



PETER KRENZ CENTRE Redevelopment

Community Bulletin / March 2022

The City of Greater Bendigo is planning for a long-term and multi-staged redevelopment of Eaglehawk's Peter Krenz Centre and is seeking feedback from community members on a concept plan to take this important and valued community facility into the future.

Your feedback is important so we can create a great community hub for everyone.

You can view the concept plan and provide your thoughts on it by visiting www.letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/peter-krenz-redevelopment by Friday March 25.

After considering all feedback the City will finalise the concept plan and look at options for funding this major project.



What is the project all about?

The City is looking to undertake a multi-staged redevelopment of the Peter Krenz Centre located in Napier Street Eaglehawk to create a more diverse and vibrant community hub including a new library and other facilities.

There are growing signs the Centre is no longer meeting community needs and expectations. Maintenance costs are also increasing due to the building's age.

A redevelopment of the Centre into a modern multi-purpose community hub will provide better indoor/outdoor connections to the surrounding precinct including Lake Neangar, the Eaglehawk Regional Playspace, McKern Skate Park and the Canterbury Park sports hub and gardens.

This precinct is a highly valued community space with hundreds of people visiting it each day for various purposes and the redevelopment will help to make the precinct more vibrant and an even better place to visit.

What facilities currently exist at the Centre?

Peter Krenz Centre currently features a range of facilities including a fully equipped gymnasium, group fitness studio, four squash courts, single court stadium and meeting rooms. It also features aquatic facilities including a spa, steam room and three heated pools (50 metre, 25 metre and toddler pool). Some of the current facilities such as the squash courts are no longer used.

What changes to the Centre is the concept plan proposing?

The concept plan is for Stage 1 and will involve demolishing part of the existing Centre, from about where the main entry is towards Lake Neangar, and then rebuilding it to create a modern multi-purpose community hub.

The community hub will connect to the Centre's existing aquatic facilities and include:

- A new library
- A new indoor/outdoor café
- A 24/7 gym with strength and exercise equipment including group fitness and wellness rooms
- Some rooms with kitchenettes and storage that could be used flexibly by community groups and service providers for meetings and other activities e.g. Maternal and Child Health appointments
- Public toilets to service the precinct

What about the Centre's aquatic facilities?

Stage 1 of the redevelopment is not proposing any changes to the Centre's aquatic facilities because they still have approximately 15 to 20 years of remaining lifespan. The community hub is the highest priority (or first stage of the project) because that part of the Centre is in poor condition requiring a full redevelopment.

Planning for the future of the Centre's aquatic facilities will be done in Stage 2.

What about the Croquet Club?

It is likely the croquet facilities will be able to stay in place for Stage 1 but will need to be removed in future stages. The City is working with Club members about future options for the Club.

Why move the library to the Centre?

The Eaglehawk Library is currently located in the Mechanics Institute Hall in Sailors Gully Road and is also an important community facility. However, the library has outgrown its current home and the Centre redevelopment provides a unique opportunity to incorporate the library into the community hub and provide a better library service.

Who has been consulted about the project so far?

In 2020 the City started working with a Community Reference Group who represent a cross section of key stakeholders and community members. They have helped develop the long-term vision for the project.

The Community Reference Group has recommended redeveloping the Centre into a modern multi-purpose community hub with better indoor/outdoor connections and the City has agreed that this is a good long-term vision.

The Community Reference Group's research, supported by technical reports, found the Centre's existing aquatic facilities still have approximately 15 to 20 years remaining lifespan while the Centre's other section has much less. This is one of the reasons the community hub is the highest priority or first stage of the project.

Who has developed the concept plan?

Specialist community facility planners and designers, Otium Planning Group and Peddle Thorp Architects, have worked with the City and the Community Reference Group to develop the concept plan.

Who owns the Centre?

The City owns the facility, however YMCA Victoria currently has the contract for the Centre's management. The YMCA have had a long association with Centre.

What clubs and groups currently use the Centre?

Some regular user groups include:

- Bendigo Hawks Swimming Club
- Bendigo Barracudas Special Olympics Team
- YServices Club of Eaglehawk – Men's
- YServices Club of Eaglehawk – Women's
- Empowering Eaglehawk

What is the history of the Centre?

The Centre was originally constructed in 1976/77 as a leisure facility. In 1994/95 the City enclosed the existing swimming pool into the complex and heated it to provide Greater Bendigo with its first indoor heated swimming pool.

Bendigo Regional YMCA managed the Centre under a lease agreement with the City between 1994 and 2019. Since then, Centre management has been undertaken by YMCA Victoria under a contractual arrangement with the City. The Centre management arrangements are due to be reviewed and renewed through a public tender process scheduled to commence in 2022.

Why is it called Peter Krenz Centre?

In April 2009 the City honoured the memory of the late Mr Peter Krenz by renaming it from the Bendigo Regional Leisure Centre in Eaglehawk to the Peter Krenz Centre.

Peter Krenz was the CEO of the Bendigo Regional YMCA for 14 years up until his death from cancer in October 2007. Peter was the driving force behind the growth of the YMCA in the region and it was under his leadership that the Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk YMCA's consolidated to form the Bendigo Regional YMCA. It was also under his direction the Bendigo Regional YMCA became a key service provider in our region.

In 2006 Peter Krenz the Greater Bendigo Citizen of the Year for his community service, regional development and outstanding career achievements.



GROUND LEVEL

- Main entry
- Reception, cafe and circulation
- Library
- Multipurpose rooms
- Outdoor seating
- Public toilets
- Merchandise
- Administration
- Kitchen and storage
- Existing aquatic facilities
- Existing croquet facilities
- Car parking

LAKE NEANGAR

EXISTING LARGE UNDERGROUND DRAIN

STAGE 1

FUTURE STAGE

LEVEL ONE

STAGE 1

- Circulation
- 24/7 gym
- Group activity rooms
- Changerooms

CANTERBURY PARK

NAPIER STREET

DROP OFF

EXISTING AQUATIC FACILITIES

EXISTING CROQUET FACILITIES

How will the project be funded?

The project is currently unfunded and it will require considerable, future funding commitments from the City and the Victorian and Australian Governments.

Major projects like this are a great investment in our community's future wellbeing and prosperity, but they do cost a lot of money and take a long time to plan. Future funding commitments from the City plus the Victorian and Australian Governments will be needed for the project to go ahead.

Even with funding from other levels of government, project affordability will remain a key challenge and the City will need to balance the need for this project with other community projects across Greater Bendigo.

What are the timelines for the project?

The suggested timeframes are:

Stage 1 – Fully design the community hub by 2027, and build the community hub by 2032.

Stage 2 – Plan for the future of the Centre's aquatic facilities by 2037.

What sort of feedback is the City seeking on the draft concept plan?

The City wants to hear your thoughts on:

- What you like about the concept plan
- How the community hub will benefit you
- If you have ideas for improving the concept plan
- If you have any concerns about the project and how those concerns could be resolved

Your feedback is important so we can create a great community hub for everyone.

How can I provide my feedback on the concept plan?

You can provide your feedback on the concept plan by visiting the City's Let's Talk webpage www.letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au/peter-krenz-redevelopment or via the QR code by Friday March 25.

Further questions?

You can email Deb Simpson on d.simpson@bendigo.vic.gov.au



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