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1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Summary

Upgrading the public realm of Kings Square to recapture its importance as the central public space of a revitalised city centre is an essential component of the Kings Square Redevelopment Project.

A draft concept design has been prepared for upgrading the square’s public realm which includes the following areas:

- High Street, within Kings Square (a reserve for recreation and public utility services)
- Queen, Adelaide and William Street road reserves, within Kings Square.
- Newman Court road reserve
- Open space owned by the Anglican Church around St John’s Church

The upgraded public realm will prioritise pedestrians with high quality landscaping and public amenity that will be a focus for civic and community activity. The reimagined public realm will become the setting for the new civic, library and administration building, and the new and existing commercial buildings around the square.
2.0 INTRODUCTION

Background
The Kings Square Project Business Plan, 2012, identified the importance of a high quality public realm to achieve the redevelopment project’s objectives and to support the significant public and private investment into the precinct’s buildings.

The subsequent Kings Square Urban Design Strategy, Kings Square architectural competition and Fremantle’s Economic Development Strategy all reinforced the value of a coordinated and integrated precinct-wide approach to the area’s revitalisation.

The community inspired FREO 2029 Transformational Moves, 2015, bridged the gap between strategic thinking and realisation of change on the ground to meet the community’s aspirations to revitalise the Fremantle city centre.

The Kings Square redevelopment project is one of a number of key actions or ‘transformational moves’ identified in FREO 2029. Accordingly, preparation of the draft concept design for upgrading the Kings Square public realm is being undertaken as part of a comprehensive urban design masterplan for an integrated network of streets, squares and parks across the city centre precinct.
2.0 INTRODUCTION

Design brief

The Kings Square Urban Design Strategy was adopted by Council in 2012 after extensive analysis and community engagement. This key strategic document has formed the basis of the design brief for the draft concept design.

Key principles of the strategy include:

- pedestrian space prioritised
- vehicle movements slowed and minimised
- vehicle servicing and some parking maintained
- the edges activated
- the square’s historic urban character respected and reinforced
3.0 VISION, OBJECTIVES & PRINCIPLES

Vision

A place clearly recognised as the civic heart and key commercial centre of a revitalised Fremantle. A place that embraces and celebrates city life by responding to and connecting with all that Fremantle has to offer as a culturally vibrant destination.

Objectives

- To create a community, civic, retail and commercial hub reflecting Kings Square’s unique place as the traditional ‘centre’ of Fremantle and a vibrant, active and safe place for people.
- To develop a landmark precinct that attracts and retains more people within Fremantle’s city centre including office workers, shoppers, visitors, tourists and residents.
- To provide a high quality public space which accommodates a wide range of uses from occasional major civic events to regular markets and quiet contemplation.
**CONTINUITY**
Distinguish public and private
Create a public space that prioritises walking and cycling
Promote continuity of street frontages
A place part of a network of collective spaces

**CHARACTER**
Places with their own identity
Promote Fremantle’s character and identity
Reinforce Fremantle’s unique urban patterns
A place with past and future heritage layers

**HIGH QUALITY SPACE**
Attractive successful places
Consider the human scale and comfort
Promote innovation, creativity and sustainability
A place that respects Fremantle permeability and materiality

**DIVERSITY**
Places with variety and choice
Promote mixed compatible uses in the private and public space
Support active ground level frontage facing the public space
A place with a broad range of experiences

**PLACES FOR PEOPLE**
Places designed for community
Create community and social networks
Active and passive spaces
A place for community, businesses and visitors

**EASE OF MOVEMENT**
Easy to get to and move through
Reinforce pedestrian movement patterns
Create attractive and safe routes and spaces
A place that balances different rhythms of users

**UNITY**
Distinguish public and private
Create a public space that prioritises walking and cycling
Promote continuity of street frontages
A place part of a network of collective spaces

**CHARACTER**
Places with their own identity
Promote Fremantle’s character and identity
Reinforce Fremantle’s unique urban patterns
A place with past and future heritage layers

**EASE OF MOVEMENT**
Easy to get to and move through
Reinforce pedestrian movement patterns
Create attractive and safe routes and spaces
A place that balances different rhythms of users

**LEGIBILITY**
Places easily understood
Favor landmarks as a way-finding
Create recognisable routes and nodes
A place with readable and customised public spaces

**ADAPTABILITY**
Places responsive to change
Promote activation, place making and events
Cater for social, economic and technology trends
A place environmentally and culturally responsive

**SAFETY**
Places to use day and night
Promote day and night activities and uses
Integrate surveillance and dissuasion
A place that engages community and businesses
4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

Context

By tradition, location and form, Kings Square is the civic heart of Fremantle.

