

# Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation

OCTOBER 2022

## Early works have begun to transform the Melbourne Arts Precinct into one of the greatest creative and cultural destinations in the world.

The works around Arts Centre Melbourne signal the start of a program of upgrade works of the Theatres Building, alongside extensive works on the building's facilities.

These critical upgrades will bring this wonderful heritage building into the 21st century. The State Theatre will undergo its most significant refurbishment since it was built – improving accessibility, making seating more comfortable and upgrading acoustics.

Over the next few years, the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project will also deliver The Fox: NGV Contemporary as a new Australian landmark and 18,000 square metres of new public green space in the heart of Melbourne.

With pathways through to Southbank, the transformation will connect Melbourne Arts Precinct with the wider neighbourhood and reshape this important part of the city.

## Arts Centre Melbourne and NGV still open for business!

The Melbourne Arts Precinct is home to the most visited art gallery and performing arts centre in the country, the best arts education and training institutions, art galleries, theatres, music venues, studios, creative co-working spaces and more.

It's a place where Victorians and visitors can experience the world's best art, music, and performance, and it's a training ground for our next generation of talent.

We have committed to ensuring the Precinct continues to deliver remarkable and world-class experiences during the transformation.

The Precinct will be a great place to visit during the transformation works, with plays, shows and public events all continuing to ensure Melbourne's cultural heart remains vibrant during construction.



### For more information

Visit [artsprecinct.melbourne](https://artsprecinct.melbourne)

Email [mapt@development.vic.gov.au](mailto:mapt@development.vic.gov.au)





# Arts Centre Melbourne

The project is modernising Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building and creating new public spaces, restaurants and bars, the first major upgrade since Arts Centre Melbourne opened in 1984.

The upgrades will open the building up to the public and ensure the State Theatre can continue delivering world-class performances for audiences and performers alike.

To support theatregoers, there will be better all-abilities access, new and more comfortable seating, upgraded acoustics, plus two new eating places.

Technology at the State Theatre will be brought into the 21st century with new state-of-the-art lighting, sound system upgrades and new live streaming capabilities.

Arts Centre Melbourne's Theatres Building extends five storeys below ground. It's possible thanks to a structure called 'the bathtub' and some nifty engineering that pioneered much of the early construction in the Southbank area.

The project is making 'the bathtub' bigger, allowing for a new expanded Loading Dock to be constructed, a new rehearsal and studio performance space, and new green room.

