

## KEY PUBLIC SPACES

The following section provides a one-page briefing note for each key existing and proposed public space.

The briefing notes are informed by an analysis of each space in relation to proposed public space network and design principles set out in this Plan. Each briefing note includes the following:

- location
- description of existing and future identity
- public space type and size
- minimum recommended progress
- minimum recommended infrastructure and access recommendations
- current ownership and status.

The information provided is intended to inform the basis for preparing design briefs for proposed public spaces or redevelopment of existing public spaces. Furthermore it provides context for the public space network of Docklands to ensure an integrated approach is achieved.

**Note:** Images in this document 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.



*Sheoak grove, Docklands Park*

**Moonee Ponds Creek and Western Park**

The Docklands section of Moonee Ponds Creek offers a linear public space on its eastern banks. An existing pedestrian and cycle path runs along the creek edge and extends north through areas of key urban renewal including the future E-Gate site, North Melbourne, Kensington and beyond. The western side of the creek is part of the Melbourne Port and is used for container storage. The creek has a distinctive naturalistic character which is juxtaposed with the industrial nature of the port and the overhead freeway structure of the Bolte Bridge.

Western Park is proposed to be developed at the southern end of the Moonee Ponds Creek corridor on Docklands Drive. The space will provide for active recreation facilities in a natural creekfront setting. One large flexible recreation space (potentially a community football oval) could be used as an events space. A range of other sports including tennis, basketball, netball and rock climbing could also be incorporated.

**Typology**

Creek corridor and park

**Size**

Approximately 28,000m<sup>2</sup> Moonee Ponds Creek and approximately 20,000m<sup>2</sup> Western Park

**Minimum recommended programs**

See below

EXISTING PROGRAMS



**Minimum infrastructure and access**

- Power (for major events 5,000 - 15,000 people), water for turf irrigation and events.
- Public transport (continue tramline), car parking, access for service vehicles to bump-in bump-out to support major events.
- Associated infrastructure to support active recreation including lighting and storage.