The square interrupts the dense urban pattern of central Fremantle with a welcome green space and generous gathering areas. It provides a setting for two important historic landmark buildings – St John’s Anglican Church and the Fremantle Town Hall - both dating from the 1880s. The square is also home to the City’s central library and administrative services, currently contained in a 1960s office building adjacent to the Fremantle Town Hall.

All four sides of the square are surrounded by a continuous frontage of retail uses, including the former Myer department store.

Over recent decades, Kings Square has lost much of its significance and ‘sense of place’ in the Fremantle community through inappropriate architectural and landscape improvements and more recent shifts in retail location, shopping activities and on-line retailing. Its landscape is dated and no longer presents as the proud civic centre of Fremantle. The square fails to sustain the regular activities that would normally be attributed to vibrant city centres.

Consequently, there is a growing perception of the space as rundown and unsafe – particularly at night time.
4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

History and heritage

Kings Square has been a square for only about a quarter of its life. Established in the 1830s, its original purpose was to provide a suitable anchor at the eastern end of the High Street axis which visually connected the Roundhouse to the Anglican Church of St John’s in the centre of the square.

During the 1880s, the church was rebuilt on its present site to the north, the town hall was built and High Street was opened through the square to reduce congestion in the commercial core of the growing town.

By the 1920s, demand for space in the city centre led to development of the eastern half of the square in a mix of public services and commercial activities. The commercial uses were removed in the 1960s and Kings Square was returned to its civic purpose with the construction of an addition to the town hall to house administrative functions for the City. High Street was closed through the square, although much of the public space was still dominated by circulating traffic and car parking.

Besides several attempts in subsequent decades to improve the appearance and function of the space, the closure of Newman Street and removal of car parking from the square, Kings Square today essentially maintains the form that was imposed on it almost 50 years ago.

The current plans to upgrade and reimagine Kings Square are the next stage in its continuing evolution.
4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

Heritage listings

- St John’s Church and the church owned triangle of land are listed on the Municipal Heritage Inventory and registered in the National Estate and the WA Heritage register.

- King’s Square is listed on the Municipal Heritage Inventory.

- Fremantle Town Hall, which opened in 1887, is listed on the Municipal Heritage Inventory and registered in the National Estate.

St John’s Church

St John’s Anglican Church has had a long association with King’s Square since the first church was built in the centre of the square in the 1840s. The original church opened on 4 August 1843 and was demolished in 1852.

The current church was constructed in 1882 and for many years was surrounded by landscaped grounds covering almost half of the square. While the church grounds have subsequently been visually and physically integrated into the broader square, the Perth Diocesan Trust remains the owner of the St John’s Church land totalling 4,218 sq m.

There are formal agreements between the church and City of Fremantle dating from early last century that address public access, permitted uses and maintenance responsibilities for the church grounds. There is also the St John’s Anglican Church Conservation Plan (2012) that includes conservation policies for the site and landscape elements.

The church has expressed support towards maintaining a fully integrated design for King’s Square that ensures public access to the open spaces and maintains St John’s Church as a centre-piece of the public realm.
4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

Public Life analysis

In December 2016 as part of the preparation of the draft concept design, the City undertook an observational study looking at the current use of the public space in and around Kings Square on an ordinary weekday. Based on the Public Space Public Life methodology developed by urban designer Jan Gehl, the study analysed how people currently use the various spaces to set a reference point for the redesign process.

In summary, the key findings were:

- Overall, peak use of the square was between 10.00 am and 2.00 pm.
- Existing playground is mostly used in the morning by young children.
- Kings Square is a critical part of the broader pedestrian network.
- Newman Court/William Street entry point to the square is the most used.
- Streets around the square had higher activity levels than within the square.
- High Street axis is the most direct pedestrian route within the square.
- People sought out shade and quiet areas within the square to sit and rest.
- People attract people – sitting, watching and being part of city life were the most common activities.
4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

Built form and land use

Kings Square is currently surrounded by buildings of one to four levels that generally accommodate retail and hospitality uses on the ground floor and office activities and commercial services above. The Federal Hotel on William Street provides the only accommodation activity.

The proposed four storey civic building for the City of Fremantle will provide public library, civic and community facilities on the lower ground, ground and first floor levels with retail and hospitality on the ground level fronting both Newman Court and William Street.

