



Moreland City Council



Department of Justice

## INFO SHEET NO.3 – 10 July 2014

### “JEWELL OF BRUNSWICK” – NEW PUBLIC SPACE AT WILSON AVENUE

#### **What is the “Jewell of Brunswick” Public Space project?**

The “Jewell of Brunswick” is a project to build a new public space on Wilson Avenue, between Sydney Road and Black Street, Brunswick. This is part of a wider program of urban renewal in the Jewell Precinct, as identified in State Government’s *Plan Melbourne*. The Department of Justice have provided Moreland City Council with a grant to build a new public space, plus urban bouldering wall, at this location and Council has allocated funds towards the project. A “Pop Up Park” was installed at this location during Feb and March 2014.

#### **Have Moreland City Council made the decision to close the road and build a new public space?**

Yes, on 9 July 2014, at a meeting in the Brunswick Town Hall, Moreland City Council decided to close the eastern end of Wilson Avenue to vehicles and to build a brand new public space. This process was initiated by Council in December 2013. This was followed by a trial “Pop Up Park” period and then a one month public consultation period. Based on an evaluation of the issues raised by the 356 submissions received, Council made a decision to close this section of Wilson Avenue to vehicles and to establish a public space. 94% of people who lodged submissions supported establishing a public space at this location. See Moreland City Council’s website to view the Council agenda and minutes from 9 July 2014 for a full report.

#### **What is the project trying to achieve?**

The primary aim of this project is to improve safety and health in the precinct. In addition, this project will help to improve local businesses and jobs. This area suffers from litter, graffiti and various other safety issues, all of which we are trying to address. Significant urban renewal and population growth in the precinct is expected in the short and medium term. The Jewell Precinct is anticipated to grow and has great potential to be a vibrant, safe and well loved place.

#### **What else is being done to help address safety issues in the precinct?**

A public space, on its own, is unlikely to be successful in addressing public safety issues. The public space project is one part of a range of initiatives and interventions in the Jewell Precinct, which include:

- CCTV (locations in the precinct due to be installed August 2014)
- community safety audit and action plan (complete mid 2014)
- PSO officers at Jewell Station (mid 2014)
- Increased liaison between the Police, Licensed premises, community and Council (ongoing)

#### **What about carparking and access?**

A new public space in this location will affect existing on street carparking by removing eight carparks at the eastern end of Wilson Avenue. It must be noted that there are 1350 carparks around

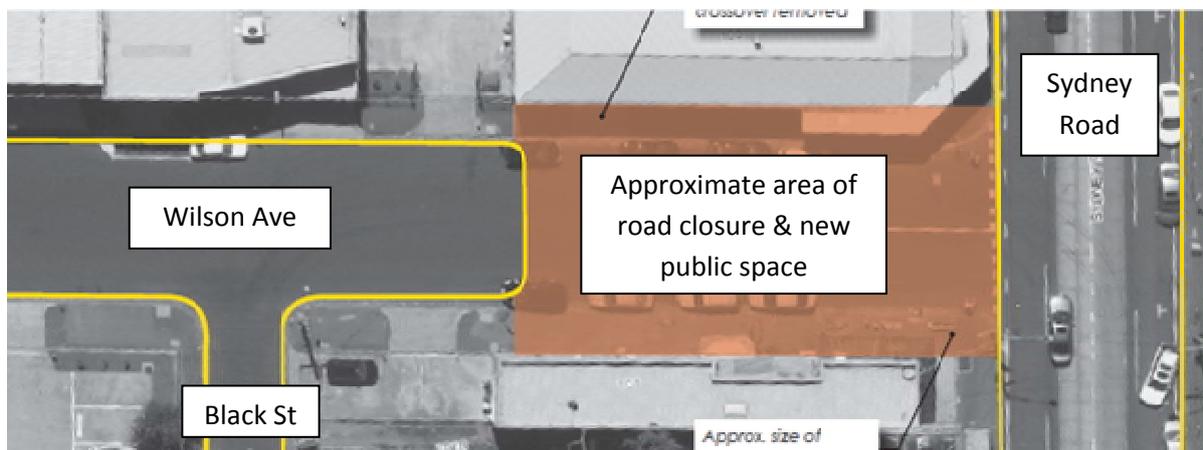
the wider Jewell Precinct. There will also be impacts on vehicle traffic movements on Wilson Avenue. Vehicles will have to use alternative access to Wilson Avenue, via Black Street or Little Gold Street (see alternative access map on our webpage). This alternative access has been assessed and is considered acceptable by Council and Vic Roads.

### What about the “urban bouldering wall”?

One feature of the new public space is an ‘urban bouldering wall’. The wall will be less than 3m in height, be surrounded by soft fall and be ‘route set’ for both beginners and experienced climbers. Council’s public liability insurance would apply as it does in playgrounds or skateparks. The idea with the wall is to bring people together in a positive and self-sustaining activity. The wall will be just one feature of the space, which also has trees, seats, lighting and will be covered by CCTV.

### What are the next steps?

Activity	When
Design Development	July – September 2014
Public Tender	October 2014
Commence Construction Project	January 2015
Open New Public Space	April 2015



For more information contact Council’s Project Manager – Brunswick Place Manager on 9240 1111 or [wcoogan@moreland.vic.gov.au](mailto:wcoogan@moreland.vic.gov.au)

*This project is partially funded under the Victorian Government’s Community Crime Prevention Program.*