



Kingborough

KINGSTON PARK IMPLEMENTATION REPORT



JANUARY 2019

This report is regularly updated and released for public information.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared as a quarterly update on the progress of the Kingston Park project. It is Council's way of regularly reporting to the Kingborough community. Such reports have been produced since August 2017.

Although this project has been underway for a number of years, it was not until early 2018, that significant on-ground work occurred on the site. It is important that a reporting mechanism such as this explains what this construction entails and what the forward construction program is to be. It is also important that the financial status of the project is described – bearing in mind that, although large up-front costs are necessary to provide the initial public infrastructure, these are well outweighed by the subsequent direct and indirect economic benefits for Kingborough.

Council is providing this report every three months for general public information. Within it there is a description of the background to the project (2) – as there will always be many people who are aware as to why it is so critically important for Kingborough. The subsequent sections describe the main construction projects (3) that are being managed by Council – these currently are the Community Hub, Goshawk Way (the Boulevard road), Pardalote Parade (the Promenade) and the Public Open Space (including a children's playground). Following this there is a section on the land release strategy (4) for the site – how land is to be subdivided and developed over time. There is then a financial report (5) consisting of the current cash flow situation and the amount of project borrowings. The section on communications (6), reports on the latest news about the project and how this has been or will be more broadly communicated and the final section deals with project governance (7) and administration.

The main updates each quarter will be made to sections (3), (5) and (6). It is these sections that should be focused on by those who have been regularly reading these reports and following the project's ongoing progress.

Council is interested in obtaining any comments or thoughts about the project. There is an opportunity to do this via the 'Our Say' forum on the Kingston Park website at www.kingstonparktas.com.au. There will of course be many good ideas that could be incorporated within the project as people become more informed and enthusiastic about it. The detailed aspects of the Kingston Park Development Plan continue to evolve and it is important that everyone has an open mind to future opportunities.

2. PROJECT BACKGROUND

Kingston Park is the former Kingston High School site and is located immediately to the north of the Kingston Central Business District. The redevelopment of this site constitutes the most important development opportunity within Kingston and how it is developed will be critical in determining the future viability of the whole Kingston CBD. It is the most critical single project for the economic future of the Kingborough municipality.

The future development of the 11.3ha Kingston Park site can only be considered within the context of this CBD. Its primary objective is to encourage and complement the future sustainable development of the whole of central Kingston and Kingborough more generally. A great deal more private and public investment will occur within Kingston if the whole central area is progressively developed in a cohesive and integrated manner.

Development that occurs on the site will provide local recreational and cultural attractions and fill gaps in the services that the local community needs. If Kingston is to be the main commercial centre south of Hobart then this will depend on how this Kingston Park site is developed. It has been often stated that this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Kingborough in that its development will provide the best opportunity to really improve the public amenity and facilities within central Kingston. It is a truly unique development opportunity and care must be taken to obtain the optimum result.

Kingborough has, for the last 20 to 30 years, had a greater increase in population than any other municipality in Tasmania and this is expected to continue to grow by almost 40% by 2040. Kingborough's close proximity to Hobart, the availability of suitable land, good transport routes and the area's inherent natural attractions as a coastal municipality have all been major drawcards for new residents. However, about 60% of all Kingborough employed people travel north to Hobart or beyond to work. There should be many more local services and employment opportunities in order to reduce this daily traffic out of Kingborough – making it more convenient for local residents and reducing travel times and congestion in Hobart. It is within this context that building a strong sustainable CBD is so important.

A Development Plan for the Kingston Park site was prepared during 2012-2013 (copy available on Council's website) and it described the proposed development that is to occur on the site. It contains an urban design framework that enables new forms of development and the planned delivery of infrastructure to support that development. There is to be a mix of commercial and residential uses, together with public open space and community and cultural facilities. About one-third of the site's area is utilised by each of these generic land uses – that is, one third is to be sold for residential or commercial use, one third is retained for public open space and one third is for community uses and public infrastructure.

Although a great deal has occurred since that Development Plan was prepared, it still forms the basis for most of the current and future site development that is occurring.

For Council, this project also needs to be economically feasible. The brief for the original Development Plan required that a proposal be developed that addressed local land use needs, was well designed and broke-even financially. It was intended that this be a stand-alone project that would not be completed at the expense of other worthy public infrastructure projects in the municipality. Land is to be sold (for purposes that will further activate the CBD) so that there is revenue to pay for the public and community facilities that are to be provided on the same site. The timing and means by which land is disposed will be critical in determining whether Council obtains the optimum income from this project.

The urban design provides for a vehicular ‘boulevard’ (Goshawk Way) that passes through the site – from the former school’s existing entrance through to a new junction with Beach Road. A pedestrianised ‘promenade’ (Pardalote Parade) extends from Channel Court, through the existing Council parking area on John Street, past the proposed new health centre and new ‘community hub’ through to the walkway under the Southern Outlet. Figure 1 below provides an overview of what was proposed within the Development Plan.



Figure 1 – Proposed Site Development

Council has previously commissioned independent economic assessments of this project and they have determined that the project will make a significant contribution to the Kingborough economy. The economic benefits of the project will occur during both the construction phase and on an ongoing basis within Kingborough. During construction many jobs will be created – equivalent to about 67 jobs per year over a 10 year construction period (worth almost \$80M per annum) – and almost \$90M worth of development will occur on site (generating \$205M worth of multiplier impacts). The eventual redevelopment of the site will generate well in excess of 600 new jobs and increase the ongoing retail expenditure by about \$3.7M per annum within Kingston. It is worth noting that these figures were determined in 2015, but more recent information predicts that about three times as much development will in fact occur on this site in future.

