

# Footscray Learning Precinct

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## SUCCESSFUL CONTRACTOR ANNOUNCED

The Victorian Government has announced that Aurecon has been appointed to undertake the feasibility study which is the next step in creating the Footscray Learning Precinct.

The study is a crucial step in creating a landmark Learning Precinct bringing together early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary education in one place. It will compliment Victoria University and Maribyrnong City Council's University Town strategic vision.

Aurecon will lead a consortium of experts in project management, education, design, property development and cost planning. These include ACIL Allen, MGS Architects, NAVIRE Advisory and Wilde and Woolard. Dr. Julia Atkin, an international expert in education will act as a strategic advisor to the study which is expected to be completed in the latter half of 2016. The results of the feasibility study will inform the planning for the new Precinct.

## NEXT STEPS

Aurecon has been meeting with members of the Strategic Advisory Group over the last three weeks in order to quickly mobilise its team and ensure there is effective communication between the project team and the key stakeholders.

At a broader level, the initial stage of the feasibility study will seek to understand:

- The types of benefits the precinct will bring to students, staff, and the broader community
- The demand for the education services currently provided by the precinct, and
- Potential impacts and synergies within the precinct and what that means for current local providers of education.

## DRAFT PRECINCT VISION

The Footscray Learning Precinct Strategic Advisory Group has developed a draft vision for the Footscray Learning Precinct to guide the feasibility work. The vision is to create a world class urban education hub, providing excellence and opportunity for students in the inner west of Melbourne at all stages of their education.

The unique location of the Precinct at the heart of the regeneration of inner west Melbourne will enhance and broaden learning experiences and enable localized responses to the needs of children and young people via innovative teaching, community involvement, and connectedness. Key themes for the development of the precinct are:

- A world class urban education hub for the inner west
- Using its location, deliver innovative teaching, community involvement, and connectedness
- Deliver life-long learning
- Be based on partnerships (local government, university, businesses, and the community)
- Have a focus on the individual learner (individualized learning) and excellence
- Be future focused

The final vision and project outcomes will be confirmed through the feasibility study.

## STUDY AREA

Although the core focus for the feasibility study is local provision for the Footscray Learning Precinct, it is also important to understand the impact that this may have on surrounding schools. In coming weeks surrounding schools and their school councils will have the opportunity to be briefed by Aurecon on project methodology.

