

**DOCKLANDS**  
**PUBLIC**  
**REALM**  
**PLAN**  
**MELBOURNE**



## Disclaimer

Information presented in this Docklands Public Realm Plan is generally based on site analysis undertaken in 2011 and 2012 and knowledge of current development plans and masterplans. As such information is subject to change. This analysis is provided as a broad resource only and while care has been taken to ensure the content of the report is accurate, we cannot guarantee that it is without flaw. There may be errors or omissions or may not be wholly appropriate for your particular purposes.

The City of Melbourne accepts no responsibility and disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information contained in this Plan.

*Note: Images in this Plan are provided for illustrative purposes only and are subject to change. Base maps require periodic review and revision to accord with current conditions in the built environment and revised proposed development plans and masterplans.*

The State Government, under the Minister for Planning, is the responsible planning authority for developments in Docklands over 25,000m<sup>2</sup>. Places Victoria, on behalf of the State Government, manages the delivery of development in Docklands.

## Places Victoria

Places Victoria (successor to VicUrban) is the Victorian Government's land development agency, helping to meet the challenges of population growth and increased housing demand. Places Victoria facilitates large-scale urban renewal – for residential and mixed-use purposes – within established areas of Melbourne and strategic locations in regional Victoria. Its activities promote housing affordability and diversity and best practice in urban and community design. Places Victoria uses commercial skills to deliver housing choice to the market, increasingly in established areas, providing partnership opportunities for the private sector and encouraging the delivery of high quality, affordable and sustainable dwellings. The name, Places Victoria, reflects the organisation's emphasis on creating communities right throughout Victoria with a particular emphasis on urban renewal.

## City of Melbourne

In 2007, Docklands was officially integrated into the municipality of the City of Melbourne, becoming its youngest neighbourhood. The City of Melbourne's responsibility is to plan for the continuing growth in Docklands, while delivering quality community services and programs to ensure the area's prosperity and sustainability.

In July 2010, the City of Melbourne became the responsible planning authority for developed areas in Docklands. The City of Melbourne will continue to acknowledge the important role that Docklands plays in the strategic development of the whole city through the Municipal Strategic Statement. The City of Melbourne focuses on generating long-term quality outcomes, promoting multi-centred, mixed-use compact city living. The City of Melbourne also focuses on providing well-designed public spaces and buildings that will thrive economically and improve the quality of life for residents and workers, while welcoming visitors.

The City of Melbourne supports diverse housing alternatives that meet the needs of Melbourne's existing and future population, using commercially viable models of development. On 29 June 2012, the Minister for Planning announced that the City of Melbourne would become the responsible planning authority for developments in Docklands of areas less than 25,000m<sup>2</sup>.



SEPTEMBER 2012

## CREDITS

Full page images:  
Nicholas Hansen, Mutiny Media.

# CONTENTS

## 01. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose.....006

## 02. INTRODUCTION

Scope..... 010

Vision ..... 016

Strategic directions .....017

Design principles..... 018

Understanding Docklands ..... 020

## 03. PUBLIC SPACES

Introduction ..... 023

Public space overview ..... 024

Design Principles and Guidelines .....030

Design Checklist ..... 052

Key public spaces ..... 054

## 04. PUBLIC STREETS AND ROUTES

Introduction .....077

Street and route overview..... 078

Design Principles and Guidelines ..... 082

Design Checklist ..... 100

## 05. KEY PROJECTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

Key projects – Public open spaces.....108

Key projects – Public streets and connections.....109

## 06. APPENDIX

Appendix 1 – Relevant documents and policies.....112

Appendix 2 – Background facts.....114

Appendix 3 – Glossary.....147

Appendix 4 – Governance..... 148

Appendix 5 – Methodology ..... 149

# 01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DOCKLANDS WILL CAPTURE THE ESSENCE OF MELBOURNE'S WATERWAYS BY EMBRACING THE YARRA RIVER, VICTORIA HARBOUR AND MOONEE PONDS CREEK.

DOCKLANDS WILL HAVE A SEAMLESS NETWORK OF WELCOMING PUBLIC STREETS AND WATERFRONTS AND A WELL-LINKED FAMILY OF DIVERSE PUBLIC SPACES THAT PROVIDE A CHOICE OF EXPERIENCES, ACTIVITIES AND JOURNEYS, FOR MANY PEOPLE AT VARIOUS TIMES OF THE DAY AND NIGHT AND THROUGHOUT THE SEASONS.