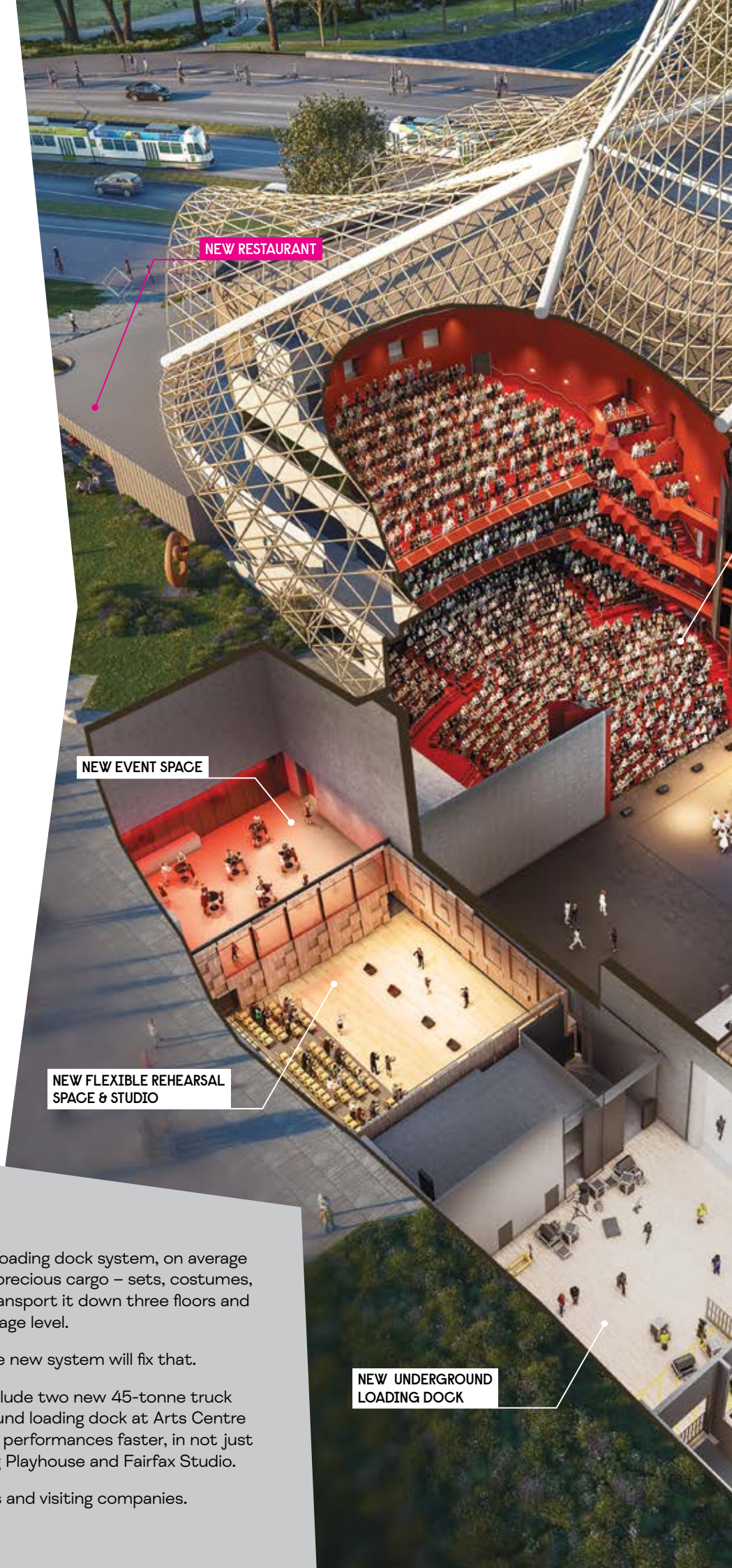
## Did you know?

Using Arts Centre Melbourne's existing loading dock system, on average it takes two hours to unload a truck of precious cargo – sets, costumes, technical equipment and more – and transport it down three floors and then some 30 metres to the theatre stage level.

There's no backup if the old lift fails. The new system will fix that.

We're expanding the loading dock to include two new 45-tonne truck lifts. We're also expanding the underground loading dock at Arts Centre Melbourne so it can bump in and out of performances faster, in not just the State Theatre but the neighbouring Playhouse and Fairfax Studio.

It's a gamechanger for production crews and visiting companies.



