



Kippax Group Centre Draft Master Plan Engagement Snapshot

This engagement snapshot summarises the community and stakeholder engagement approach, activities and outcomes that have informed preparation of the Kippax Group Centre Draft Master Plan.

The draft master plan is available at www.act.gov.au/kippax

Strategic Planning Review for the Kippax Group Centre

In 2013, a strategic planning review (the review) of the Kippax group centre was initiated by Riverview Projects, who are working in partnership with the ACT Government to develop a new residential estate in West Belconnen. The review was undertaken in anticipation of the demand that the growing West Belconnen population is likely to place on the Kippax group centre in the short to medium term, or until a commercial centre is developed in West Belconnen.

The West Belconnen development proposal is for a new residential subdivision in north-west Canberra that extends across the border into adjacent land in NSW. The development is proposed to provide up to 6500 dwellings in the ACT and 5000 in NSW,

and will support a population of up to 30,000 people. If fully realised, this will occur over a 30–40 year timeframe. While a commercial centre is proposed for West Belconnen, timing for the first stage of construction is not anticipated for 8–10 years from commencement of the proposed development. It is expected that new West Belconnen residents will primarily rely on the Kippax group centre until this time.

The review examined issues, opportunities and challenges at the centre. It involved a number of preliminary studies including traffic and transport, retail analysis, and community and sporting facility requirements. The review was also underpinned by a consultation strategy which guided the community and stakeholder engagement process.



Stage 1 community engagement information and feedback session

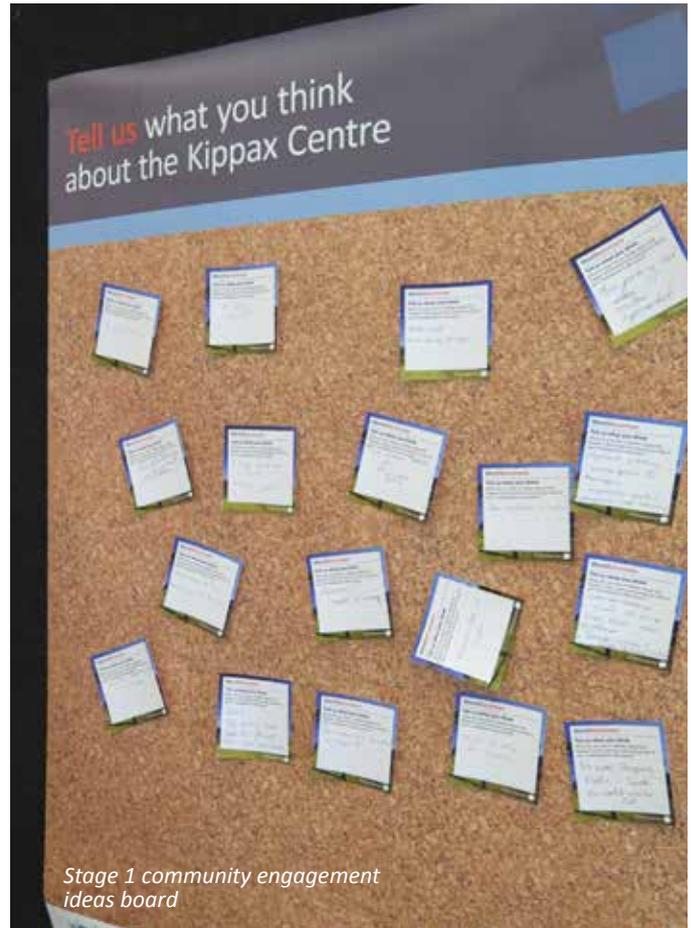


Engagement approach

A range of activities were undertaken during the community and stakeholder engagement period for the strategic planning review, which occurred between February and May 2014. This engagement aimed to ensure that people were involved in a way that was proactive and meaningful and that a broad cross section of the community could provide feedback and learn more about the process. Activities undertaken as part of the engagement have helped to build an understanding of why people visit the Kippax group centre, what they do and don't like about the centre and what they would like to see improved in the future.