**Recommendations**

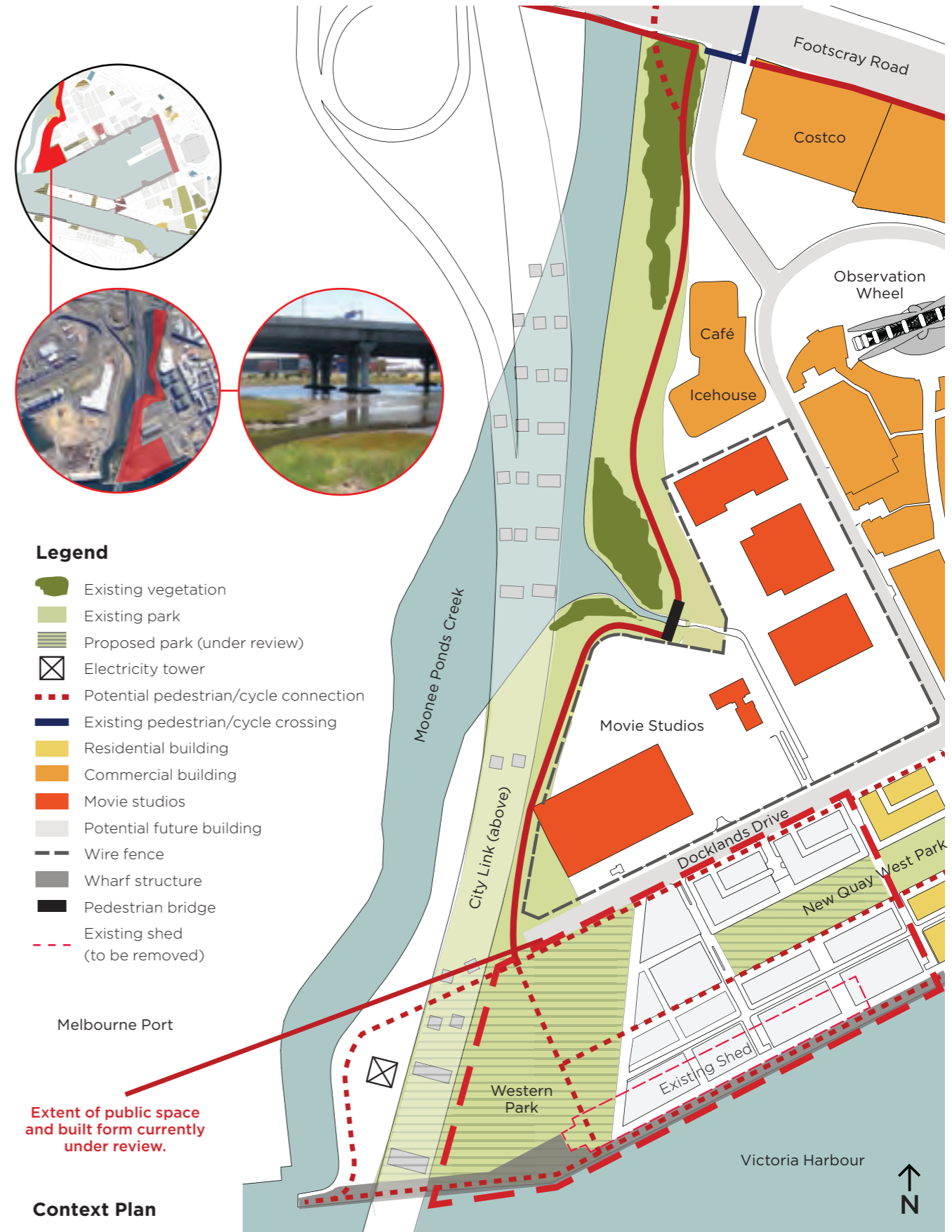
- Embrace the park's relationship with the port, Bolte Bridge, the creek and the harbour.
- Retain informal character.
- Protect and encourage biodiversity.
- Improve pedestrian/cycle connections across Footscray Road (potential for underpass).
- Encourage mixed land-use activation to the edge of the park.
- Celebrate the termination of Docklands Drive.
- Explore the potential for a pedestrian bridge connecting Western Park to Victoria Harbour.
- Provide a playspace to cater for 5-12 year olds.
- Investigate a small vessel-launching facility on Moonee Ponds Creek.
- Refer to the *Port Interface Landscape Management Plan* (Port of Melbourne 2012). This Plan supports recommendations for the public realm in the Moonee Ponds Creek area.

**Current ownership**

Places Victoria, Department of Business and Innovation - Crown Land, Port of Melbourne

**Status**

Western Park is currently undeveloped



**Quay Park, NewQuay**

This small, local linear park framed by terrace and mid-rise housing in the NewQuay West residential neighbourhood is situated in the protected 'hinterland', set back from the waterfront promenade. It forms a component of a potential high quality pedestrian east-west route, a sheltered 'second' street network.

The park will continue to offer a protected and intimate 'urban oasis' with space for outdoor relaxation, seating, playing, community notice boards and barbecues. The close relationship between surrounding homes and the park provides a high level of natural surveillance. The park is an important focus of the local community life in NewQuay West.

**Typology**

Local park

**Size**

Approximately 4,500m<sup>2</sup>

**Minimum recommended programs**



**Minimum infrastructure and access**

- Water (for irrigation, drinking fountains and picnic areas).
- Power (for general lighting).
- Local roads provide maintenance access, close proximity to tram stop.