While these economic benefits are significant, there will also be a stimulation of additional investment on other nearby private properties within central Kingston. An early investment by Council that builds local confidence and gets the project moving will provide many indirect benefits. It is proposed that the project (including the private development on site) will be fully completed by about 2027. It is also worth noting that there will be future increased rate revenue benefits from this project for Council, within both the Kingston Park site and central Kingston more generally. Most of this additional revenue to Council may need to cover the future costs associated with the ongoing management and maintenance of the playground, parklands, streetscape and operating the Community Hub facility.

The economic benefits for Kingston are complemented and enhanced by the many social and community benefits that this proposed site development will provide. The future growth in demand for services is inevitable (as a consequence of population growth) and this project is primarily about preparing the Kingborough community for this growth. Future generations will judge us on how well we have taken the opportunity to utilise this land to develop a truly sustainable and viable central business district.

The social benefits of the project include the availability of a new and expanded Kingston Health Centre; a new multi-purpose Community Hub facility that will provide spaces for a variety of community and cultural activities (the future “heart” of central Kingston); a large area of public open space with a children’s playground and other landscaped features and spaces for outdoor events; the inclusion of higher density residential areas that will bring increased activity into central Kingston, making it a safer and more attractive place to visit; and the potential for commercial entertainment and more things to do that encourage social interaction and community well-being.

A high quality of urban design is also an important component of this project. It is intended that Kingston Park will be a showpiece and an example for other private developments throughout the municipality. It will provide attractions that are creative and innovative in order to generate increased visitor levels and community pride – and so help to sustain the long term future of central Kingston and the Kingborough municipality.

3. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS

3.1 GOSHAWK WAY

The original Boulevard road has been named as Goshawk Way and is to be the main through road within Kingston Park. Its construction will initiate the overall site development and provide the main vehicular access to all components. In the first instance, this will enable the construction of the Community Hub and the State Government’s Kingston Health Centre (both now nearly completed) – and will then facilitate the further subdivision and development of the rest of the site. An important aspect of this road construction is that the main reticulated services and other related infrastructure will be provided to facilitate the overall redevelopment of Kingston Park – such as stormwater, water, sewerage, power and telecommunications.

This through road provides an additional traffic option that will assist in taking the pressure off other through roads such as John Street and the Channel Highway. Its relationship with these other roads within central Kingston is shown in Figure 2 below. It should be noted that decisions are yet to be made in regard to some of the detailed proposals shown in this Figure. In fact, Council has commissioned GHD consultants to undertake a major traffic study of the central Kingston area. This will include the modelling of future traffic flows and recommendations on future road and intersection upgrades. The results from these investigations should be publicly available by the time the next Implementation Report is released.

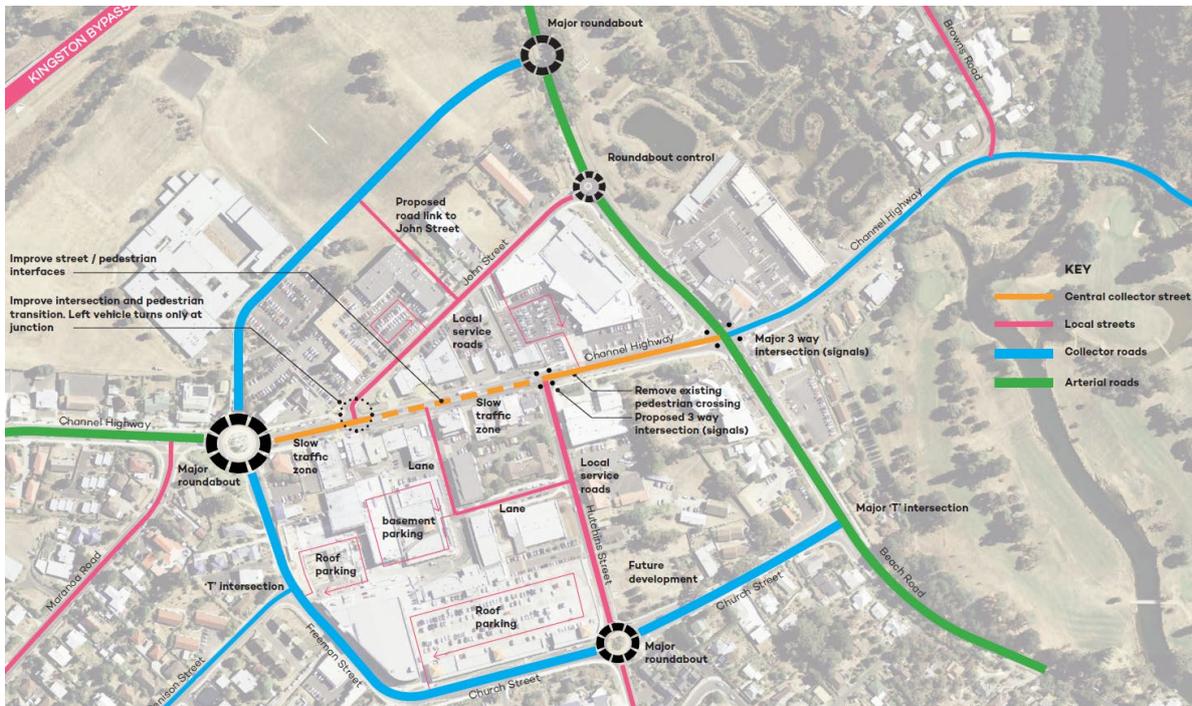


Figure 2 – Future traffic management within central Kingston

The second stage is proposed to be carried out in another year or two and will involve the completion of Goshawk Way through to, and including, the new Huon Highway roundabout (the Huon Highway commences just after the John Street roundabout on Beach Road). The aerial photograph below shows the current state of construction.



