5.0 City Campus
5.0 City Campus Plan

5.1 Overview

The City Campus is located in the heart of the Melbourne Central Business District, representing 6% of the Melbourne CBD office space, 2.78 hectares and 314,609 m² of gross floor area over 60 buildings.

The City Campus has grown from a single building built in 1887 to become the University’s main campus and is now intrinsically linked to the image of the University through its emphasis on design excellence. The City Campus is the only entire University campus located within Melbourne’s CBD. It comprises four major precincts, the City Precinct, which is almost fully developed, the Swanston Street Precinct that provides substantial development opportunities, the Carlton precinct which is built upon but includes many poor quality low rise buildings suitable for future redevelopment and the un-developed south-east corner of the former CUB site. There are in the order of 60 buildings overall, including many significant heritage buildings.

Most of the buildings are owned by RMIT, however substantial portions in the Carlton precinct are owned by the State. Although many buildings have been purpose designed for educational use, many also have been purchased and re-adapted for RMIT’s use.

Planning Principles

The City Campus will be developed to:

- Maximize the advantage of the central city location, by integrating the Campus physically with the city and minimising any duplication of services.
- Consolidate Central Teaching and Academic College’s activities as much as possible in the City, Swanston Street and Carlton precincts, with particular emphasis on the undergraduate programs and to allow for growth in research activities.
- Create a network of internal and external student focussed spaces that encourage interdisciplinary interaction, informal learning and access to support services and recreational activities.
- Expand facilities for core activities where required, through improved utilisation of facilities and incremental additions/renovations and the development of sites on the west side of Swanston Street.
- Consolidate office/administration space for support Portfolio functions on the City Campus to minimise relocation/renovations and encourage flexible usage wherever possible.
- Utilise leased space for provision of short term accommodation for co-operative research projects, externally funded project teams and start-up/spin off companies/incubator activities which have a limited future timeframe.
- Provide for student focussed services and provision of a mix of retail outlets to support the delivery of services to students and help facilitate a positive student experience.
- Continue to expand the network of linked ‘green spaces’ throughout the campus by developing courtyard space within developments in the Carlton, Swanston and former CUB precincts and improved recreational areas.
- Support the physical and functional requirements of RMIT Training and the RMIT University International College.
- Establish and develop a City Research Precinct, along with the Design Hub Building, to support RMIT’s strategic and business goals to significantly improve research performance.
- Provide appropriate research focussed infrastructure and space for research projects, research staff and RMIT’s postgraduate students.

Proposed Projects

- Upgrade of level 4, Buildings 8, 10, 12, and 14 to improve facilities for students, develop the Bowen Street interface and provide for a new major entrance from Swanston Street.
- The overall plan is to be developed in consultation with student representatives, RMIT Library and the Students Portfolio.
- Continued upgrade works to Buildings 8, 10, 12, and 14 to facilitate re-organised School facilities to provide optimum arrangements for the DSC and SEH Colleges.
- City Campus Central Plant and BAS system upgrade to enable efficient operation and improved conditions for students and staff. This upgrade may incorporate a tri-generation plant under the State initiative, Greener Government Buildings project.
- Media and Communication progressive relocation to Building 7 and 9 to release space in Buildings 6, 12 and 21.
- Further consolidation of Art and upgrade of student facilities in Building 2, 4, 6, and 24 enabling vacation of inappropriate space in leased facilities.
- Complete City precinct urban landscape, establish new landscaped areas in Cardigan Street and implement recommendations of the RMIT Urban Spaces: Post Occupancy Evaluation.
- Continue progressive upgrade of Buildings 51, 56 and 57 as part of the Advanced Manufacturing Precinct, Stage two.
- Complete development of the Design Hub on the south east corner of the former CUB site.
- Develop the Swanston Street site to provide a significant central teaching complex and enable relocation of the College of Business.
- Plan for future use of Building 108, once College of Business relocates in 2013.
- Develop the A Beckett Street site for academic use by the College of Design and Social Context, to accommodate the office requirements of the Resources Portfolio and Academic Registrar, and for student accommodation.
- Expand and refurbish the Swanston Library.
- Develop Victoria Street buildings to form a strong City Research Precinct to align with the DesignHub Building.
- Provision of space and facilities for the Research & Innovation Portfolio (including Research Institutes) through allocation of space in the City Research Precinct.
- Establish the School of Graduate Research in the City Research Precinct.
- Continue development of informal student support spaces across the campus.
- Refurbish Building 11 to provide additional space for graduate research.
- Replace the east facing façade of Building 3.

