

All aboard the Project Reference Group

A Project Reference Group is being established to inform the preparation of a Master Plan for the Leongatha railway land.

The project is part of the broader Leongatha Revitalisation Project, which is a priority project of Council.

The project aims to improve the railway yard and station areas to make them a focal point of the centre of town, building on the revitalisation works of Bair and Anderson Streets.

Based on previous feedback that Council has received from the community, the project will consider a new connection to town via the old footbridge pathway, car parking, new community spaces, rail trail access, coach stop and beautification works.

The project involves Council working closely with VicTrack, which manages the land. Councillor representatives on the group include Deputy Mayor, Cr Maxine Kiel, Cr Meg Edwards and Cr Don Hill. The Leongatha Railway Site Transformation Project Reference Group Terms of Reference was adopted at the Council meeting yesterday.

Following initial engagement with the Project Reference Group, Senior Strategic Planning Officer, Chantal Lenthall, anticipates that broader public consultation will occur in two phases.

“The first phase will raise awareness of the project and seek out new ideas,” Ms Lenthall explained. “After a draft Master Plan is prepared drawing from the first phase of consultation, the second phase will seek feedback on the draft Master Plan.”

While the railway corridor to Leongatha remains set aside for consideration of future transport services, the State Government currently has no plans for the return of rail to Leongatha.

“Council may pursue the opportunity to take over the lease of the railway land and become the land manager to improve the Leongatha railway site and its surrounds,” Ms Lenthall said.

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