**Recommendations**

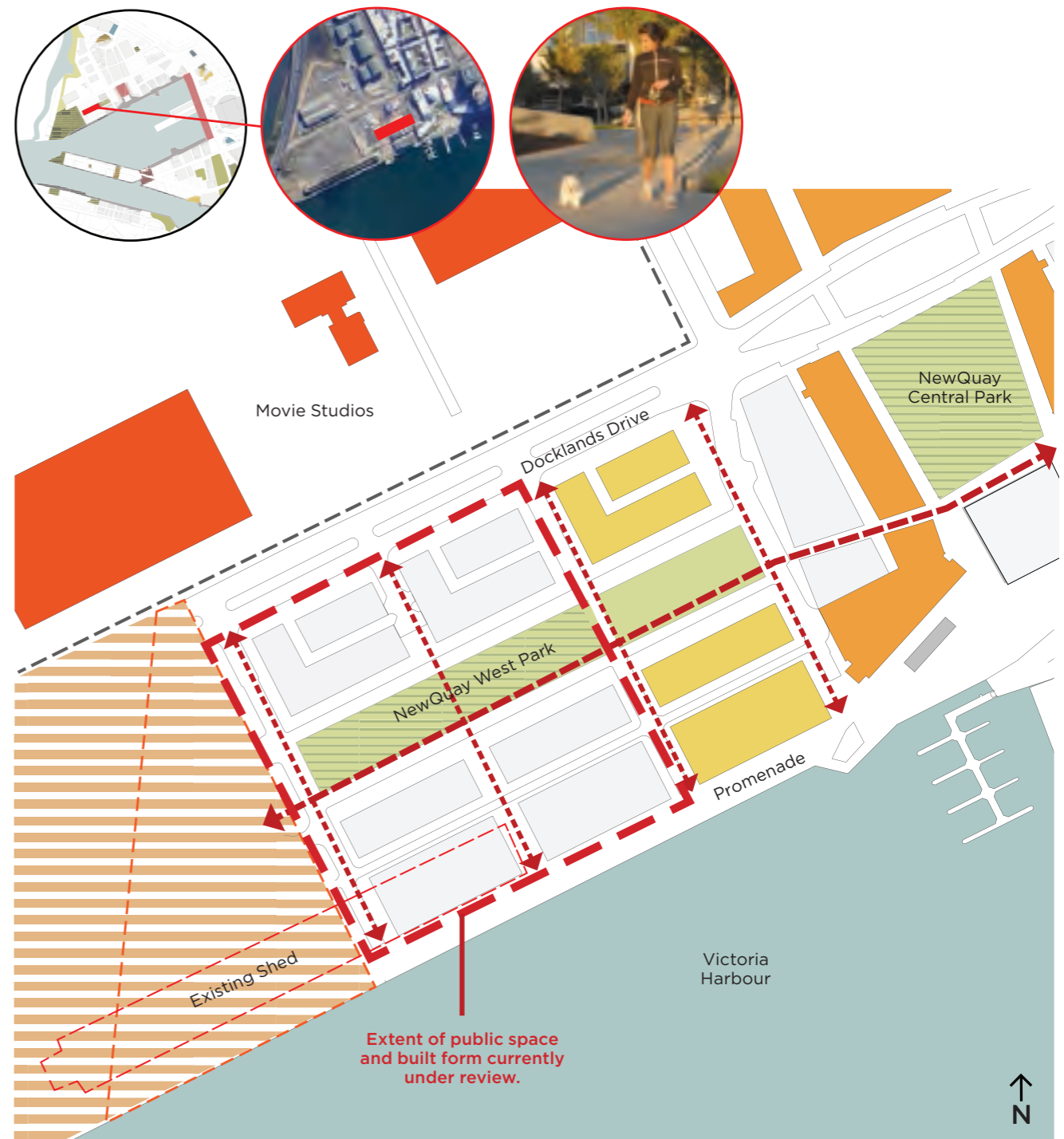
- Encourage land-use activation to the park edges.
- Provide a continuous public space that is not broken or interrupted by vehicle movement.
- Explore a range of botanics in this park - consider the arrangement/species/qualities (smell, visual, form, shade).
- Provide a high quality route through the park which forms part of the 'second' street network.
- Ensure integrated use of existing sub-surface water storage tanks (stage one) is considered.
- Provide a playspace focusing on 0-5 year age range.

