



Coburg Library Redevelopment and New Piazza

Coburg

Our ask:

Invest in the \$60 million development of a new Coburg Library and Piazza in central Coburg.

Merri-bek's Coburg Library is the busiest and most central of Merri-bek's five libraries.¹⁶

Merri-bek and Coburg are forecast to experience a 35 per cent and 39 per cent population increase by 2051 respectively.¹⁷ Additionally, the Victorian Government has earmarked Merri-bek to be home to an additional 70,000 to 80,000 dwellings by 2051 (subject to Ministerial feedback). Brunswick and Coburg have been identified as Train and Tram Zone Activity Centres so these suburbs will welcome much of this new housing in Merri-bek. This increase in population and housing will increase demand on the Coburg Library, which will need to accommodate both the current and future community.

The Coburg Library opened in 1983 in a space that was once a supermarket and is now more than 40 years old. With a cultural shift in the role and function of libraries as public spaces over this time, and the increasing demand for library services in the heart of Coburg, the existing building does not have the space or specific facilities to meet demand.

A new fit-for purpose library and piazza will create new spaces, services and experiences for the growing Coburg community and be a key part of the revitalisation of Coburg.

The design for the Coburg Library and Piazza showcases a contemporary four-storey library building seamlessly connected to a new public piazza, creating a cultural and social anchor for the precinct. Key elements include:

- **A next generation library** with flexible spaces for reading, digital learning, creative and cultural programs, and community use.
- **A generous new open piazza**, designed as a welcoming and multifunctional public space framed by seating, lawn and trees.

- **Improved accessibility and precinct connections,** supporting inclusive movement and links to transport throughout the area.

Construction of Coburg's new Library and Piazza is expected to begin in mid-2028, and open in late 2029.

Libraries for health and wellbeing

It is widely recognised that public libraries improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and the community. Library services have a positive impact by providing access to physical collections, meeting spaces, technology and the internet, or more recent programs targeted at holistic social, physical, and mental health and wellbeing.

Research commissioned by the State Library of Victoria and Public Libraries Victoria in 2023 found the positive impacts of public libraries on communities outweigh the costs by double and that Victorian public libraries generate a net annual benefit of \$234.7 million in health and wellbeing benefits.¹⁸

Coburg revitalisation

The new Coburg Library and Piazza is a key part of the revitalisation of Central Coburg. Council is developing a masterplan to lead the revitalisation of Coburg and maximise community outcomes including providing housing (including social and affordable housing) that meets the needs of our community, an expanded public space network and integrated ecological systems to improve climate resilience, water management and biodiversity.

The new Coburg Library and Piazza is estimated to cost \$60 million; Council will look to partner with other levels of government to make this catalysing project a reality.