

Melbourne Arts Precinct Transformation

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*) in Sturt Street have been removed for works on the Laak Boorndap deck structure. As works progress, more Plane trees and small Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) trees, in Kavanagh Street and Southbank Boulevard will need to be removed to make way for The Fox: NGV Contemporary.

The City of Melbourne is planting fewer Plane trees under the Urban Forest Strategy, and instead planting a wider variety of species to create a more resilient urban forest.

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.

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

As the project progresses, the existing gardens and deck area behind NGV International will also need to be removed to build Laak Boorndap.

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.

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About Revival Projects

Revival Projects has been engaged to reuse and repurpose as many of the removed trees as possible.

Revival Projects is a business that aims to make sustainable building practice more accessible to everyone.

Its Collingwood manufacturing facility operates exclusively with existing materials – no new materials are allowed through the door.

Working collaboratively with Development Victoria, MAP Co and project partners, Revival Projects is exploring how trees and vegetation identified for removal can be repurposed into the design of the transformed Melbourne Arts Precinct.

As part of our sustainable approach, it is intended that natural, reclaimed and low carbon material will be used for landscaping and structures where feasible.



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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