Figure 4 – Site construction in December 2018

3.2 COMMUNITY HUB

The Community Hub will provide for a variety of community uses and encourage increased social interaction in Kingston. It will be complemented by the adjoining landscaped areas, public open space and children’s playground. Following the completion of an architectural design competition, March Studio Architects were appointed project architects. A detailed design of the facility was then completed and a planning permit issued. Tenders were called for its construction and a contract awarded in February 2018 to Hutchinson Builders. Construction commenced in early April 2018 and will be completed in January 2019. The following is a description of what the future Community Hub will include.



Figure 5 – Community Hub front entrance

Upon entering the proposed building, there is to be an internal ‘street’ or corridor that takes the visitor past a **reception area** (with a facility manager there at most times and particularly when actual events are occurring) and a **tourism kiosk** that provides information about tourism and local community activities and attractions. **Public amenities and storage** within such a facility are obviously essential and their locations are indicated in the floor plan in Figure 5 below.

The **multi-purpose hall** provides a larger indoor space to be hired or generally used for displays, presentations, performances, workshops, exhibitions etc. The **town square** is the break-out public space from the multi-purpose hall. It is an area where other functions can be held – either in conjunction with the hall or separately. There will be the ability to exclude other areas with moveable walls (designed to drop down from the ceiling) and one of these will contain a cinema screen. The design provides for all abilities access, good acoustics, the incorporation of audio technology, power for community events, free WiFi, solar water heating and security.

A **café** is located alongside the town square and this will be leased out by Council. There is to be a room provided as a designated **co-working space** with individual work stations for people to work, study or meet with colleagues, plus a larger **meeting room** that will be available for community use and for hire. There is the capacity to add future modules and features to the building, plus there is a good **connection to adjoining public open spaces** – particularly in relation to a kitchen garden, children’s playground and outdoor spaces for community events.



Figure 6 – Community Hub northern elevation

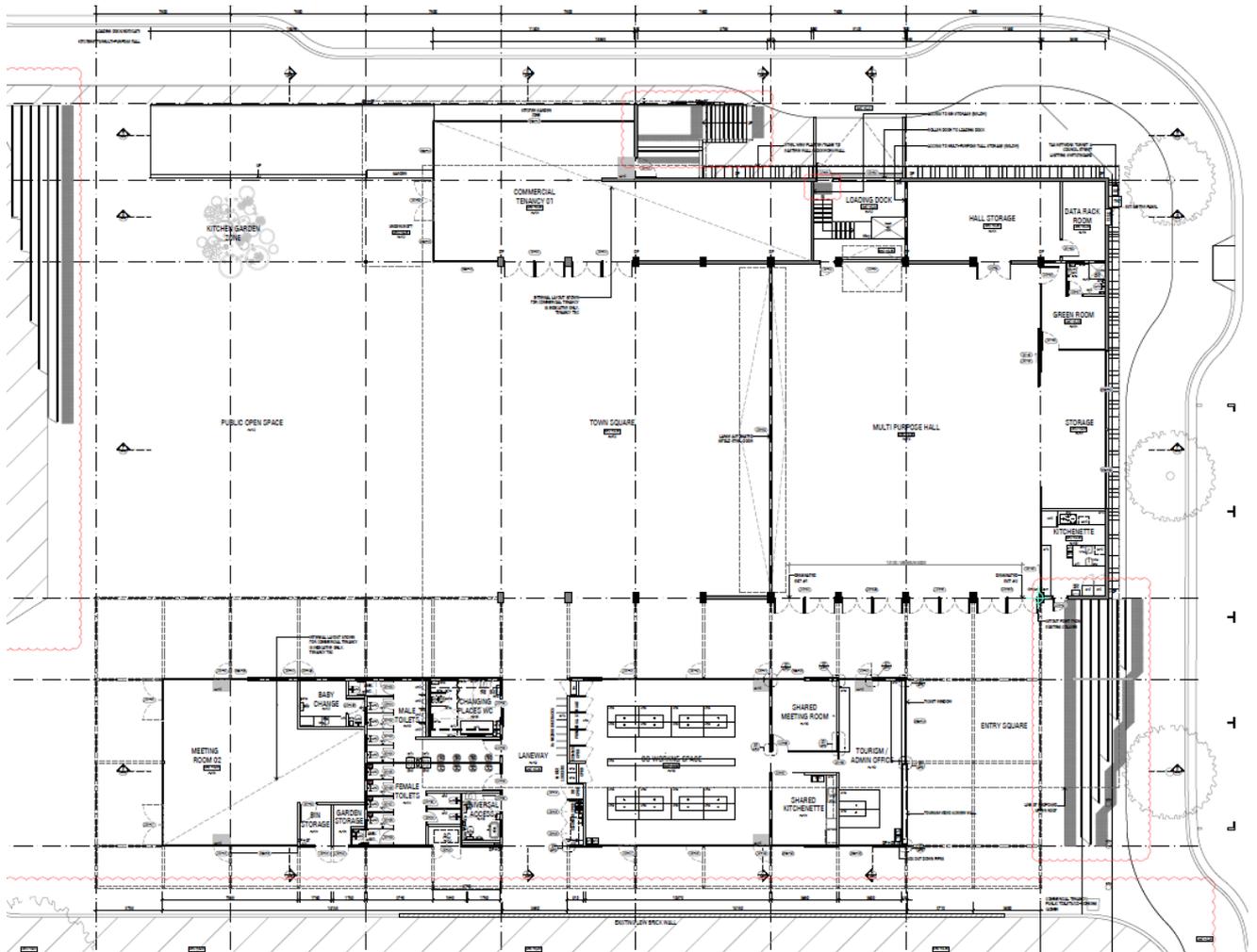


Figure 7 – Community Hub floor plan



Figure 8 – Community Hub rear view – early design renders and current construction (Dec. 2018)

In 2017 Council was successful in obtaining a grant of \$2.8M for the construction of the Community Hub under the Australian Government's Building Better Regions Fund. This grant will match Council funds in enabling this facility to be constructed from April 2018

through to January 2019. Council is currently reviewing the future detailed operational requirements and resources needed for when this facility becomes open to the public.

