

Wendouree Library and Learning Centre

Images: Indicative design only

Project Cost

\$23 million

Investment Needed

- Up to \$23 million

City of Ballarat Investment

- TBD. City of Ballarat is seeking to partner with State and Federal Governments to deliver the project.

Project Description

The new Wendouree Library and Learning Centre (WLLC) will be a creative learning and community space offering a comprehensive library, to Parent Place services, a maker space, community study, activity and relaxation spaces, a café area and free Wi-Fi.

Community Benefit

The WLLC will be a safe, friendly, welcoming place in one of the city's most disadvantaged areas, a meeting place for residents of all ages to study, read and socialise.

Why should Governments invest in this project?

Economic impact

- \$17.8 million in economic impact throughout the construction process

Job creation

- Ongoing 8.96 full time equivalent, with 118.55 jobs during construction

Address disadvantage

The WLLC will address disadvantage by providing improved access to library and computer services for a highly disadvantaged local population.

Social isolation is a major issue for many people in the immediate area, however, the small size of the current library severely limits opportunities to run enough complementary learning and wellbeing programs to meet demand.



Site Aerial as of 3 November 2023

Wendouree Library and Learning Centre continues on next page ➤

Note: All project costs are subject to inflationary pressures leading to cost escalations

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Wendouree Library and Learning Centre continued

The WLLC will meet the needs of Ballarat's new northern growth zone which is expected to be home to 18,900 new residents in the next 10-15 years.

Respond to Growth

The WLLC will meet the needs of Ballarat's new northern growth zone which is expected to be home to 18,900 new residents in the next 10-15 years.

It will also easy access for residents in the Ballarat West Growth Area which is forecast to accommodate 48,500 people by 2035-2040, and also for those living in small townships to the north and northwest of the City of Ballarat.

Voter appeal

The existing library, which is in a re-purposed shopfront at Stockland Wendouree is extremely small, has a limited collection and no capacity to expand programs to meet demand.

The concept for the WLLC has been warmly embraced during community engagement sessions.

Location

- On the edge of Weeramar Park, Gillies Street, Wendouree.

Status

- A more advanced needs-analysis of the social impacts for the area will be undertaken in early 2024

Timeline and Next Steps

Business case and soil testing
In progress

Detailed design process
To begin late 2024

Project shovel ready
Early 2026

Construction
Estimated to take 18-24 months

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