Community Engagement Opportunities

- Work with the City of Melbourne to achieve a range of projects as detailed in the City of Melbourne/RMIT Partnership Opportunities Plan.
- Lead engagement in the following City projects through the RMIT Quarter Committee; street closures; landscaping and streetscaping; and, the public transport interface.

Public Art

- Identify opportunities for the location of external public art for the campus.

City Campus Space Types 2010

City Campus Total Space and Student Trend 2010 - 2015

City Campus Occupancy 2010
RMIT City Campus
Heritage Building Overview

LEGEND
- Buildings that have been recognised to be of significant heritage value by either the Heritage Council of Victoria, Australian Heritage Commission (National Estate) or the National Trust of Australia Victoria.
- Buildings that are recognised by the Melbourne City Council to be of significant heritage or streetscape value.
RMIT City Campus
City of Melbourne / RMIT
Partnership Opportunities

LEGEND

Leased by RMIT
National Trust leased from RMIT
Development Sites

Carlton Precinct:
Closure to west end of Earl St. and staged provision of new central open space by demolition of B42, B95, and eventually B71.
Closure of laneways to Orr St./Cardigan St. block to create new development site with land swap to facilitate open space.
Pedestrianisation and landscaping of Cardigan St. with reduced lane widths.
Closure of lane way to create development site.

FORMER CUB Site:
Joint interest in successful development of site.
Potential for joint child care facilities as part of the development.

City Baths:
Opportunity for development of shared fitness facilities.

Franklin Street Closure:
RMIT supports closure and pedestrianisation of Franklin St. maintain delivery/emergency vehicles & carparking access to B14 from Swanston St.

Swanston Street Precinct:
Activate Swanston St. frontage to B10, B12, B14 through urban design enhancement.
Pedestrian crossing at Swanston St. to B8 and eventual closure to traffic.
Continue widening of footpaths to activate street fronts with new developments.

New Tram Stops
-Opposite State Library
-Franklin Street

Bicycle Lanes to Swanston Street

Justice Precinct:
Assist the National Trust to enhance identity of the Justice Precinct

Stewart Street:
Activate Stewart Street through urban design enhancement

Improving pedestrian access
RMIT City Campus 2011 - 2015
Student Centred Facilities

Activate Street Frontages
Through office uses linked to RMIT in terraces.

New Open Space
Staged Provision by:
1. Closing west end of Earl St.
2. Demolishing B42, B95
3. Demolishing B71

Pedestrianise Cardigan St.
Remove parking, reduce lane widths and landscape.

Franklin Street Closure:
RMIT supports closure and pedestrianisation of Franklin St. Maintain delivery/emergency vehicles & carpark access to B.14 from Swanston St.

Opportunity for development of shared fitness facilities - City of Melbourne.

LEGEND
- Student Service Core
- Major Centralised Teaching Spaces
- Activated Street Frontages Through Retail
- Leased by RMIT
- National Trust leased from RMIT

Future Development Sites
MCC to close lanes in exchange for new open space.
Food/student services to ground floor of future development.

CUB Development
RMIT Design Hub
Mixed use development incorporating Industry co-location opportunities & possible relocated Child Care Centre within commercial development.
Student accommodation and sports and gym facilities.

Hub & Student Services
B14, Level 4
Co-locate Student Services & Hub with increased student lounge space.
Remove existing temporary structure and add new single level in fill building between B12 and B14 opening to Bowen St.