A formal opening is planned for March 2019 as by that time, the Hub will be ready for public use. However the internal fit-out will not be fully completed by then and it is proposed that during the whole of 2019 Council will be transitioning the Hub up to its full capacity. For example, it may take some time to obtain a lessee for the café and have it fully fitted out for commercial use. Council will be managing this facility and will provide the necessary staff to administer it so that it can be open in the future to the public seven days a week.



3.3 PARDALOTE PARADE

The original Promenade in the Development Plan has been renamed as Pardalote Parade and is the main pedestrian spine that connects the Channel Court retail precinct with Kingston Park. It then continues through the centre of the site to the pedestrian underpass at the Southern Outlet. It links the Kingston Health Centre, Kingborough Community Hub and recreational areas to nearby residential and commercial precincts. There will in future be some commercial opportunities (eg cafes or restaurants) along its frontage (as in the indicative image below).

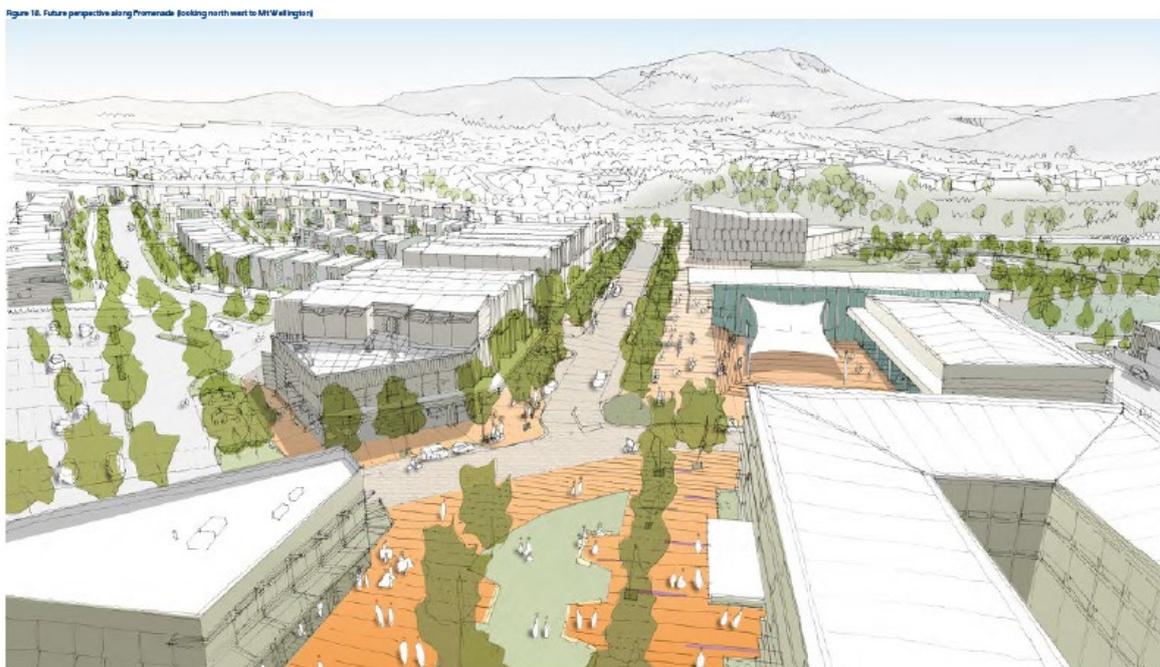


Figure 9 – Pardalote Parade (from the original Development Plan)

Pardalote Parade has two distinctly different sections. The first stage is that part which is south of Goshawk Way and is for pedestrians only, while the second stage is to the north and will have wide footpaths but will provide vehicular access to the medium density residential areas in Kingston Park’s south western corner. Part of this latter section has been constructed in order to facilitate access to the Community Hub.

Pardalote Parade will be constructed to a high quality with spaces for resting, outdoor eating, vegetation, public art and shelter. Its design will need to be sensitively considered in order to encourage the activation of adjoining developments. Specific consideration will be given to safe pedestrian and bicycle access along the whole length of Pardalote Parade. Council has commissioned Playstreet consultants to design the pedestrian component and this design process is currently well underway. It is envisaged that construction of the pedestrian section of Pardalote Parade will commence in 2020.

3.4 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE

The design of the public open space area is an important stage in the future development of the overall site. The original Site Development Plan provided a basic description of what is to be provided and this will be used as a starting point for the more detailed design to be done by Playstreet consultants – as shown in the excerpts from the original Development Plan in Figure 10 below.

For many people, Kingston Park will be best known for the recreational attractions it offers and the spaces for community events and family gatherings. It is proposed that an exciting and innovative playground will be included immediately to the west and north of the Community Hub – maybe encouraging creative and inventive play which is nature based in its form or using technology in ways that are adventurous, fun and inspirational. There will be opportunities to provide spaces for public recreation that meet local needs, are of a high quality and are very different to what exists anywhere else.





Figure 10 – Public open space Development Plan extracts

As indicated in the Figure above, there are a number of components that are likely or could be included – such as the children’s playground (plus other scattered play features), spaces for public events and performances, pedestrian and bike trails, grassed areas for general play, water features, scattered seats and benches, trees for shade and gardens for aesthetic appeal, Indigenous bush food garden, arboretum, sculptures and other examples of public art, and quiet rest areas. Designated parking is to be provided in certain locations and on adjoining roadsides.

This initial conceptual design will be reviewed and the more contemporary and detailed design will facilitate the actual staged construction of the various public open space components – such as the playground, earthworks and drainage, pathways, landscaping and furniture.

