

# Hamilton Community Hub



## The Problem:

The residents of Southern Grampians Shire are experiencing disadvantage with regard to attainment of digital skills and access to broadband internet, compared with other parts of Victoria.

This economic and social disadvantage is heightened by the 60-year-old Hamilton Library being significantly undersized, no longer meeting community demand for meeting, study and activity spaces, resulting in community dissatisfaction and library programs being significantly oversubscribed.

This lack of access and skill shortage has negatively impacted on digital inclusion (22.1% of Southern Grampians residents don't have access to the internet compared to a State average of 13%), created labour force barriers that hinder economic development and resulted in social disadvantage and feelings of isolation.

Challenges also exist locally in finding pathways for post-year 12 students to continue with their education. These issues combined with the lack of modern digitally enabled spaces in Hamilton pose a range of problems in the region.

In addition, commercial office space is in short supply in Hamilton, with Council, Western District Health Service, a number of other Government agencies and our First Nations people all seeking office accommodation in Hamilton.



## Priorities Addressed:



**Economic  
Growth**



**First Nations**



**Community  
Health and  
Wellbeing**



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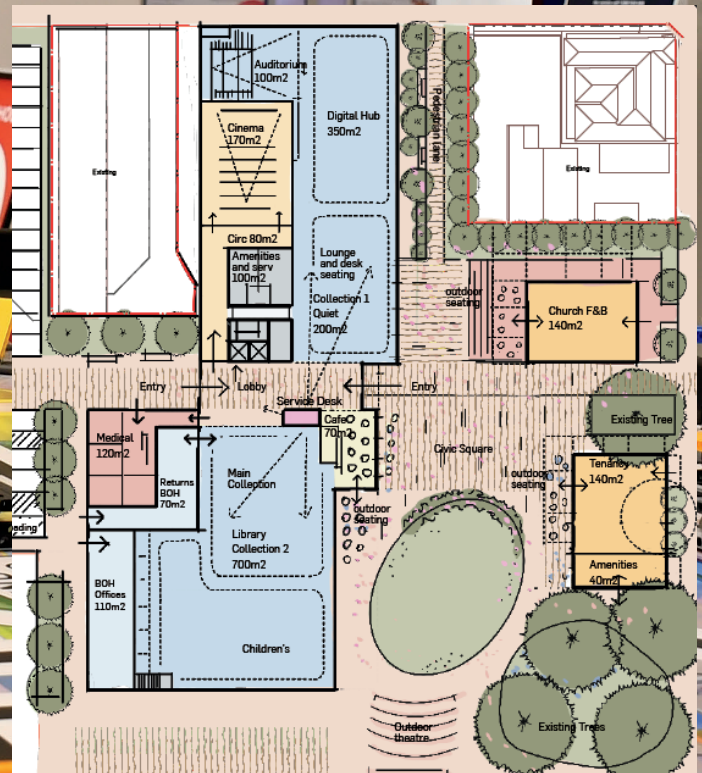
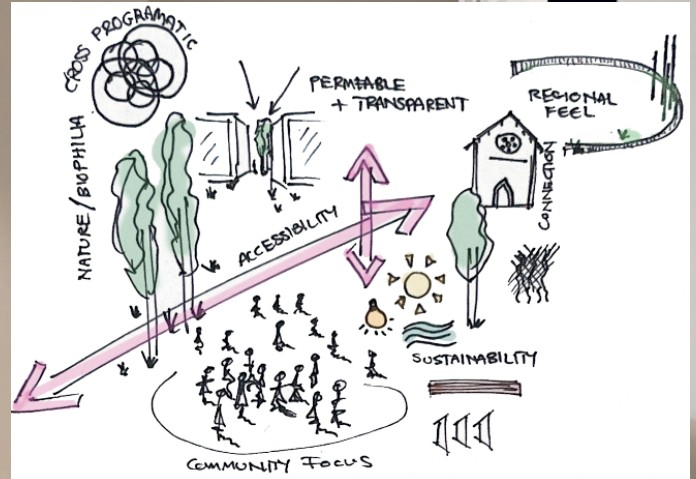
## The Solution:

The Hamilton Community and Culture Precinct (HCCP) is a once in a multigenerational city shaping opportunity to redefine what the Hamilton CBD means to residents, businesses, and visitors. The three key elements of the HCCP are our CBD Revitalisation, development of a New Hamilton Gallery, and development of a Community Hub. These three elements integrate to create a Community and Cultural Precinct that will activate unused central strategic locations, connect community, provide businesses with economic opportunity, and transform our visitor economy.

The Community Hub will include a new Hamilton Library, Digital Hub, community service area, and office space for Council, First Nations Organisations, and other Government agencies.

The Hamilton Community Hub will provide an integrated facility that can work to increase the number of young people staying in education and training, increasing our youth educational attainment; support business growth through digital access and meeting facilities; establish a multi-agency service centre that provides for community health and one-stop access to a wide range of Government, Aboriginal and community services.

Council has commenced the planning processes for the New Hamilton Gallery and CBD Revitalisation, and has undertaken preliminary concept planning for the Hamilton Community Hub.



## The Ask:



**Council is currently investing in detailed designs for the Hamilton Community Hub, and is seeking financial support to undertake construction, expected to cost \$15 million.**