*Victoria Harbour Promenade.*

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Wonderful public spaces, waterfronts and streets are at the core of the world’s most liveable cities including Helsinki, Vancouver and Melbourne. We all share the same understanding that the design of beautiful and functional public spaces impacts positively on our quality of life. A well-designed public realm provides significant benefits to citizens, tourists and investors, including civic pride, an increase in retail spend and safe places.

Since the redevelopment of Docklands began 16 years ago, a network of public spaces including lanes, streets and waterfront promenades has been established for the 7,000 residents and 25,000 workers that use this area today. Future streets and spaces are planned to support the continued expansion of Docklands.

With Docklands entering into its next decade of evolution, Places Victoria and City of Melbourne have spent time engaging with thousands of Melburnians to articulate and refine a community vision for this important and unique place in Melbourne. A vital and high quality public realm is a priority for the local community.

This vision, as identified in the *Docklands Community and Place Plan* sets out three important themes:

- 1 Capturing the essence of Melbourne in the Docklands experience.
- 2 Creating a 21st century city.
- 3 Embracing Melbourne’s urban waterfront.

In order for the community to realise this vision, a series of recommended strategies, principles and guidelines are required to assist the design of public streets, routes and spaces over the next decade.

## Purpose

The overarching purpose of this Docklands Public Realm Plan is to provide long-term strategies, principles and guidelines for the design and programming of the public realm to support the *Docklands Community and Place Plan*<sup>1</sup>.

This Plan clarifies important requirements for public space, waterfront and street design to all professionals engaged in the facilitation, design, approvals and implementation of the public realm. Professionals include both private and public sector representatives. The Plan applies a consistent approach to all streetscapes of Docklands.

These strategies, principles and guidelines are supported by the detailed companion document, *Docklands Design and Construction Standards for Public Infrastructure Works* (City of Melbourne, 2012). The Standards set out the mandatory technical requirements for civil, landscape and infrastructure works that will be owned by or vested in the City of Melbourne.

## Purpose of this Plan

- Provide a strategic companion document to the *Docklands Design and Construction Standards for Public Infrastructure Works* (City of Melbourne, 2012).
- Outline the value of the public realm.
- Provide an overview of challenges and opportunities in the Docklands context.
- Provide clarity to developers, designers and government regarding long-term strategies, principles and guidelines for the design and programming of public streets and spaces.
- Demonstrate how design principles may be applied to streets and spaces.
- Provide briefing notes for the design of key public spaces.
- Provide a checklist of design principles.
- Identify future projects for public spaces and streets.

## Key spatial strategies

This document outlines key spatial strategies for Docklands, including:

- Three memorable waterfronts: harbour, river, creek.
- A network of diverse public spaces for many people.
- Seamless connection with Melbourne: promenades, streets, lanes.

## Key guiding principles

The key design principles recommended for public spaces and streets in Docklands are listed below.

<b>Diversity of use</b>	A choice of journeys, experiences and activities.
<b>Identity of place</b>	An authentic part of Melbourne.
<b>Sustainability</b>	Minimise uptake of natural resources.
<b>Interfaces</b>	Positive addresses to streets, waterfronts and public spaces.
<b>Amenity</b>	High standard of comfort and convenience.
<b>Community</b>	Genuine community participation in the design and use of the public realm.
<b>Connectivity</b>	Excellent links within Docklands and to surrounding areas.

This Docklands Public Realm Plan demonstrates how these spatial strategies and principles can be applied to public streets, routes and spaces. It outlines important considerations and minimum programming requirements for key public spaces, while also identifying projects for future implementation.

This Plan is a public document. It will be of most help to those who are responsible for facilitating, designing, assessing or implementing future interventions in the public realm.

The Public Realm Plan is supported by the Department for Planning and Community Development, Places Victoria and the City of Melbourne. It is envisaged that the Plan will inform future amendments to the Melbourne Strategic Planning Scheme.

<sup>1</sup> *Docklands Community and Place Plan* (July 2012) summarises engagement with thousands of Melburnians and sets out a community vision.

# 02 INTRODUCTION

...PROVIDE LONG-TERM STRATEGIES, PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE DESIGN AND PROGRAMMING OF THE PUBLIC REALM...

# SCOPE

## Definition of the public realm

**Public realm** includes all publicly accessible areas including public spaces, streets and routes.

**Public spaces** include waterways, parks, squares, forecourts, promenades and creek corridors.

**Public streets and routes** include streets, lanes, arcades, bridges and overpasses.

This Plan focuses on three key elements that define the quality of public realm:

- **Users and uses**  
The people and activities that take place in public realm.
- **Interfaces**  
Physical elements that address, enclose and/or define the spaces, streets or routes; typically built form and/or trees.
- **Design**  
Spatial arrangements and physical elements.