Council has commissioned Playstreet consultants to design this public open space area and to oversee the subsequent construction. Their tasks include:

- The design of the pedestrian section of Pardalote Parade between Channel Highway and Goshawk Way, including public consultation, submission of statutory applications, full detailed design and documentation for a construction tender and supervision through the construction process.
- The design of a new playground located north of the Community Hub, including public consultation, submission of statutory applications, full detailed design and documentation for a construction tender and supervision through the construction process.

- The design for the landscaping adjacent to the Community Hub building and linkages from the Hub building to the new playground facility, including public consultation, submission of statutory applications, full detailed design and documentation for a construction tender and supervision through the construction process.
- The concept design for the remainder of the remainder of Pardalote Parade to assist in the future sale of this part of the Kingston Park site.
- The concept design for the remainder of the public open space, including public consultation and the delivery of packages of works to enable future grant applications to assist in the future funding of the development of the public open space.
- The public and stakeholder consultation and concept design for proposed Channel Highway streetscape improvements between Hutchins and Johns Streets.

This work commenced at the end of 2018 and will progressively occur during 2019. There will be ample scope for public engagement during this process. Construction of the first stage of the public open space is to commence towards the end of 2019.

3.5 PUBLIC PARKING

Temporary public parking is currently provided within Kingston Park. This amount of free all-day public parking will not be provided within the eventual development. Council is not obliged to provide expensive public land for people to park their cars all day at no cost. It is a very inefficient use of land, particularly when the lost opportunities for alternative uses are considered. As the whole community is subsidising a benefit being gained by a few individuals, a user-pays system is the only fair option. If all-day parking is to be provided, then an appropriate fee regime will need to be implemented.

The removal of the existing parking areas will be a gradual process as site construction occurs. New public parking areas will be provided in order to meet the internal needs of Kingston Park. In a general sense it is proposed that there be 80 spaces for the Community Hub, 80 spaces for the users of the public open space and 80 spaces made available for all-day parking. Private developments will need to provide parking for their own needs.

The construction of the new parking areas will occur later in 2019 and it is proposed that they be located alongside Goshawk Way in the first instance – in that the same sites could be redeveloped by private interests provided the same amount of public parking is retained.

It is acknowledged that, with the further development of the CBD, the demand for all-day parking will increase. This has been witnessed in recent years by the rapid take-up of the temporary parking that was provided within Kingston Park. It will however still be important not to duplicate the recent experience where community expectations have been raised by providing what is an excessive amount of all-day parking. This discourages a

change in behaviour with people using car travel into the centre of Kingston rather than other alternatives.

It is also very important that there are good bus services, both into Kingston and Hobart, in order that people will choose to catch the bus rather than drive their car. This is particularly the case for those people that work in Kingston, who will in future find it increasingly difficult to find a convenient all-day parking space. Good bus services into Kingston also enable local residents to more easily shop and visit other services – and are an important part of the overall future viability of the CBD.

More Hobart commuters should also be catching the bus closer to their residence – but this will require more frequent bus services within suburban areas and some express routes into Hobart and park-and-ride facilities dispersed around the greater Kingston area (such as at the Huntingfield roundabout). Council will be working closely with Metro and the Department of State Growth in facilitating these improvements.

Council has commissioned GHD consultants to prepare Parking Plan for central Kingston in order to identify the actual parking needs, future works programs and as a basis for assessing future development applications that generate the need for additional parking. This will be prepared and available for public scrutiny by mid-2019. It builds on the previous work done in 2016 when a Central Kingston Parking Strategy was prepared (copy available on Council's website).

4. LAND DISPOSAL

The future development of land within Kingston Park for private residential and commercial purposes is based on a Land Release Strategy that ensures revenue is obtained to pay for the public infrastructure and facilities that Council must provide. The future disposal of land will stay true to the Site Development Plan – acknowledging that this Development Plan will need to respond and be adapted to favourable development opportunities. It is important that the land release process is attractive for potential investors, while also meeting Council's needs such as preventing land banking and meeting community expectations.

In 2017, the consultancy firm NAVIRE was appointed as Council's Principal Property Advisor. A Land Release Strategy was subsequently prepared and this is supported by detailed financial modelling that can forecast all of the project's costs and revenue. The complexities of urban renewal are acknowledged – "it is full of challenges and takes time – time that typically traverses political and property market cycles".

Council does have an opportunity to effectively create a new market for a higher density of residential development within Kingston Park. This is the most viable financial option for Council (based on local market analysis) and will help in reinvigorating central Kingston.

New residents will be attracted by being so close to the CBD and the services on offer (health centre, community hub, cafes, public open space, playground etc).

The guiding principles for urban renewal at Kingston Park are to be:

- (1) Developing a shared vision
- (2) Delivering supportive infrastructure
- (3) Facilitating seed/catalyst projects
- (4) Having land control
- (5) Managing market conditions

Council has already gone some way in embedding these principles within the Kingston Park project – by way of its approach in providing the essential public infrastructure and some catalyst developments (eg Community Hub, Health Centre, playground) – rather than relying on future private developers to do this.

The Land Release Strategy produced by NAVIRE provides the necessary blueprint for Council to follow in staging the sale of land within Kingston Park. It strikes an appropriate balance between low risk/low return options, compared to high risk/high return options. This will be based on a ‘post pre-sales’ approach, where land is only sold after both a planning permit for the proposed development and pre-sale commitments are obtained. This should enable the land to be sold for a higher amount (increasing revenue to Council), without imposing unacceptable risks. In order to achieve this, it will be necessary for Council (with the assistance of NAVIRE) to convince prospective developers of the value and unique opportunity that Kingston Park represents.

The final Land Release Strategy and the detailed financial analysis, is of course, ‘commercial in confidence’. It is inappropriate for Council to publicly release information (such as cost and revenue expectations) that could be used against it by prospective tenderers and land purchasers. More information on the project’s financial arrangements is provided in the next section of this report.