B16 Storey Hall
Function centre
RMIT Gallery
First Site Gallery

B8, B28 Student Amenity
B8 - L2 Arts, Activities & Kaleide Theatre
L3 Student Union (offices, meeting rooms), RMIT Union (offices, Sports activity spaces)
RMIT Union Arts
L4 Food Services & improved lounge area
B28 - L3, Post graduate lounge
L5, Research lounge
RMIT City Campus 2011 - 2015
College & Portfolio
Consolidation Projects

New Urban Space, develop with MCC as staged development to eventually include B71.
Narrow Cardigan Street carriage way and landscape.

B54 / 57 Progressive Upgrade For:
Engineering TAFE
Advanced Manufacturing Precinct (Stage 2)

B55 Advanced Manufacturing Precinct
DSC Design (TAFE)
Architecture + Design
Engineering TAFE
Shared workshop facilities

B70 Maintain & Upgrade For:
SEH Engineering TAFE

B94 Maintain For:
DSC Art
Design TAFE
Media + Communication

B97, 98 Interim Use For:
I&D University College
R&I Research
DSC Research
Education

B91 Develop as City Research Portal

New Development as City Research Portal

New Development
RMIT Design Hub

Future Development Site
For use as required.

B51 Continued Upgrade for:
SEH Life + Physical Science
DSC Education

B13 Post grad. learning Centre
BUS Graduate School of Business and Law

B101 College of DSC Office

B15 Progressive Upgrade for:
DSC Research Centres
I&D Student Mobility
RIERP

B9, Progressive Upgrade for:
DSC Media + Communication

B1, B20, B21
Chancellery
PVC I&D, PVC Students
Meeting / Function Rooms
General Office Areas

B7 Progressive Upgrade For:
SEH Civil, Environmental + Chemical Engineering

B8, B10, B12, B14 Progressive Upgrade + Review Space
Allocations to Maximise Outcomes
For:
DSC Architecture + Design
Property, Construction & Project Management
SEH Civil, Environ + Chemical Eng.
Computer Science + IT
Electrical + Computer Engineering
Mathematical + Geo Spatial Science
T+L Library

B39, 49 Future Development Site
In interim retain use for:
B39 DSC Art
B49 DSC Art
DSC Architecture + Design

Future Central Teaching Space
BUS + DSC + SEH expansion as required.

B36 Retain Lease For:
I&D RMIT Training
(Pending long term accommodation review)

B37 Progressive Upgrades For:
DSC Art
Global Studies, Social Science & Planning

LEGEND
Leased By RMIT
National Trust
leased from RMIT/State
Development Sites

Issue date 9 May 2011
RMIT City Campus 2016 - 2025
Longer Term Development Opportunities

Cardigan Street Precinct:
Development Site for 8,000 sqm GFA
Potential to expand DSC + SEH uses as required.

Development Site for 7,000 sqm GFA
Increase potential for co-located student amenities on ground floor
from B57 and B94
DSC + SEH uses as required.

Roof Top expansion
1,000 sqm GFA increase
B70 2 levels

Development Site for 15,000 sqm GFA

Future Development Site with
5,500 sqm GFA office space

CUB Precinct:
Mixed Use Development.

City Precinct:
Continued Upgrade of existing buildings to meet program needs.

Roof Top expansion
2,000 sqm GFA increase.
B15 2 Level
B2, B6 1 Level
B7 1 Level

B2, B4, B6, B24 Progressive Upgrade for DSC Art.

Expand Library and Student Lounge
Remove Casey Plaza Lecture Theatre
and addition of new three level in-fill building opening to Bowen St.

Development Site
Enabling 21,000 sqm GFA Potential use by DSC and Resources Portfolio.

LEGEND
Major Upgrade Completed
New Development Completed
Development Sites
Leased by RMIT
National Trust leased from RMIT/State
Leases Vacated

Potential Development Site
Enabling 10,000 sqm. GFA potential increase for Central Teaching.
BUS + DSC + SEH expansion as required.