignment with high Ecologically Sustainable Design (ESD) principles.