The new five storey commercial buildings on the square’s east boundary will provide retail, hospitality and entertainment uses at ground and lower ground, and office use above.

Amendments to the City’s local planning scheme were approved in 2013 enabling new development of up to four to six storeys on the Queen Street frontage to the square. All new developments fronting Queen Street are required to have uses at ground level that activate the adjacent public space.
4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

Existing trees

There are 44 trees in the Kings Square project area consisting of the following species: Moreton Bay Fig, London Plane, Canary Island Date Palms, WA Red Flowering Gum, Lombardy Poplar, Rottnest Island Tea Tree, Queensland Brush Box Tree and Fiddlewood. The majority of the existing trees (41) are exotics or native to the eastern states (QLD).

The four Broad Leaved Paper Barks located in the eastern boundary of the Kings Square precinct are in private property. These are likely to be removed or transplanted by the developer during construction.

Since 2008 the City has been monitoring the health and structure of trees across the city including the Moreton Bay Figs in Kings Square. Consultant arborists have been engaged by the City to conduct specialised tree assessment and reporting to inform the broader city centre masterplan. When recommended, specific testing, monitoring and remedial actions have been undertaken to improve tree health.

The arboriculture assessment undertaken in September 2015 identified that although the majority of the Moreton Bay Figs assessed were in fair health, there were signs of decay particularly in the two trees south of St John’s Anglican Church. These trees do not have a healthy canopy (15m) when compared to the healthier specimens of a similar age (26-29m). The trees show decay associated with previous wounds, hazardous deadwood and limb decline (uneven limbs), stunted growth, reduced and sparse canopy (increased risk for decline and death which increases structural risk).

The large Moreton Bay Fig used for Christmas celebrations is in particular, recently showing signs of stress. The project team designing the new public realm is making the assumption the tree will improve in health and be part of the future square’s landscape.

There are seven well-structured and healthy mature London Planes in Kings Square that will be affected by the overall footprint of the new civic building and have been identified for relocation within the project area. In addition, there are three Canary Island Date Palms that will be affected by the urban design strategy and have been identified for relocation within the square, as part of the new landscape.
4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

Pedestrians and cyclists

The predominant movement mode in Kings Square is pedestrian. The movement patterns vary, including walking through the square, arriving and staying in the square, and entering the square to go to a specific destination. Over recent years, a series of modifications have been made to the surrounding streets to reduce the impact of vehicle movements and to improve the pedestrian environment. These successful modifications underpin the urban design approach which is centred on improving the pedestrian environment further.

Cycling is a growing mode of transport in Fremantle and is actively promoted by the City, including the introduction of a contra-flow bicycle lane in the Kings Square section of William Street. Site observations suggest most cycling activity in Kings Square is slow speed in nature and requires access in multiple directions across and around the square. Although the contraflow lane is used, it is also apparent cyclists use the broader public realm and coexist well with pedestrians with a minimum amount of conflict.

Vehicle movement and parking

The existing movement pattern for vehicles in Kings Square is one-way. Vehicles enter at Adelaide Street, traveling around the town hall and along William Street. Servicing and parking is maintained along most of the length of this route and detracts from creating a great place for people. In addition, the church has some parking allocation on the south side of the church building within the square as well as dedicated on-road bays on the square side of Queen Street.

Both Newman Court and High Street (in Kings Square) are constructed to allow occasional vehicle access for events and specific purposes. Newman Court has universal access bays that are heavily used by users of the visitor centre and library, and parking allocation for authorised vehicles that access mainly through William Street.

Car parking is viewed as detracting from the character of Kings Square.
4.0 SITE ANALYSIS

Sun, Shade and Solar Access

Summer shade within the square is predominantly from trees, particularly the trees around the church. Other than shade from awnings over footpaths around the edge of the square, there is currently little shade to the streets of the square. Many of the existing open spaces within the square enjoy substantial winter sun access as trees are a mix of evergreen and deciduous.

Shadow analysis has shown that potential new buildings to six storeys on the Queen Street frontage will marginally increase overshadowing of the Queen Street road reserve with very limited impact on the northern edge of Kings Square.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Urban character

The concept aims to re-establish the historic civic urban character of the square that was embodied in its three distinct (High Street, church triangle, city triangle) but interdependent parts. The concept also restores the square’s historical street pattern as a key part of the heritage of the place by redefining Newman Court as a shared space. The introduction of ordered street tree planting along all edges of the square, will also emphasise its spatial structure and civic importance within the city centre.