It is critical that the planning scheme requirements for Kingston Park align with the proposed development of the site. The planning scheme already includes specific provisions that facilitate the implementation of the Development Plan, as well as reducing developer risk and community uncertainty. This existing Specific Area Plan (SAP) within the planning scheme has been reviewed and a final draft prepared so that an updated version is included in the Local Provisions Schedule for the new planning scheme. This draft SAP was provided to the prospective developers to assist the preparation of their proposals. It will be necessary to make some further minor amendments in order to ensure that future property boundaries align accurately with Zone boundaries.

The land parcels that were identified as being potentially suitable for private development (in accordance with the original Site Development Plan) are shown in Figure 11 below.

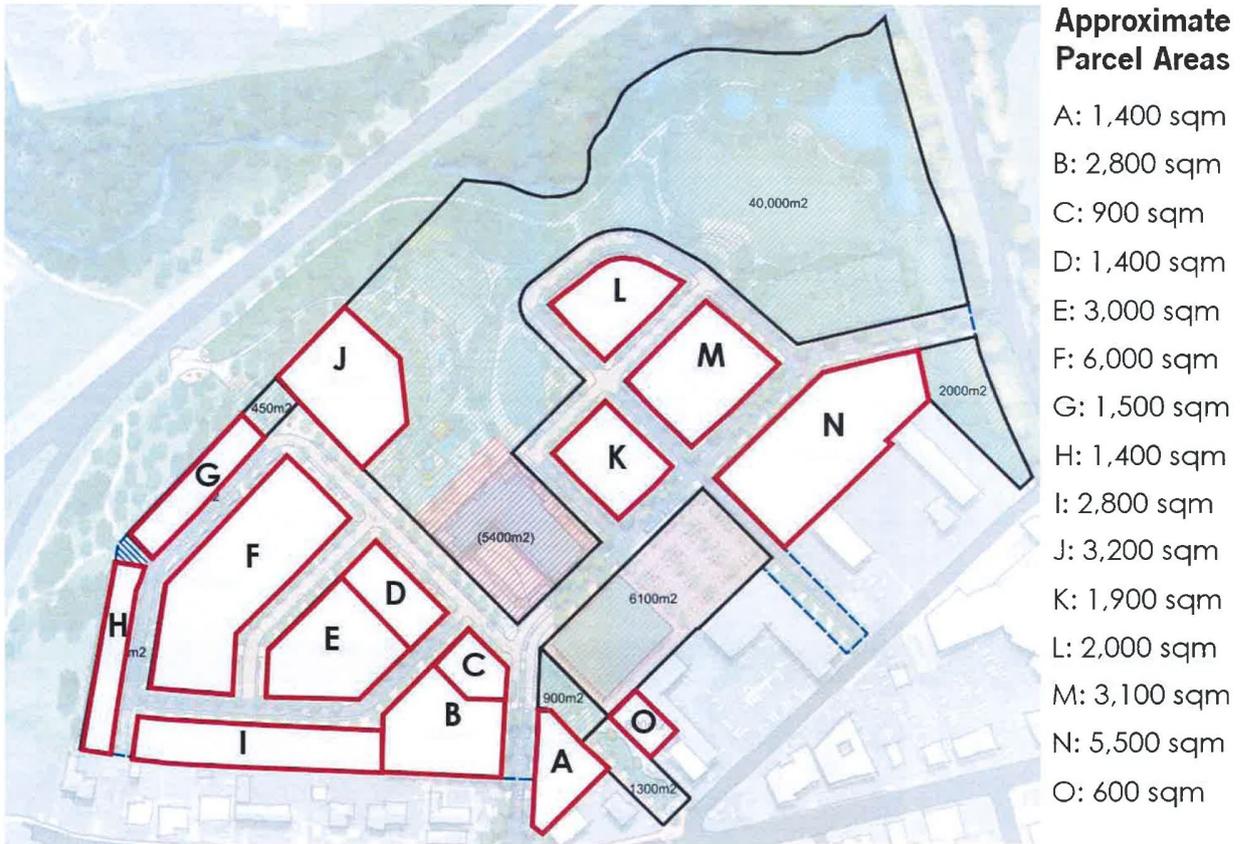


Figure 11 – Parcels of land potentially available for private development

An Expression of Interest package was released in March 2018 and responses obtained from potential developers in May 2018. This provided an indication of the level of interest that exists and informed Council of the type of development that is most viable and for which the highest return can be obtained. The potential developers were then shortlisted and were provided with a 'Request for Proposal' brief. More detailed submissions were received in August 2018, after which a preferred developer was selected and a Project Delivery Agreement negotiated.

In November 2018, it was announced that the future developer to partner with Council would be Traders in Purple Pty Ltd. They intend to invest up to \$300M over the next eight years and provide up to 360 residential tenancies. Their development is a mix of low, medium and high residential living, retirement living options and a cinema complex. Commercial floor space is to be provided fronting Goshawk Way. Every effort will also be made to attract a major employer and to incorporate the necessary office space within the future development.

Traders in Purple are an experienced development company that has previously delivered similar projects in the Sutherland and Illawarra regions of NSW and the Moreton Bay region of Queensland. They have been doing this for the last 30 years and have completed all of its 60 successful projects during that period.

During December 2018, discussions commenced in regard to the future planning approval requirements for the first few stages of the proposed residential development in the more elevated southern precincts. A development application is to be submitted in mid-2019. As proposed in the original Development Plan, this will be a townhouse style development. The concept diagrams in the Figure below show what is proposed by Traders in Purple.



Figure 12 – Proposed Traders in Purple development within Kingston Park

The main departure from the original Development Plan is the relocation of parcel “L” (see Figure 11) so that it is positioned alongside Goshawk Way. This results in improved design opportunities for the public open space. There is a greater emphasis on future commercial development fronting Goshawk Way, rather than Pardalote Parade. There is still some flexibility in the final form of the latter stages (which includes the cinema complex, offices and public parking areas) as the needs of future tenants and purchasers will need to be confirmed.

5. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

5.1 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Council is closely monitoring all the financial affairs relating to this project. All actual costs are attributed to the project – including project management, staff costs and interest on internal or external loans.

Council does have more information on the revenue expectations now that the offer has been provided by the contracted developer. This will become even clearer once the project progresses further and the private development stages are delivered.

A series of financial scenarios based on many different assumptions has been developed. Council has chosen the most likely and most advantageous scenario as being the basis for moving forward. This took into account:

- the economic and market reality over the long term;
- catalyst project and infrastructure delivery timing;
- Council’s peak debt (borrowing facility) capacity;
- Council’s final net financial position; and
- the proposed land uses described in the Development Plan (accommodating some relatively minor changes).

This chosen scenario is being constantly updated as further expenditure occurs and tender information becomes available. The current expectation is that the final net result, by the end of the project, is that Council is likely to incur a financial net loss of about \$4M in about 10 years’ time – with debt levels exceeding this in the meantime.

When considering any ultimate financial shortfall, it should be acknowledged that (for this cost) the project will be providing the municipality’s main community centre, a large children’s playground, extensive new parkland, stimulating a great deal of private investment and activity within the CBD and facilitating the inclusion of a new Kingston Health Centre.

The following table indicates the project expenditure and income that has been incurred to date (up until 31 December 2018). It includes a calculation of the total project cost, including interest charged on internal loans.

PROJECT COMPONENTS	EXPENDITURE (\$,000)							TOTAL
	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19 to date	
Initial Development Plan	290	73	37	32				432
Land Purchase		144						144
Site Development		40	10	4				54
Demolition of old School Buildings		7	1,067	81	60			1,215
Community Hub Design/Approvals				39	170	184	23	416
Community Hub Construction/Fitout						1,579	4,228	5,807
Parking Strategy				41	5		11	57
Traffic Planning & Management				113	50			163
CBD Road Design					14	46		60
Goshawk Way Construction					12	1,529	1,154	2,695
Pardalote Parade, and POS Design						19	10	29
Land Disposal					57	132	78	267
Site Maintenance		27	33	33	30	8	0	131
Governance, Admin & Communications				1	6	88	61	156
TOTAL	290	291	1,147	345	403	3,585	5,580	11,626
INCOME (\$,000)								
Govt Grant	220					219	1,132	1,571
DHHS road cont'n					377			377
NET COST	70	291	1,147	345	26	3,366	4,448	9,677
Total Interest @3%	2	11	47	54	54	162	73	402
TOTAL PROJECT COST								10,080

A deposit was paid by Council in 2014 for the purchase of the land and licence agreements signed with the State Government to enable this project to progress. Finalising the land purchase is subject to the completion of the subdivision of the Kingston Health Centre lot and balance. Council is acquiring the larger balance lot and new titles can only be created

once the new lot is fully serviced with a constructed road frontage. This work has now been completed and the transfer of titles is expected to occur early in 2019.

Back in 2014, the original land value was significantly reduced to account for the fact that the land will be developed in accordance with the Development Plan – that is, about half of the total area would be developed for public or community based purposes (compared to what might have been the case if the land had been sold in its entirety to a private developer with no obligation to provide new community facilities).

5.2 BORROWINGS

Up until June 2018, all borrowings for the project had been internal loans against Council's existing cash reserves. These loans (plus interest) will be repaid by the project to Council. Recent expenditure has now reached a point where external loans have been required to assist in funding the project.

Council has an approval from Treasury to borrow \$10M as part of the Local Government Loan Council Allocation. At the 25 June Council meeting it was approved that Council would borrow \$2.8M (of this \$10M) to help fund the construction of the Community Hub. This would match the existing grant from the Australian Government (under the Building Better Regions Fund) for the same amount.

As well as this the State Government will provide an additional interest free loan of \$6M (which will need to be repaid within 5 years). This is being provided under the State Government's accelerated local government capital program (ALGCP) and is on the basis that a number of construction projects are brought forward – these being the Pardalote Footpath/Road, the stages 2 & 3 of the Public Open Space and the second stage of the Goshawk Road construction. This will enable a higher priority to be given to the construction of these roads and services, so that the Kingston Park project can generate income from land sales and repay these loans. It is expected that the interest free loan will be repaid from the settlement of the first stage of the land sales in 2022/23.

Borrowings of \$2.7M under the ALGCP have been drawn to fund some of the current works and the balance will be drawn down once further construction commences.

5.3 ANTICIPATED EXPENDITURE in 2019

During the 2019 calendar year it is anticipated that the following Council related activities (including in-house Council costs) will occur:

GOSHAWK WAY	Complete the very final part of the construction of the first stage of Goshawk Way and inclusion of associated services (water, sewerage, stormwater, power and telecommunications).
COMMUNITY HUB	Complete the construction of the Hub building, internal fit-out and preparation of surrounding areas. Open the Hub to the public.
PARDALOTE PARADE	Design the pedestrian section of Pardalote Parade, prepare and submit a development application and prepare construction specifications.
CARPARK	Finalise the design of a temporary public carpark (within parcel "N"), submit a development application and arrange for its construction.
PUBLIC OPEN SPACE	Design the playground component of the public open space, submit a development application and arrange for its construction.
OTHER COSTS	In-house project management, liaison with Traders in Purple, public communications and governance.
	Land Purchase (balance of site)
	Reimburse previous Council expenditure from external loans
TOTAL	\$4M

This year will see a consolidation of all of the major construction work that occurred during 2018 – primarily involving the Community Hub and the construction of Goshawk Way – two of the most expensive components for Council.