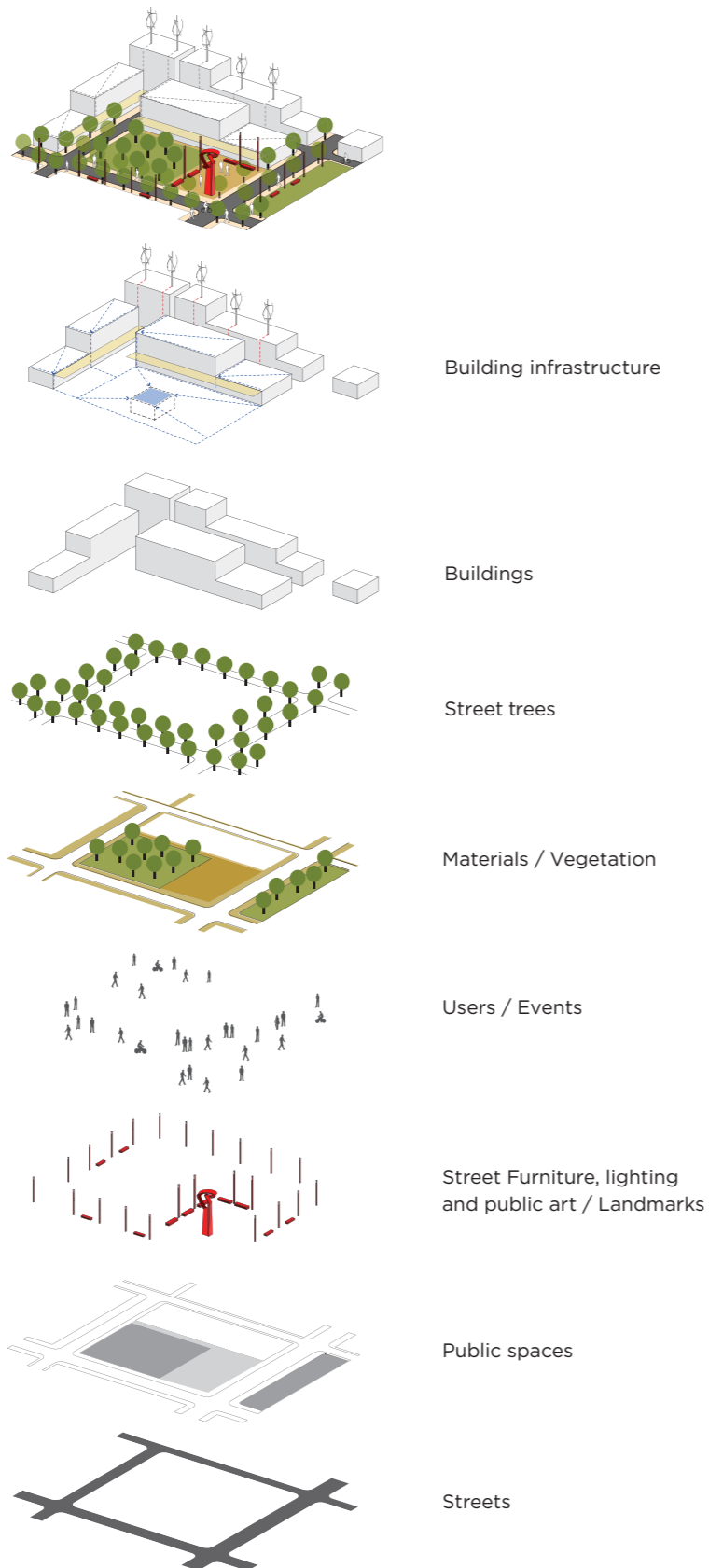