The draft concept aims to re-establish Kings Square as a vibrant, coherent urban space defined and enclosed by buildings and landscape. While a variety of public spaces are proposed (with the total area similar to the current area of public space) all of the square’s public realm will be integrated through the consistent use of a palette of paving materials, street furniture, planting and lighting that will be selected during the detailed design stage to reflect and reinforce a Fremantle sense of place.

The square will be able to accommodate occasional major civic events or gatherings, smaller more regular and organised events, markets and commercial events, shopping and alfresco spaces as well as quiet contemplative spaces.

The creation of a high quality civic space is central to the public realm concept for Kings Square and the following sections describe each of the five key spaces of the concept.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Trees strategy and public open spaces

The proposed tree strategy and public open space concept implementation will increase the tree canopy coverage, the soft landscape and the public spaces where pedestrians and community are prioritised.

- Existing tree canopy: 4,867 sq m, 14% coverage, 44 Trees
- Proposed tree canopy: 6,585 sq m, 19% coverage, 68 Trees
- Existing soft landscape: 2,073 sq m, 11.6% of project precinct
- Proposed soft landscape: 2,673 sq m, 15.0% of project precinct
- Existing public space: 14,059 sq m, 78.7% of project precinct
- Proposed public space: 14,074 sq m, 78.9% of project precinct

The Kings Square precinct including church-owned land, public realm and buildings (existing and proposed) is 17,857 sq m.

Tree canopy
Existing tree canopy represented on diagram (and data) was based on the arboriculturist survey and the proposed tree canopy was based on the mature canopy spread for each species. The percentage of canopy coverage was calculated considering the project precinct area.

Soft landscape
The soft landscape represented on diagram (and data) includes all landscaped areas (turf, mulch and garden beds) within project precinct and the playscape.

Public space
The public space represented on diagram (and data) includes the shared spaces (Adelaide Street, William Street and Newman Court), all the pavement and the urban room.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Tree strategy

The concept incorporates a strategy for trees that seeks to:

- retain as many healthy trees as possible
- improve the health of any existing trees showing signs of stress/decay
- relocate trees, when possible, that are directly affected by the new building works
- plant new trees to make up for the loss of any existing trees at a ratio of 2:1

Of the 44 existing trees in the Kings Square project area, 21 trees to be retained, 10 to be transplanted on-site (seven London Planes and three Canary Island Date Palms) and 13 to be removed. The causes of removal and relocation are: trees affected by the new building footprint or urban design concept, tree poor health and structural condition (risk assessment).

The trees to be removed include:
- Six Queensland Brush Box trees
- Two Moreton Bay Figs
- Two WA Red Flowering Gums
- One Fiddlewood tree
- One Rottnest Island Tea Tree
- One Lombardy Poplar.

The main species for removal is the Queensland Brush Box tree. These trees are unsuitable for a civic urban square due to high water consumption and shedding of nuts. Their timber is hard wearing and highly resistant to insects and the trunks and branches have the potential to be reused as street furniture and/or nature play elements in other City projects as identified in the Greening Fremantle Strategy.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Tree Strategy (cont)

The removal of two Moreton Bay Figs south of St John’s Anglican Church was rec-
ommended by the arborist consultant due to safety concerns associated with the
ongoing decline in health and structural condition of the trees (the fig tree adjacent
to High Street did not pass the risk of harm assessment).

The canopy will be increased in this area to 30 % with the relocation of five mature
London Planes to the future civic square and urban forest. In anticipation of this,
the City has commenced the 12-month preparation for transplanting the trees.

New trees will be planted along Queen, Adelaide and William Streets and Newman
Court in accordance with the Greening Fremantle Strategy objective to
increase city wide canopy cover from 12% to 20%.

The concept design incorporates a total of 68 trees and a total of 19% canopy
cover, with an increase of 24 trees to the existing number (with a 5% canopy cover
increase). Trees will be a mix of evergreen and deciduous species depending on the
requirements of the various locations (summer shade and winter sun).

The selection the tree species framing the square will be made during the detailed
design stage. The main objective is to have a deciduous, light foliage flowering medi-
urn size street tree that changes the square setting and creates interest year around.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Civic square and urban forest

A well shaded civic square is proposed adjacent to the town hall and incorporating parts of High and Adelaide Streets.