A key element of the engagement process involved targeted consultation with government and non-government community, sport and recreation facility user groups and service providers. This process sought to build a stronger understanding of current demand, capacities to cater for future demand and issues or concerns in relation to community safety.

Activities included as part of this process included:



Stage 1 community engagement ideas board

Action	Description
West Belconnen Community Newsletter	An article about the strategic planning review was included in the West Belconnen Community Newsletter, which is distributed to all homes in Dunlop, Higgins, Holt and Macgregor.
Project flyer	A project flyer to inform readers about the review and timing of community information sessions was distributed to all homes in Higgins, Holt, Latham, Macgregor and Scullin.
Community and stakeholder information sessions	Two community information and feedback sessions were undertaken in March 2014. Participants were encouraged to complete a survey to provide ideas and information about how they use the centre, what currently functions well and where improvements can be made.
Survey	Surveys were undertaken in conjunction with the community information sessions and also made available at the Kippax Library.
Website and social media	The West Belconnen project website and social media sites were utilised to advertise events and share community ideas and suggestions.
Child and youth engagement	Targeted engagement was undertaken with students from Kingsford Smith School. These sessions were designed and delivered by school representatives, across a range of age groups. They aimed to gain insight into the students' ideas and aspirations for the centre and their local community.



Summary of key findings

Some of the key messages to emerge from engagement activities to date:

- Community members were eager to ensure that independent retailers and a wider variety of shops and services would continue to be accommodated and encouraged in the future.
- Support was expressed for retail expansion. It was also suggested that enhancing the range of retailers and services provided should be accompanied by an increase in the provision of community and recreation spaces.
- Surface parking, close to the centre core, was identified as an important drawcard for attracting people to the Kippax group centre.
- Parking capacity, particularly during peak periods was a concern to many. There was a strong view that the parking issues need to be addressed prior to any new development in the centre or the commencement of the new West Belconnen development. Concerns were expressed that future parking pressures may drive customers elsewhere.
- The current design and layout of Kippax Fair was considered by many to be an issue. Concerns were raised in relation to its current internal focus, difficult slopes and lack of legibility. Many suggested that the centre could be improved through a redesign to include one main entrance and activation of buildings fronting Hardwick Crescent through the inclusion of outdoor-eating areas (restaurants and cafes) and seating.



Hardwick Crescent car park

Engagement activities

The Environment and Planning Directorate has facilitated a range of more recent engagement activities, as part of an ongoing dialogue with government and non-government stakeholders. Activities have included ACT Government workshops, a presentation to the Belconnen Community Council committee, stakeholder interviews and discussions with community and health service providers.

All feedback received from the engagement carried out as part of the strategic planning review, along with the recent activities undertaken by the Environment and Planning Directorate, has informed preparation of the draft master plan for the Kippax group centre. The draft master plan incorporates and builds upon the outcomes and knowledge gained through these activities.



Holt district playing fields



- The existing layout and design of the centre was identified as a concern. It was considered that the location of the car parks, separating Hardwick Crescent east and west, are difficult to navigate and result in a sense of fragmentation.
- Hardwick Crescent was identified as both a concern and an opportunity. People suggested closing Hardwick Crescent to cars or opening it up to allow through traffic directly adjacent to Kippax Fair. Relocation of the bus interchange, to either the north or south of Kippax Fair, was also suggested.
- The centre's community and health service providers frequently work together and value being located close to one another. An opportunity to create a community and health services hub near Luke Street was identified. It was also suggested that Belconnen Community Services and the National Health Co-op could relocate to more suitable accommodation at the hub, allowing room for Kippax Fair to expand to the east.
- The need to improve access to the centre was frequently highlighted, including improvements to access roads and traffic management on Starke St, Southern Cross Drive and Florey Drive.

- Public domain upgrades were identified as a priority, including improving lighting, repairing uneven paved surfaces and adding more seating, shaded areas and trees.



Signage on Hardwick Crescent



Public transport facilities

Further information

Kippax Group Centre Draft Master Plan and previous engagement outcomes can be found at www.act.gov.au/kippax