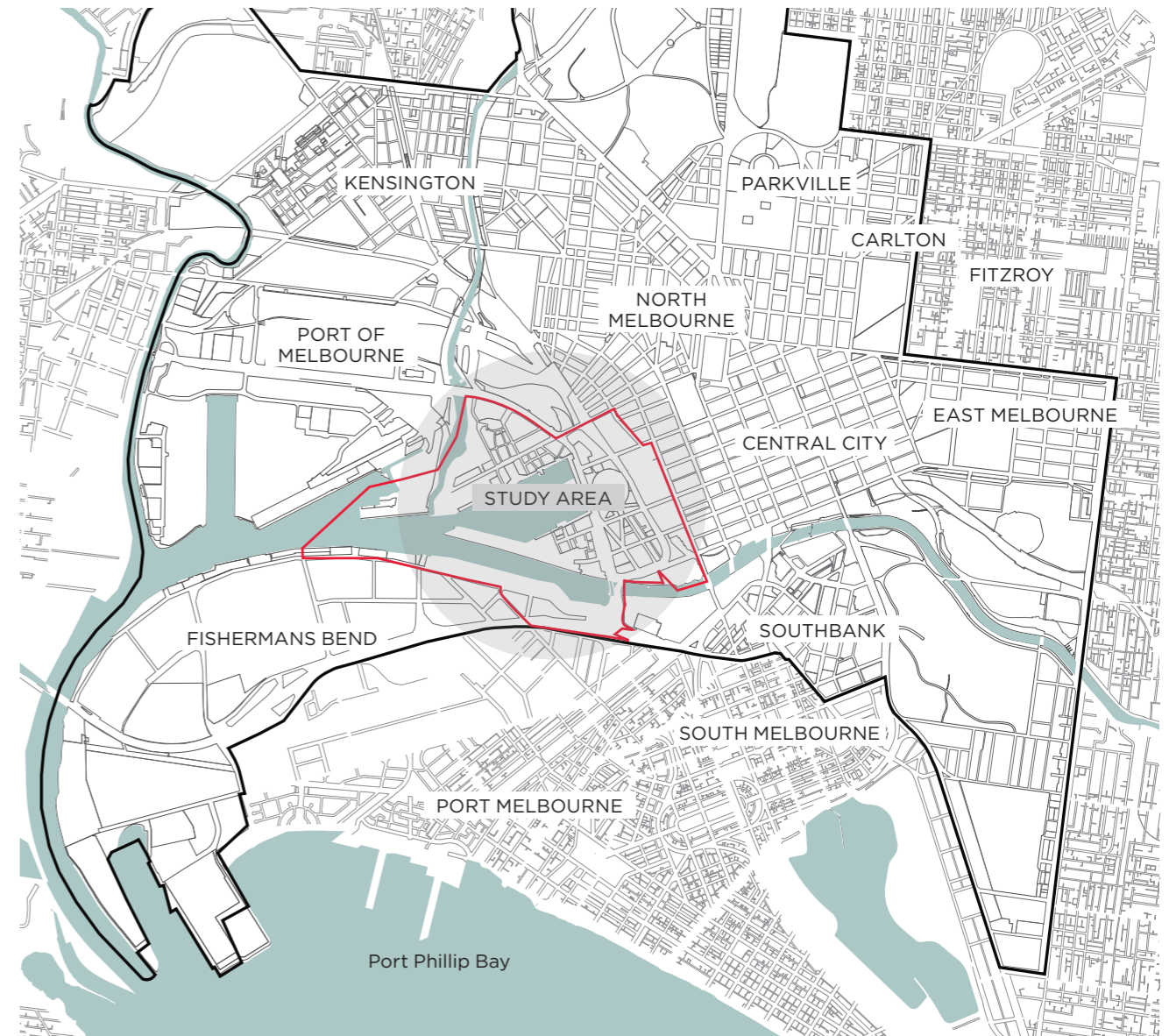