**Current ownership**

City of Melbourne (completed Quay Park)  
Places Victoria - undeveloped site

**Status**

First stage (eastern end - Quay Park) completed 2011. The second stage is to be developed within in the next five years.



**Legend**

- |                            |                               |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Existing public open space | Retail building               |
| Proposed public open space | Potential future building     |
| Second street network      | Wire fence                    |
| Key pedestrian connection  | Entire site under review      |
| Residential building       | Existing shed - to be removed |
| Movie studios              |                               |

**Context Plan**

**NewQuay Central Park**

NewQuay Central Park, formerly Waterfront Piazza, is earmarked for redevelopment as a civic park. This would provide a comfortable, green space for locals and also a range of events with crowds of up to 5,000 people. It should be flexible in design to allow for a range of activity including outdoor dining areas, seating areas, areas for informal play and events.

**Typology**





Civic space

**Size**

Approximately 5,000m<sup>2</sup>

**Minimum recommended programs**

EXISTING PROGRAMS

			
Public toilets	Medium events	Play	Outdoor dining

**Minimum infrastructure and access**

- Power and water, stage, storage (for medium scale events).
- Existing proximity to tram stop and public car parking.
- Future design to incorporate access for service vehicles to bump in bump out to support events and park maintenance.

**Recommendations**

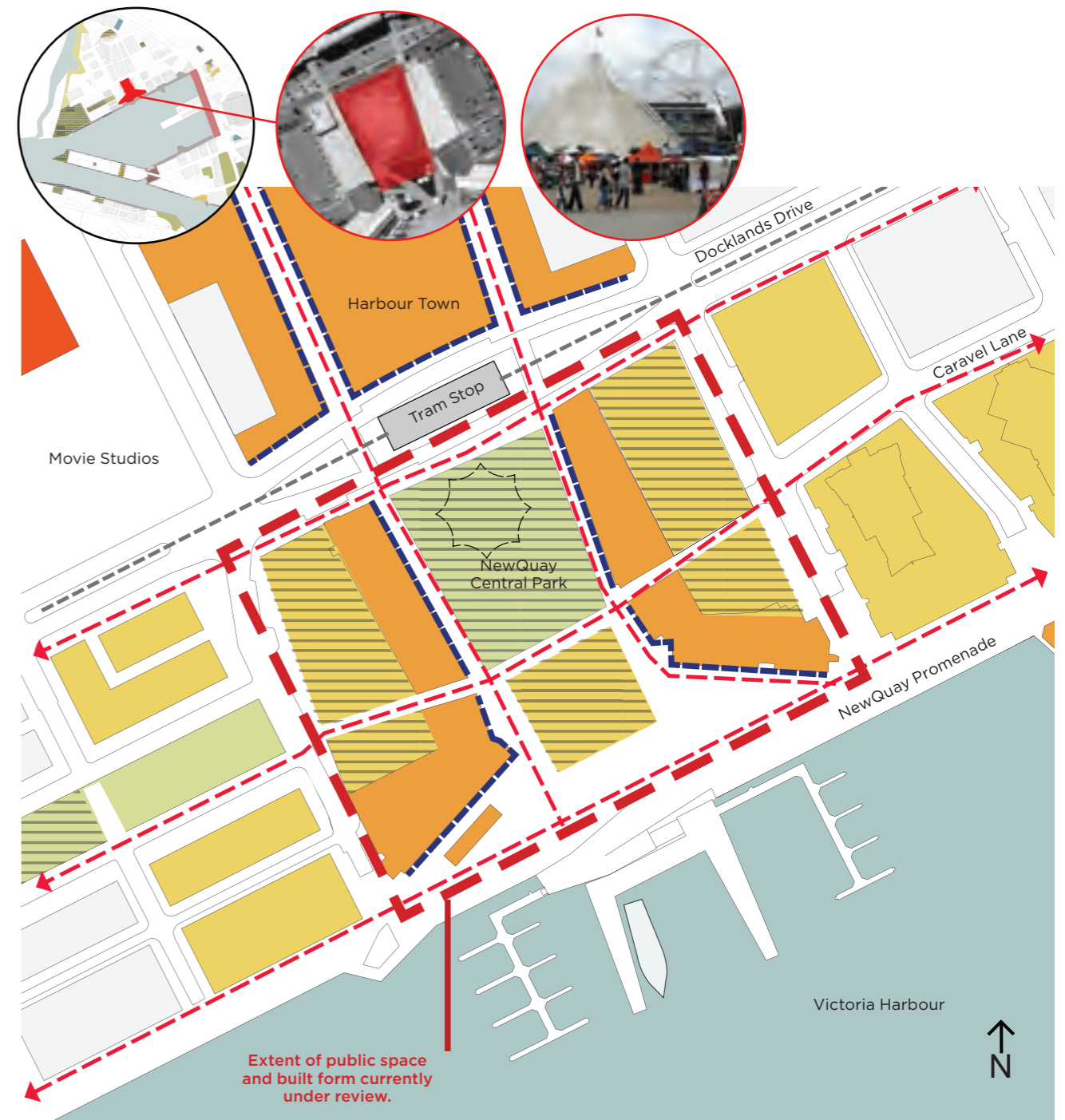
- Provide a strong relationship with and connection to the waterfront and Harbourn town area.
- Encourage active edges to the park.
- Minimise traffic movements around the park.
- Improve east-west connections into the site through existing laneways.
- Provide informal play opportunities (refer recommended guidelines on Play Spaces in this document).
- Provide a significant tree canopy to enhance the character and amenity of the park.
- Ensure surrounding developments are designed to mitigate noise from events.
- Minimise negative wind impacts to provide a comfortable space for pedestrians.