This location was traditionally one of the city’s major public meeting places and the proposed civic square is aimed to reinstate this function. The shade from mature trees, transplanted from Newman Court and High Street, will provide comfort and significantly reduce the heat island effect in the predominantly hard paved square.

The civic square will augment the capacity of the High Street spine and new civic building and lawn for major public events. The re-opening of Newman Court as a shared space with limited traffic movements will enable the occasional closure of Adelaide and William Streets for major public events in the new civic square.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

High street spine

High Street within the square, the civic lawn (in front of the new civic building) and the civic square (see below) will combine with the historic town hall and the new council building as the civic heart of Fremantle.

High Street is the major east-west axis across the city centre and Kings Square is a major focus along the spine. The High Street spine will be able to accommodate occasional major civic events or gatherings as well as smaller more regular and organised events, markets and commercial events. The spine will also be the place for street art performances and temporary artwork installations.

A civic focus will be provided along the axis by the ramped lawn integrated into the front of the new civic building. The lawn will be part of the entrance to the building’s first floor civic level as well as providing a north facing grassed area that can be used for a range of activities from casual relaxation to a viewing area for formal outdoor civic and cultural events.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Recreation and playscape

A children’s play space will be integrated into the design of the urban garden and focused towards its eastern end, close to the future proposed café in the new civic building. It will be a major and unique play space that draws on the principles of ‘nature play’ but applied to an urban setting. It will be integrated into the overall landscape design for the area, ensuring a balance between safety from vehicles on Queen Street whilst retaining an open and welcoming presence from within the square.

A community engagement process will be developed to ensure the design is driven by the aspirations of the community – including young children who will ultimately use the facility.

The first phase of consultation will commence late May 2017 and conclude in June. The purpose of this phase is to understand the community’s values and ideas for the play space. From this, a professional team will develop the playground design and present this back to the community for review, prior to finalising the design and integrating it fully with the broader design of the public realm for Kings Square.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Church yard and urban garden

The area between St John's Church and Queen Street will reinstate the urban garden character of the predominantly ‘green’ church yard that surrounded the church until recent years. This area will provide a softer, landscaped and more contemplative alternative to the civic square on the south side of the church.

The reduction of pavement on the northern side of the church and the implementation of the urban room will balance (slightly increase) the removal of grassed areas on the civic building triangle.

The church forecourt and outdoor areas will have improved amenity for church events, passive recreation and respite from the busier urban spaces in the remainder of Kings Square. The detailed landscaped design will investigate incorporating productive and sensory gardens as well as floral planting options.
ARTIST IMPRESSION OF HIGH STREET AND PLAYSCAPE
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Vehicle movement and parking

The proposed vehicle movement (trafficable width) and parking locations within Kings Square complies with the key principles of the Kings Square Urban Design Strategy adopted by council in 2012 after extensive analysis and community engagement.

Key principles of the strategy include:
- pedestrian space prioritised
- vehicle movements slowed and minimised
- vehicle servicing and some parking maintained

The St John’s Anglican Church parking bay located in Queen Street will be removed to widen the public footpath next to the heritage figs. The six (6) bays will be located in church-owned land, south of the church building.

Public parking will be removed from Kings Square and perimeter streets except for Queen Street. Parking bays for people with mobility needs, pick-up and drop-off, motorcycles, servicing and loading will be catered for in the precinct.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Shared spaces (perimeter streets)

The streets on all four sides of the square – Adelaide, William and Queen Streets and Newman Court – will be enhanced as high quality pedestrian spaces to encourage maximum activation from retail and hospitality uses in buildings fronting the square. All perimeter streets within Kings Square, except Queen Street, will be designed as ‘shared spaces’ for pedestrian, cyclist and vehicle use.

The detailed design of these streets will prioritise pedestrian movement and activity as well as seek to integrate activities across these (traditionally) linear spaces and increase space for economic and recreational activity. The City’s aim is to achieve the Main Roads WA approval for a Shared Zone and the elements of the redesign reflect the MRWA Shared Zone warrants. However, it is unlikely a formal Shared Zone will be achieved at the outset given that the streets do not currently meet MRWA Shared Zone warrants (particularly 10 km/hr and 300 vehicles per day). Measurements and application will need to be submitted once the design is in place.

While vehicles will still be able to access these streets, the pedestrian environment will be enhanced with shade trees, new paving, lighting, street furniture and wider footpaths to encourage alfresco dining. Vehicle parking will be limited to service vehicles, universal access parking and short stay pickup and set down.