For Council, the coming year will see an emphasis on the design of future public facilities and their progression through the development approval process. There may be some unexpected delays, but the list above provides an indication of what is proposed during the current year. All of this expenditure (and that incurred in 2018) will be paid for from the abovementioned borrowings – that is, the existing \$10M loan and the additional \$6M interest-free loan.

6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

To date, public information about the project has been provided by way of:

- Public surveys – preparing the Development Plan and naming competition.
- Public exhibition of draft documents – such as master plans or proposed designs.
- General displays of proposals at the Civic Centre.
- Development applications for proposed site works.
- Newspaper articles, media releases and information on Council’s Facebook page.

- Copies of relevant documents placed on Council's website – including the production of a new Kingston Park website earlier in 2018.

A Communications and Community Engagement Strategy has been prepared for the Kingston Park project. The objectives of this Strategy are:

1. To provide information about the project and to seek input and suggestions as the project is being delivered.
2. To facilitate a broad understanding about the social and economic benefits that this project will deliver to the Kingborough community.
3. To enhance Kingborough Council's reputation as a council committed to providing accurate and up-to-date information, as well as consulting with and meeting the expectations of the Kingborough community.
4. To proactively identify and manage media interest in this project so that key messages are broadcasted to the public and other stakeholders.
5. To promptly respond to concerns about the project and to address any issue that requires clarification or immediate action.
6. To provide for an effective two-way dialogue that will achieve positive community and developer feedback and will enhance the overall delivery of the project.

The key messages within the Strategy are that:

- Council is committed to informing and consulting with the community regarding the future development of the Kingston Park site – with the project's progress being reported and details provided to the respective audiences (see below).
- Council is acting in the best long term interests of the municipality in the way it is managing the future development of this site. This project will improve the liveability of central Kingston and enable the creation of a sustainable central business district that can support the local needs of the Kingborough community.
- This is a particularly complex project with a number of on-ground components being delivered in a concurrent manner at different stages – including design, negotiation, approval, construction and maintenance phases. Each component supports the delivery of others and is being managed in a coordinated way.
- This project aims to be self-funding in that the community facilities are to be funded from the sale of land within Kingston Park (with a Land Release Strategy to maximise revenue) and external grants. Loans will be taken out in order to fund project management and construction and these will be repaid from external sources to the maximum extent possible with any Council 'subsidy' kept to a minimum.
- Council has already carried out many investigations – in regard to previous public consultation, economic feasibility studies, the Development Plan, Land Release Strategy, engineering designs etc – and these will continue to be refined and new ones done as the project progresses.

The delivery mechanisms include:

- Regular and established Council media releases.
- A Kingston Park website providing up-to-date information and background documents that detail particular aspects of the project – plus the inclusion of an “Our Say” public consultation forum – see www.kingstonparktas.com.au
- Digital and social media – information on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.
- Paid Advertising – mainly in print media but also potentially on local television.
- Signage and branding – the project has been ‘branded’ (see below) and signage has been placed at the entrance to the future Pardalote Parade.
- Meetings – briefings and consultation with stakeholders, State and Federal politicians, investors, interested groups and individuals.
- Public displays – provided as needed in the Civic Centre or other public places.
- Public information – by way of public forums or as written information (brochures, reports and correspondence).

Council engaged consultants Corporate Communications to review the branding of the project and how it may be best promoted in a professional and coherent manner. As part of improving the public communications, the consultants developed a separate website for the project. This provides a platform where more information can be displayed and suggestions from the public can be received by way of the “Our Say” platform.

The brand that has been developed is as shown below. It represents a lively and dynamic representation of what the proposed development of Kingston Park represents.



Council will also be working closely with Traders in Purple and ensuring that the public is kept informed about their activities. This includes their future development proposals and the results of investigations into other opportunities that might attract private investment – particularly where they can provide local employment or public entertainment.

7. PROJECT GOVERNANCE

The implementation of the Kingston Park Development Plan is Council's responsibility. Council has retained direct control of the site development – including the provision of the core public infrastructure (Goshawk Way, Pardalote Parade, Community Hub, Playground and Public Open Space) and the subsequent subdivision process of the parcels that can be sold. The Land Release Strategy and the Project Development Agreement with Traders in Purple will guide the process and timing of land releases. The benefits of this more direct approach are that it allows Council to exert a greater control over the desired site development; ensures there is consistency in the standard of public infrastructure construction (eg high quality streetscapes); achieves an optimum revenue stream and facilitates the site development as early as possible (without land banking).

This requires Council to adopt a more hands-on management style. An internal steering committee closely monitors the project and a full-time Project Manager is appointed to oversee the implementation of the on-ground works. A Probity Advisor from the consultancy firm Wise Lord & Ferguson is an observer on the steering committee and provides procurement and governance advice. A Principal Property Advisor has also been commissioned to assist with commercial land negotiations. Reports to Council are provided whenever major decisions or regular updates are required.

Council is conscious of a perception that it may have a conflict of interest – in that Council is effectively both the developer and the planning authority. The mitigating factors in this regard are that this dual role is already provided for in the legislation; the existing Kingston Park Specific Area Plan within the planning scheme leaves Council with little discretion; Council's construction work (requiring planning permits) is limited to public infrastructure and facilities; the underlying objective of the Development Plan is to support and encourage other commercial developments in central Kingston; and that this project is so important to the Kingborough community that its management cannot be delegated to any other body.

Bearing in mind the above points, the project will continue to be overseen by the Council and the existing internal steering committee. This Implementation Report forms the main communication mechanism for updating the general community on the project's progress.

The main contact officers in regard to this project are:

Tony Ferrier
Deputy General Manager
Kingborough Council
tferrier@kingborough.tas.gov.au

Steve Loxley
Kingston Park Project Manager
Kingborough Council
sloxley@kingborough.tas.gov.au

Sarah Wilcox
Media and Communications Officer
Kingborough Council
swilcox@kingborough.tas.gov.au