**Current ownership**














Private - MAB and likely to be transferred to City of Melbourne following redevelopment.

**Status**

Currently a privately-managed space for events (Waterfront Piazza)  
Proposed redevelopment: 2013-15.



**Legend**

- |   |                            |   |  |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|
|  | Existing public open space |  | Commercial berthing                    |
|  | Proposed public open space |  | Key pedestrian connections             |
|  | Residential building       |  | Tram line                              |
|  | Commercial building        |  | Tram stop                              |
|  | Movie studios              |  | Existing tent - to be removed          |
|  | Active building edge       |  | Committed building/under construction. |
|  | Potential future building  |   |  |

**Context Plan**

**Harbour Esplanade**

Alongside Central Pier, Harbour Esplanade is the main civic focus for Docklands and a waterfront destination of regional importance. A series of public spaces and community-focused buildings will create a sequence of experiences along its length. The space will allow for formal and informal events including boating and water-based activity, outdoor dining, seating areas and play areas. The site's maritime heritage will be reinforced through activities and physical elements.

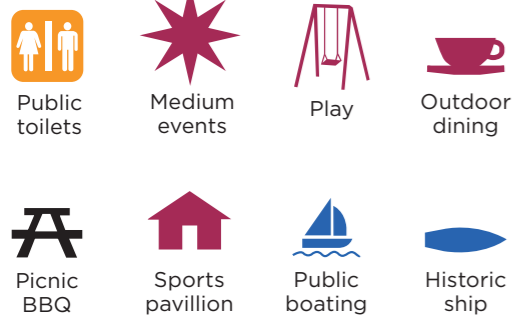
**Typology**

Civic space

**Size**

Approximately 30,000m<sup>2</sup>

**Minimum recommended programs**



**Minimum infrastructure and access**

- Power and water (for medium-scale events).
- Existing proximity to tram stop and public car parking. Future design to incorporate access for service vehicles to bump in and bump out to support events and park maintenance.
- The southern basin of Victoria Harbour abutting Harbour Esplanade is reserved for recreational water use. Access to water from the Esplanade will be important.