Fig 2.01 Main elements that define the public realm.

## Area

This Plan applies to the area shown in the **Location Plan**. The boundary represents the legal suburb boundary known as Docklands within the City of Melbourne municipality. The Plan considers important relationships with neighbouring areas.



### Location Plan - Docklands

- Docklands suburb boundary
- City of Melbourne municipality boundary

Fig 2.02 Location Plan.

# SCOPE

## Application

The recommended principles and guidelines outlined in this Plan apply to all publicly accessible areas in Docklands, regardless of ownership status. The companion document, *Docklands Design and Construction Standards* will be mandatory for all areas currently under the City of Melbourne's control or to be transferred to the City when completed.

## Time period

This Plan applies to the period 2012-2022.

## Currency of Information

Docklands is a dynamic and continually evolving urban development. This provides a challenge to the currency of visual material included in this Plan. The plans and maps shown in this document aim to communicate an appreciation of the public realm as a continuous and integrated environment. All plans that show future scenarios are subject to change.

## Docklands Design and Construction Standards

The Docklands Public Realm Plan is a strategic companion document to the revised *Docklands Design and Construction Standards for Public Infrastructure Works*.

The 'Standards' set out the mandatory technical standards for civil, landscape and infrastructure works that will be owned or vested in the City of Melbourne. The content of the document includes detailed information that apply to standard spaces, routes and street types, including:

- design and approvals process
- functional and spatial design criteria
- approved standard materials and elements.

The Standards are a practical tool for achieving the strategies, principles and guidelines outlined in this Plan.

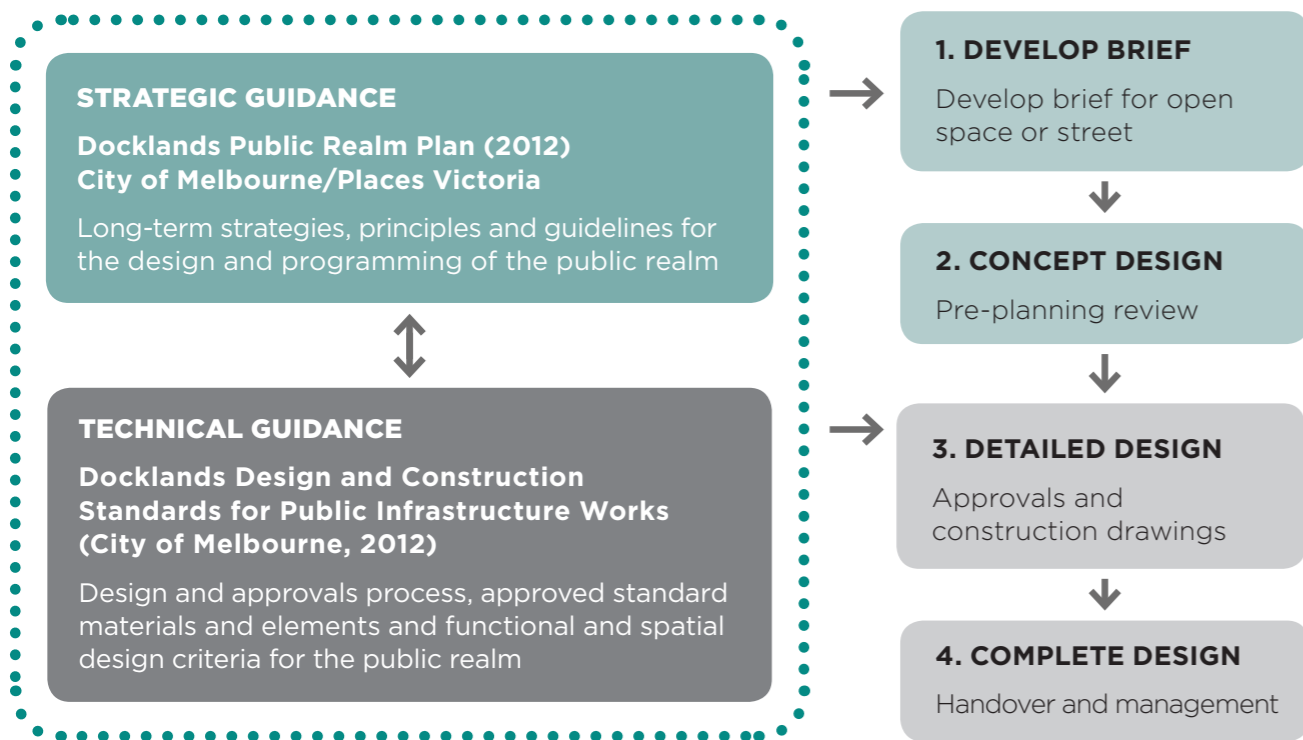


Fig 2.03 Mutually reinforcing companion documents.

