

Trees and vegetation in the precinct

The Victorian Government is transforming the Melbourne Arts Precinct into one of the great cultural and creative destinations in the world.

The Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation (MAPT) is a city-defining project that will attract millions more visitors to Southbank.

The project includes the creation of Laak Boorndap, a new expansive 18,000 square metre urban garden that will connect Arts Centre Melbourne's Hamer Hall and Theatres Building, NGV International and a new gallery, The Fox: NGV Contemporary.

The garden will also provide a seamless new pedestrian connection through the arts precinct, improving access to key buildings such as Southbank Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Melbourne Recital Centre and ABC.

In one of the most densely-populated areas of Melbourne, it will give both residents and visitors access to vital green and open space – close to the CBD.

Tree and vegetation removal

A number of London Plane trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*) and small Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) in Sturt Street, Kavanagh Street and Southbank Boulevard have been removed for works on the Laak Boorndap deck structure and to make way for The Fox: NGV Contemporary.

As works progress on Laak Boorndap, the existing gardens and deck area behind NGV International will be removed in early 2026. The



Artist render of Laak Boorndap

make up of species being removed from the NGV International garden include Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*), Hills Weeping Fig (*Ficus macrocarpa*), Southern Magnolia or Bull Bay Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), Honey Locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*) and Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifoli*).

To allow for Laak Boorndap works to commence near the Theatres Building, trees will need be removed next to Hamer Hall (near the sculpture, Forward Surge). Species being removed from this area include Washington Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), Rubber Tree (*Ficus elastica*) and Fan Palm (*Livistona sp.*).

The MAPT project team is working closely with City of Melbourne, arborists and the construction teams to assess which trees need to be removed and when.

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The removal of trees is being done thoughtfully and professionally, with our arborists taking into consideration the welfare of any local wildlife.

Laak Boorndap

The Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation includes the creation of a new 18,000 square metre urban garden, Laak Boorndap.

Laak Boorndap will be a stunning new green space – unique in the world in its planting density, scale and climate resiliency.

It has been designed to flourish year-round, ensuring it is beautiful and ever-changing, and continually fostering biodiversity.

We are working with the Traditional Owners of the land upon which the project sits, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people, as we develop the mix of planting that will be selected to inhabit and thrive in Laak Boorndap.



Artist render of Laak Boorndap

More information

For more information about the project, visit artsprecinct.melbourne.

If you have any questions, please email mapt@development.vic.gov.au.

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