**Recommendations**

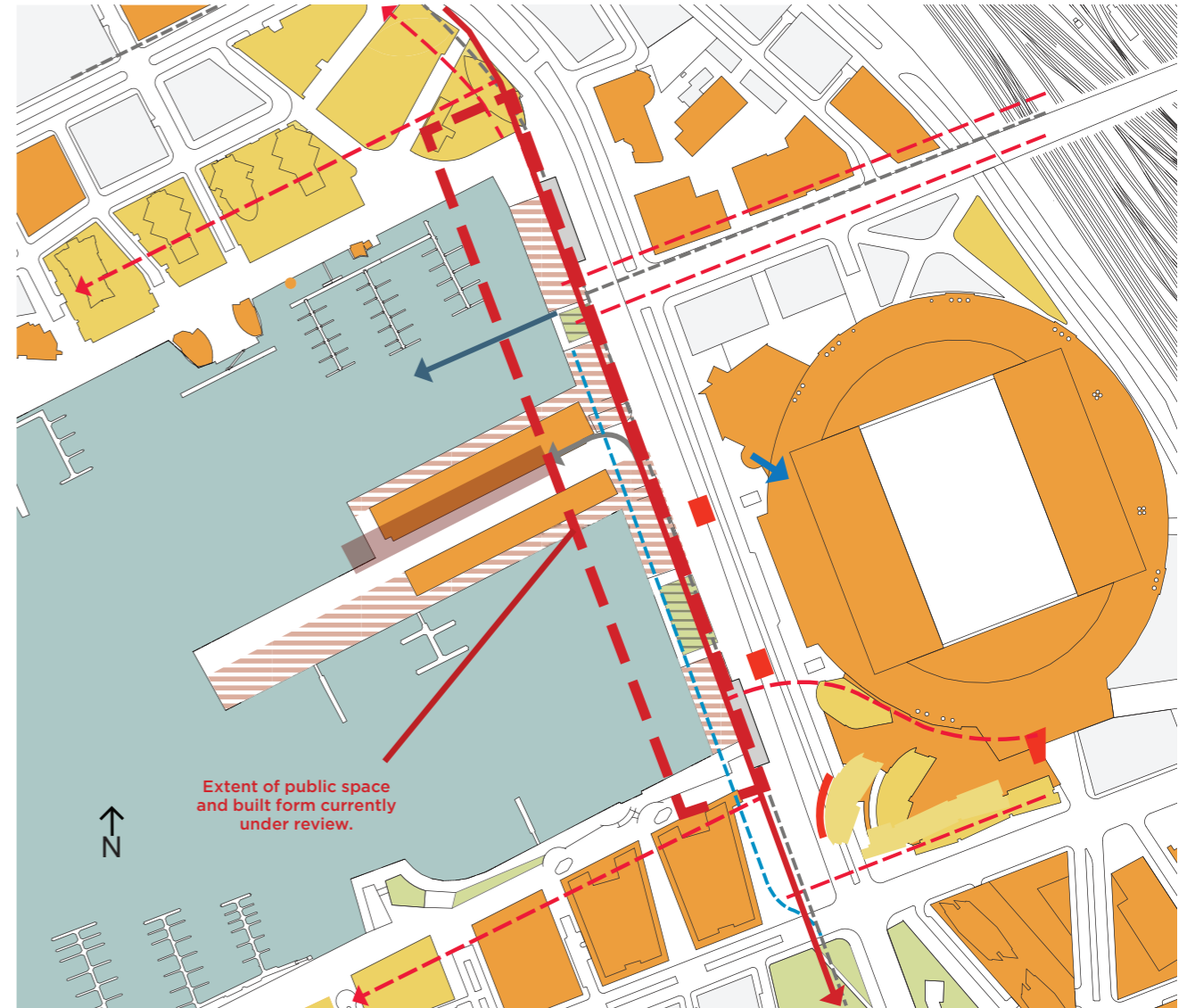
- Upgrade wharf infrastructure.
- Careful integration with Central Pier.
- Encourage mixed land-use activation to all public spaces.
- Enhance the relationship with the water.
- Celebrate key views.
- Address the quality of pedestrian experience along the street edge of the space.
- Manage competing traffic interests in favour of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Cater for medium-sized events (up to 5,000 people) with a relationship to the water.
- Provide east-west connections between the water and street.
- Reinforce maritime heritage through authentic activities and restoring the built heritage.
- Provide informal play opportunities.