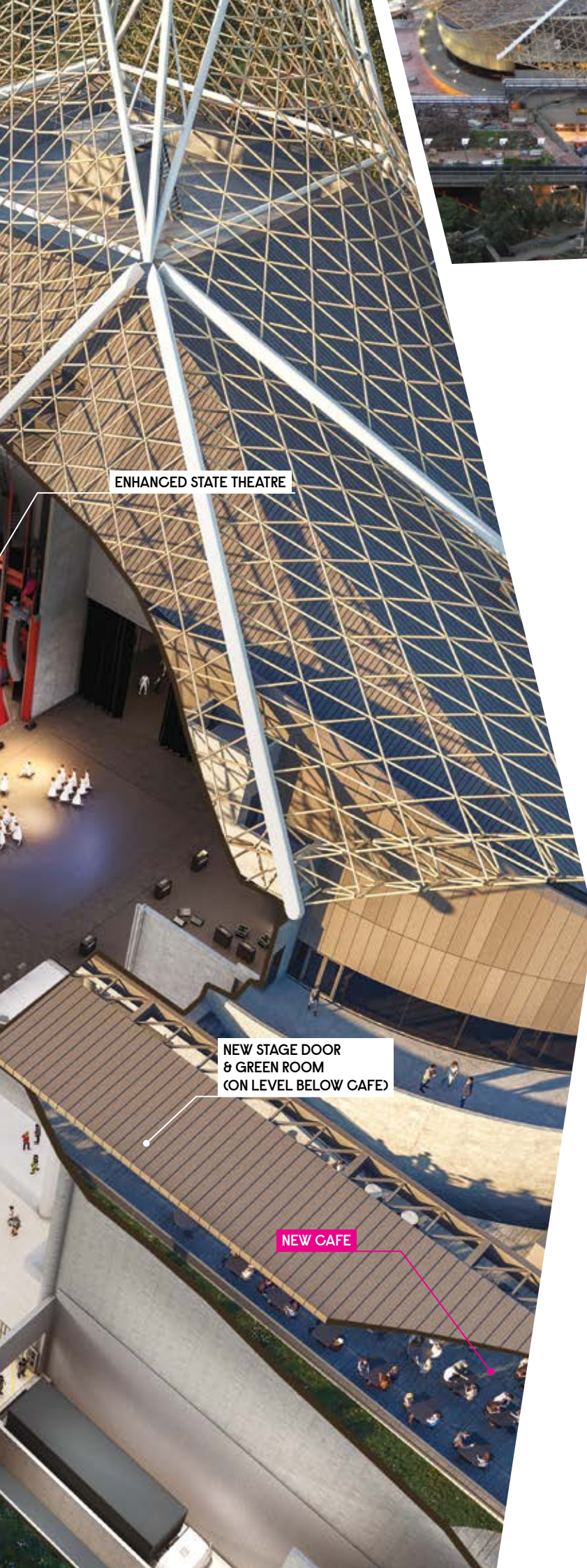
NEW RESTAURANT

NEW EVENT SPACE

NEW FLEXIBLE REHEARSAL SPACE & STUDIO

NEW UNDERGROUND LOADING DOCK





### What is happening at the moment?

EARLY WORKS ARE ABOUT PREPARING FOR MAJOR CONSTRUCTION.

The project is preparing to demolish Harold Alexander Terrace behind Arts Centre Melbourne and other sections of the deck that sit over Sturt Street. That will be done between October 2022 and April 2023.

Services such as power, water, sewerage and communications need to be re-routed or relocated from Sturt Street to get ready for major works. Some of these works may be in nearby streets, depending on the location of the services.

#### WHAT IS HAPPENING TO STURT STREET?

Closing Sturt Street means we can build the decking structure that will support the 18,000 square metres of public open space, new back of house facilities for Arts Centre Melbourne including two new loading docks, and improved shared services for Arts Centre Melbourne and the NGV.

That means we have to plan for the future use of Sturt Street, which includes plans to permanently close a section of Sturt Street between City Road and Southbank Boulevard.

#### CAN I STILL PARK AT ARTS CENTRE MELBOURNE AND THE AUSTRALIAN BALLET CENTRE CAR PARKS?

Yes. The car parks will be kept open throughout works. There's signage and traffic management in place to help you travel safely.

#### PEDESTRIANS

If you're visiting the Precinct you will notice some changes for pedestrians. If you want to go to The Primrose Potter Australian Ballet Centre, you can still access the ballet bridge behind Arts Centre Melbourne, that links the building. There's signage to direct you.

ENHANCED STATE THEATRE

NEW STAGE DOOR & GREEN ROOM (ON LEVEL BELOW CAFE)

NEW CAFE





## What is MAP Co?

The Melbourne Arts Precinct Corporation (MAP Co) was established by the Victorian Government to deliver the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project, Australia's largest ever cultural infrastructure project, in partnership with Creative Victoria, Development Victoria, NGV and Arts Centre Melbourne. MAP Co also provides governance and an operational structure to one of Melbourne's most iconic cultural spaces: Fed Square.

MAP Co is responsible for bringing to life a single continuous arts, civic, and cultural precinct stretching from Fed Square through to Southbank, NGV, and beyond.

To find out more about MAP Co, go to [artsprecinct.melbourne](https://artsprecinct.melbourne) or scan the QR code.



## At Development Victoria, we create places for people.

Development Victoria is the Government body responsible for supporting MAP Co in the delivery of the Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation project. Development Victoria works on iconic projects and precincts like Docklands and Fitzroy Gasworks – unlocking public land to create connected, sustainable places where people can live close to jobs, services and transport.

## Project timeline

2022

The Fox: NGV Contemporary design announced  
Early works start

2023

Major upgrades to the Theatres Building commence  
CUB building, 77 Southbank (site of The Fox: NGV Contemporary) deconstructed  
Major construction begins

2024-2027

Major upgrades to the Theatres Building continue  
Construction of The Fox: NGV Contemporary commences  
Works on the public green space commence

2028

Project complete



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