

LIBRARY AND LEARNING HUB WARRNAMBOOL

A partnership between **Warrnambool City Council** and **South West TAFE** to build an innovative library facility, purpose built for learning and discovery.



A life of learning

Learning for Life

This project will encourage and foster a life of learning culture across the whole community and life stages, including early years literacy programs, primary and secondary school digital and creative activities and support ongoing education and learning to drive economic, employment and social development opportunities.

Future Library



3,700+_{sqm}

90,000
*books, materials
and eResources*

Access to new
technologies

Expansion of
learning and
literacy
programs

More than just a library

- Study pods, discovery and research hubs and community meeting spaces
- Improved internet and technology access, training and support for a community of engaged digital citizens
- Partnerships with local and regional education providers, including kindergartens, schools, training providers and University of Third Age to extend our regions learning services
- Connections with cultural and arts organisations to provide cultural experiences and activities within the Hub
- Business spaces, resources and access to employment and job seeking support
- Expanded student bookshop and resource services, information services, café, group activity rooms and quiet areas
- Increased community use of library and learning services with between 500,000 and 700,000 visits anticipated every year
- Planned and designed to meet the needs of the community and region for 20+ years

DESIGN & CONCEPTS

- A concept plan has been developed that will support attraction of investment and set the foundation for building design, function and services
- The building will be located on the South West TAFE Warrnambool Campus
- The library will be significantly larger than the current facilities of 900sqm which are outdated and no longer cater for community needs and expectation
- Preservation of heritage and landscape features of buildings and surrounds
- Landscaping and entrance ways will open up the campus to the city in a way that is inviting and will allow for new wayfinding and interaction with the campus by residents and visitors
- The new facility represents a unique partnership between these two organisations for an efficient sharing of resources, facilities management and service delivery
- Activation of the precinct including new open space and parking in Gilles Street

VISION

The learning and library hub will promote a **'life of learning'** culture building skills for employment

A vibrant space where people come together to learn, create and work

A place for exploration, literacy, connection and enterprise growing community skills and confidence ensuring our region can participate as engaged and connected digital citizens

OUR EDUCATED FUTURE

A critical issue for the Warrnambool and the broader Great South Coast is the low reading and literacy levels which contribute to low rates of educational attainment compared with Victorian and national averages.

The Australian Productivity Commission reports that literacy skills are an essential precursor to success in school and education attainment and are also associated with better labour market outcomes (employment and wages).¹

¹Shomos and Forbes (2014), Literacy and Numeracy Skills and Labour Market Outcomes in Australia, Productivity Commission Staff Working Paper, Canberra

37%

Great South Coast

Residents aged over 15 years were more likely to leave school before Year 11

27%

Victoria

Project investment

A detailed background analysis and business case has been completed for the project. This is critical if we are going to secure the investment support we need. A submission has been made to the Department of Education and Training for project funding which is under consideration as part of State Government's annual budget process.

The Hub project not only brings together two significant organisations under the goal of more people learning, more people working, more people connected, it also represents a cost-effective and sustainable investment of infrastructure and service delivery for investors and the community.



Co-contribution

\$5.25m

\$15m

Project TEI

Government investment

*\$5.25M Includes Warrnambool City Council, Living Libraries Infrastructure Fund, land value and other sources.

*\$13.44m for the joint use library \$1.56m to support activation of the precinct

Strong Investment returns

2.76

Net Benefit Cost ratio

\$171m

Net positive economic impact

Project process

Using the concept design, further Hub design and planning work still needs to be completed, but we have taken a big step in making this project a reality for our community and region.

A program of consultation and conversations will be part of the next stages so that we can keep the community and other partners informed of progress and to bring ideas to the table.

The Hub will be an iconic destination which will activate the South West TAFE precinct as a hub of education and learning. It will link more students, more learners, more residents and more employers to develop a smart community of smart people.