**Current ownership**

Places Victoria and the City of Melbourne

**Status**

Stage One complete (included new street trees, cycle and pedestrian paths and realignment of the tram lines). A major redesign is currently being finalised (September 2012) and will be implemented in stages.



**Legend**

- Existing public open space
- Proposed public open space
- Tram line
- Remnant tram tracks
- Tram stop
- Residential building
- Commercial building
- Remnant wharf (set at original level)
- Key pedestrian/cycle connection
- Key pedestrian connection
- Surface car park
- Etihad Stadium car park access point
- Stair between stadium concourse and Harbour Esplanade
- La Trobe street views
- Vehicle entry point

**Context Plan**

**Docklands Park**

Docklands Park is one of the largest green spaces in Docklands, bounded by wide main streets including Harbour Esplanade, Bourke and Collins streets. The park is divided into two parts; a northern and southern area. The park has a green character that contrasts with the waterfront promenades where extensive planting on wharf structures is not possible. Docklands Park features wetlands, large mounds, a sheoak grove with playful elements, grassed public spaces, large art works, barbecue facilities, public toilet, a children’s playground, bike and walking paths and native trees. The grassed areas offer space for relaxation, play and outdoor events. Access to public transport, its location on the Capital City Bike Trail and its central location make Docklands Park a very accessible key public space.

The park’s immediate catchment includes local worker and residential populations as well as students and users of nearby community facilities. This population will grow in size as Docklands develops. Future works should focus on improving physical and visual connections from the park into the surrounding street network, diversifying the uses that the park supports and increasing the play value of the playground.

**Typology**

Civic park

**Size**

Approximately 14,500m<sup>2</sup> (north) and 8,000m<sup>2</sup> (south) and 10,000m<sup>2</sup> (CLEC site - temporary park on development site).

**Minimum recommended programs**

EXISTING PROGRAMS

**Minimum infrastructure and access**

- Power and water (for small scale events).
- Existing proximity to tram stop and public car parking.
- Provide access for service vehicles to bump-in bump-out to support events and park maintenance.
- Associated infrastructure to support active recreation including lighting and storage.

**Recommendations**

- Enhance the park’s relationship with Kangan Batman Institute of TAFE (Tertiary and Further Education) and Harbour Esplanade.
- Provide a place where people can relax or exercise, participate or observe.
- Create a strong connection to the Yarra River to the south and Harbour Esplanade public space to the north.
- Consider the role and definition of spaces within the park itself.
- Improve connections through the site.
- Improve visibility into the park at street interfaces.
- Provide for increased play opportunities, including a regional playspace 0-12 year olds, nature play and youth play.

**Current ownership**

City of Melbourne - Docklands Park

**Status**

Stage One complete  
Future stages are committed



**Legend**

Existing public open space	Public art	Residential building
Proposed public open space	Key pedestrian/cycle connection	Commercial building
Vegetation	Key pedestrian connections	Education/community building
Wetland	Future Charles Grimes Bridge pedestrian/cycle underpass	Future building
Existing play space	Development site	Committed building /under construction
Tram line	Public toilets	
Tram stop		

**Context Plan**