## Key public streets, spaces and waterways

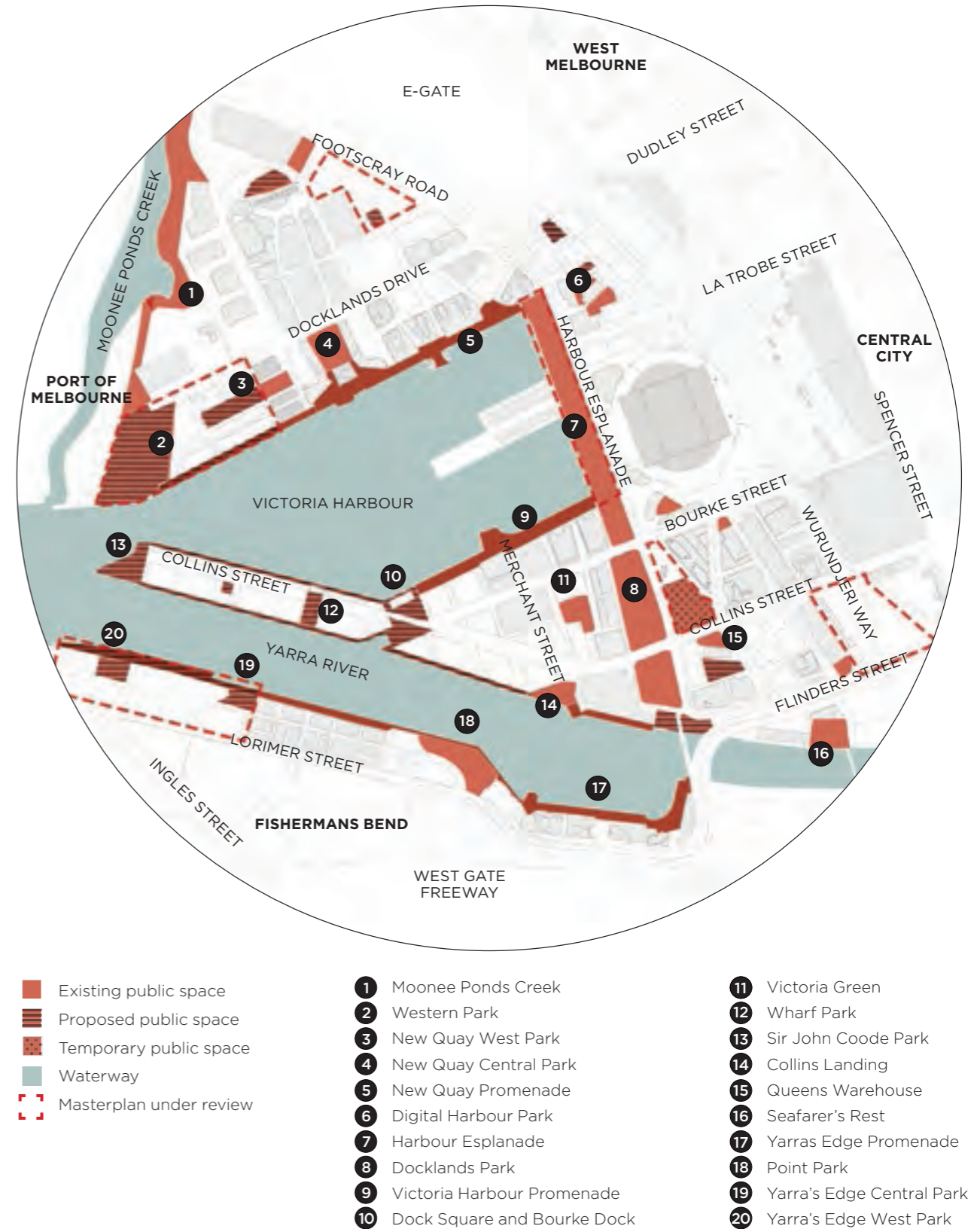


Fig 2.04 Key public streets, spaces, and waterways.



Carlton Gardens, Melbourne

## THE VALUE OF THE PUBLIC REALM

The most liveable cities in the world are testimony to the value of great public streets and spaces. Each day our citizens and visitors benefit from Melbourne's high quality urban spaces in many ways. Docklands benefits from both land and water-based public spaces and routes. A few benefits that excellent design and programming in the public realm<sup>2</sup> can provide are listed in Figure 2.05 below.

<sup>2</sup> See: *The Value of Public Space*; Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 2003 and *Social Cities*; Grattan Institute, 2012.

