



5. How, if at all, should the 2003 Vision for the Dickson suburb be changed?

The 2003 vision was designed for the suburb of Dickson and partly refers to the centre. Is this vision an appropriate foundation for planning the Dickson centre? The current vision for the Dickson suburban is:

Dickson should enhance its cohesive community where people of mixed age, income and cultural backgrounds will value its history and will be safe and settled. Dickson will provide a range of quality, environmentally sustainable residential areas that will retain a tranquil leafy ambience.

The business, government and community sectors will be vibrant and progressive, providing a variety of employment, education, shopping and leisure choices, serving as a hub, both for locals and people from the surrounding region.

The community commented on the 2003 vision for the Dickson suburb, suggested possible directions for a Dickson centre-specific vision and also suggested themes that it was considered a vision should emphasise.

General comments on Vision

- The word 'quality' is ambiguous
- Agree with 2003 vision
- Define the word 'hub' – don't want to see it upgraded from a group centre.
- Generally ok, but action and accountability for centre renewal
- Got all the elements, just needs true orientation of buildings for thermal comfort
- Government 'speak'
- The words vibrant and progressive could be changed; they have little meaning (vibrancy can mean Commercial change, not always positive)
- Vague - could describe a Westfield, no
- Too general
- Too generic
- Too long
- Universal phrasing lacks specificity
- Statement was very broad
- Timeframe – 2003 is a problem, what has happened since then?

General comments (Cont...)

- Meaningless because it is too broad
- Mostly appropriate
- Sustainability to all development including commercial – delete the word “should”
- Copy the word in paragraph one ‘enviro-sustainable’ to replace ‘vibrant’ in paragraph two
- Nothing about connectivity with Dickson and other areas
- Vision statement can be immeasurable

Possible directions for Dickson Centre Vision

- A statement relating to the centre as hub may be required
- Complementary development with Mitchell
- Consider including strip fronting Northbourne
- Consider relationship with other North Canberra shops and centres
- Include the word ‘family’
- Needs to be more defined in relation to local community and places
- Needs to focus on the difference of Dickson to other suburbs
- Needs to include focus on arts and entertainment
- Vision needs to encapsulate Dickson’s uniqueness
- Words to emphasise the future of Dickson as a diverse community, housing, people, economic status
- rather than using broad concepts, outline strategies
- Reference to Woolworths (or major retailer) as a necessary part of statement
- The Dickson Centre should reflect the nature of the suburb – environmental, leafy

A vision suggested by participants at one table:

Dickson will become a safe, cohesive, attractive, accessible and sustainable centre with a diversity of services and amenities for the local and wider community to enjoy, live, work and socialise

Suggested themes for a Dickson centre-specific vision

Accessibility

- Accessibility
- Accessible for disabled/bicycles within and without

Connectivity/transport

- Better connectivity with public transport, bicycles and pedestrians
- Light rail
- More parking – multi-story, free up land
- Public transport to neighbouring suburbs

Integration

- Cohesive
- Cohesive centre
- Cohesive, focused public space
- Community venues integrated
- Integrated precinct – better pedestrian access
- Integrating community and art sectors
- Integration
- Uniform sense of connectedness among the elements of the centre
- Overarching cohesive designs (while maintaining individuality)

Landscape Character

- Leafy ambience
- Emphasis on open space as a philosophy
- Pedestrian and green corridors
- Retain open nature

Hub

- Community entertainment centre
- Cultural hub
- Cultural/arts centre
- Entertainment/cosmopolitan
- Fewer restaurants
- What about the 'culture' of Dickson?

Character

- Character
- Character – small traders
- Compact development
- Diversity in style of outlets means usage patterns are balanced over the working week
- Family friendly
- Prime message: things must change through revitalisation
- Cleaned up and visually attractive
- Focus – town square

Public Realm

- Improvements to public spaces

Scale/type of development

- High-density housing restricted to near centre
- Higher density with focus on residential
- Walkable scale
- ACTPLA, architects and developers to ensure more pleasing building developments rather than the box looking development at the present time
- More diversity in shops – hardware, shoes

Sustainability/environment

- Environmentally sensitive/sustainable precinct
- Standards –environmental/architectural
- Urban wetlands?

Other

- Mixed age
- Primarily interested in implementation
- Relocation of Daramalan
- Safe