Traffic control infrastructure will be in place to enable Adelaide and William Streets and/or Newman Court to be closed to vehicles for special events or other requirements.
4.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Queen Street (Perimeter Streets)

The section of Queen Street adjacent to the square (between High and Adelaide Streets) will be developed and promoted as part of the broader improved shopping boulevard that will eventually link Kings Square with the Fremantle Station (rail and bus) and the Victoria Quay waterfront.

The Queen Street’s pedestrian environment will be enhanced and integrated with the Kings Square design and character through pavement, street trees and furniture, whilst maintaining its traffic and bus route function (example below).
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Public art

The City is committed to the procurement of public art through its Percent for Art policy.

At this stage of concept development the art brief is likely to offer a range of opportunities:

- A number of integrated artwork sites within the new civic building and visible from the public domain.
- A stand-alone location in Newman Court.
- A concept design commission for the development of the play space.
- A concept design commission for street furniture in Kings Square.
- A concept design commission for the interpretation of the first church.

Across the artworks it is anticipated that the following themes will be represented:

- A celebration of Fremantle as an artistic city.
- A celebration of Walyalup (Fremantle) and recognition of Whadjuk Noongar culture.
- The cultural and built heritage of the square.

Every aspect needs not be in each artwork, however it will be essential that the artworks are site specific.

It is anticipated the project will not commission a free standing public artwork for Kings Square, but will use the City's annual Temporary Art Program to activate and refresh the square on a regular basis. The City has several pieces of existing public art in Kings Square that will each be considered for retention, relocation or removal.
5.0 CONCEPT PLAN

Event infrastructure and place activation

Kings Square is already well used by the community as a space for public events and festivals. It is anticipated demand will increase following the broader redevelopment of Kings Square.

The Kings Square overall concept design proposes a range of public spaces able to accommodate civic, cultural and community events of various scales (medium and small) and requirements:

- Urban garden        900 sq m    450-500 people
- Civic square (Adelaide St closed) 2,500 sq m 1250-1350 people
- Civic square (Adelaide St open) 1,500 sq m 750-800 people
- Urban room hub 1,300 sq m 650-700 people

Infrastructure such as power, Wi-Fi, AV conduits, water supply and other services necessary for a variety of events and activities to occur with ease, will be integrated into the detailed design.

The concept does not intend to provide infrastructure to cater for major commercial events, particularly those requiring large structures such as stages and marquees and fencing off areas of public open space. On the limited occasions that such activities may be approved in the future, it is anticipated event organisers will provide all necessary infrastructure on a temporary basis.
6.0 BUDGET AND PROGRAM

Budget

The overall project budget for improvements to the public realm in Kings Square is estimated to be in the order of $8m. Part of this, approximately $2m, was anticipated as part of the original business plan for Kings Square and will be used to fund upgrading works to High Street and Newman Court upon completion of the major building projects. The remainder of works to the broader public realm, including the proposed playground, will be subject to future council funding decisions.

Program

An indicative program for the public realm project has been developed as part of this concept stage:

- Draft Concept Plan: September 2017
- Community consultation on overall concept: October - November 2017
- Community engagement/playscape design: June - November 2017
- Concept development/integration: December 2017 - January 2018
- Design development/documentation: February - October 2018
- Phased implementation (to be determined): February 2019 onwards

It is likely the implementation stage will be phased over several financial years. The initial focus will be coordinating the timing across multiple construction projects and delivering upgraded public spaces surrounding the new buildings.

Some urgent works, for example the relocation of trees and associated demolition works, may occur ahead of schedule.
7.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A community engagement process has been designed to hear from the broad range of stakeholders in the project. This includes neighbouring property owners, community groups, government agencies, users of Kings Square, local business, local primary schools and the general public.

The engagement process will build on the community’s values, ideas and vision for the public spaces in Kings Square identified through the Kings Square Urban Design Strategy consultation undertaken in 2013. The design principles and the key themes from the Kings Square Urban Design Strategy combined with a range of technical information from the City of Fremantle’s policy framework and further consultation with stakeholders were used to inform the preparation of the Kings Square Public Space Concept Plan.

The purpose of the engagement is to refine the vision for the public space in Kings Square – how it will feel, how it will look, how it will be used, how it will be inclusive, how it will be safe, and importantly, how it will reflect the values and aspirations of the community.

In June 2017 students from five local primary schools participated in workshops to develop ideas for the design of the new play space.

The outcomes of the consultation will be used to prepare a final concept design for the public space in Kings Square.