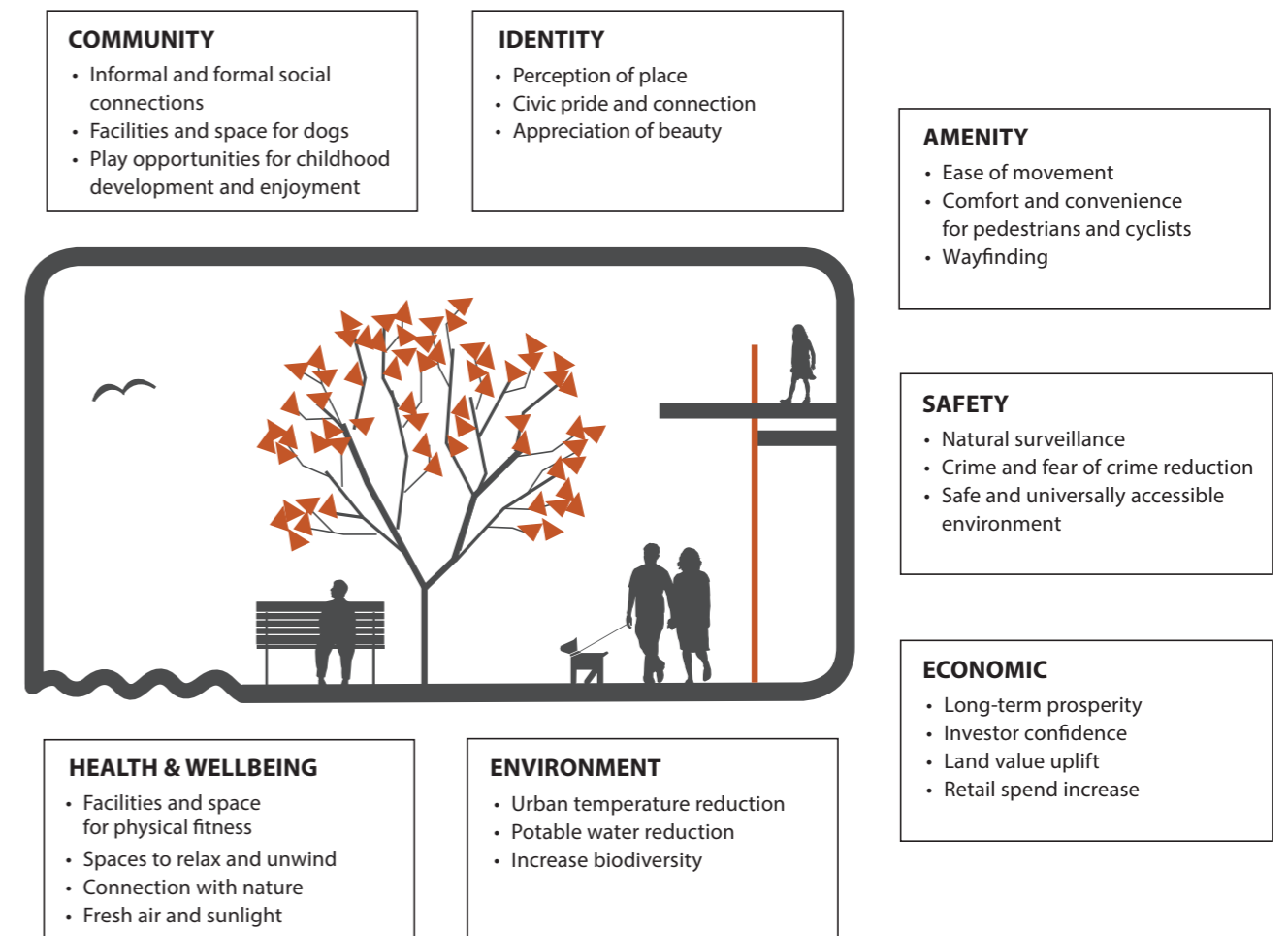


Fig 2.05 Excellent design and programming in the public realm brings many benefits.



## VISION

In 2022, Melbourne will continue to be one of the world's most liveable cities with an excellent public environment. The public realm of Melbourne will continue to offer a choice of positive experiences for many city users.

Docklands will have a well-connected and convenient network of welcoming streets and

public spaces that celebrate the city's maritime heritage and distinctive streetscapes. Parks, squares, waterfronts, streets and lanes will appeal to a wide range of citizens and tourists throughout the day and evening and throughout the seasons. The local community will be actively engaged in the design and use of public spaces in Docklands.



**Fig 2.06** Impression of Docklands public realm in 2022.

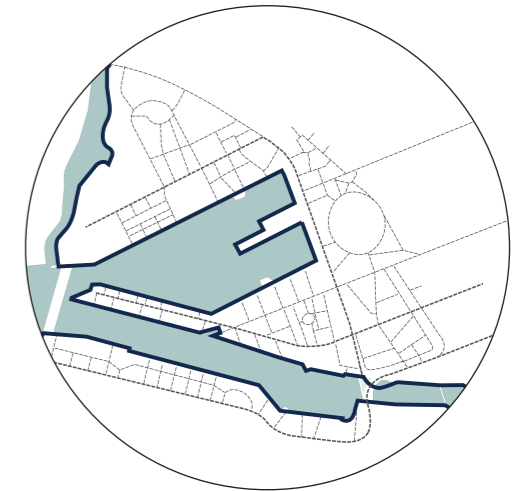
**Note:** This image is for illustrative purposes only and is subject to change. The image indicates the intended aims of the vision and strategic directions identified in this plan.

## STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

### Three memorable waterfronts for Melbourne

Docklands addresses three distinctive waterways: Victoria Harbour, Yarra River and Moonee Ponds Creek. The renewal of the Docklands area redefines Melbourne as a city on the water. The 7 km of waterfront provides opportunities to engage with a variety of river, harbour and creek experiences. An intimate, 'hinterland' route provides an alternative experience to the waterfront in response to seasonal weather conditions.

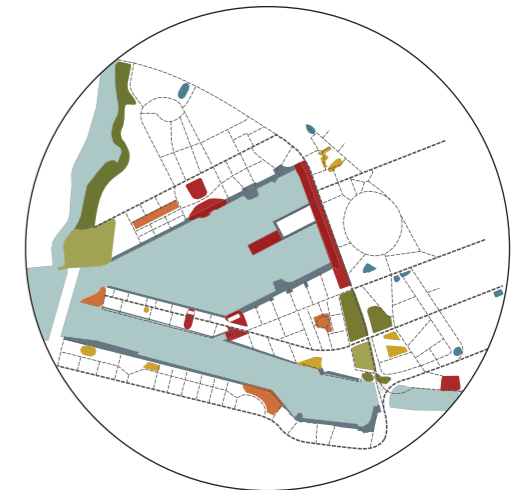
The design of three waterfronts will evolve over the next decade to become a memorable Melbourne experience.



**Fig 2.07** Three memorable waterfronts.

### A network of diverse public spaces for many people

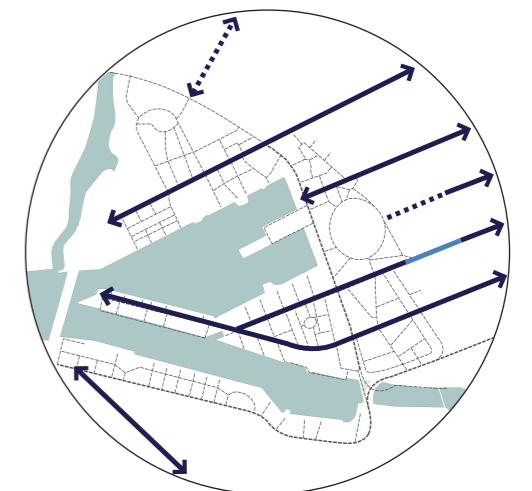
Docklands will have a well-linked and convenient family of parks, squares and waterfronts that will include both active and passive uses and activities. All public spaces and streets will provide a choice of journeys, experiences and activities for many people at various times of the day and night and throughout the seasons.



**Fig 2.08** A variety of accessible public spaces.

### Seamless connection with Melbourne: promenades, streets, lanes

Streetscape design contributes to Melbourne's distinctive identity. Melbourne's network of welcoming streets, lanes and promenades will connect seamlessly with Docklands. The success of the central city streetscapes will be continued in Docklands by including elegant furniture, consistent materials, majestic street trees, vibrant street frontages, comfortable footpaths, outdoor dining areas and small business stands.



**Fig 2.09** Well-connected Melbourne streets.

## DESIGN PRINCIPLES

The following design principles apply to public spaces, streets and routes. The following sections focus on the application of these principles to these principles to public spaces as well as public streets, routes and promenades.

### 01 | Diversity of use

Provide a range of public spaces and streets to support the needs of current and future populations at various times of the day and night and throughout the year.



Docklands Community Garden launch.

### 02 | Identity of place

Ensure public spaces respond to embedded qualities in Docklands and ensure streetscapes are in keeping with the essence of Melbourne.



Victoria Harbour, Docklands.

### 03 | Sustainability

Design public spaces and streets that minimise pressure on non-renewable resources and maximise environmental values.



Victoria Harbour promenade.

### 04 | Interfaces

Ensure all ground level interfaces enhance the character and experience of public waterways, streets and spaces.



Quay Park, Docklands.

### 05 | Amenity

Design public spaces and streets with high standards of comfort and convenience.



Hardware Lane, Melbourne.

### 06 | Community

Ensure public spaces and streets embrace public life. Enable community participation in public space design.



Wooden Boat Building Centre launch, Docklands.

### 07 | Connectivity

Ensure the public realm network within Docklands is well connected and provides seamless links to surrounding areas.



Webb Bridge, Docklands.

