

Wodonga CBD

Regional City, Victoria

Project Type

City centre revitalisation

Date

2005

ESD Role

Lead consultant

Project Size

About 60ha, the entire CBD

Client

City of Wodonga

Implementation Status

Adopted by the City, implementation under way



Aerial view of proposed Civic Precinct.



Proposed new City Offices.



Proposed new Lawrence St mixed-use building.



Proposed mid-rises along 'Café Street'.

Wodonga is a thriving regional city in Victoria, but it has struggled with sprawl since the 1970's, and the national freight railway divides its Central Business District (CBD)*. The railway occupies about a third of the CBD core, and plays no role for intra-city public transport.

In 2005 Wodonga Council recognised Australian New Urbanism as a positive way forward to attain the City's urban objectives, and all new major urban initiatives in Wodonga since 2006 are New Urbanist.

In June 2006 the State Government announced the relocation of the freight railway from the CBD within about three years, thereby introducing a 'chance-in-a-century' opportunity to redevelop about 19ha of surplus railway lands.

The CBD revitalisation will re-connect streets across the former railway land and redevelop several large key sites, all based on principles of Australian New Urbanism and with assistance from ESD. Streets have also been redesigned to enhance the public realm and maximise on-street parking. Design-based negotiations are ongoing with numerous key CBD owners to implement the plan.

A first major redevelopment occupies the northeast corner of High Street (the main street) and Elgin Blvd, a key quadrant of the CBD's epicentre. ESD preliminarily designed this development for the City, and now private owners are developing these lands in response to ESD's design. ESD was pivotally involved in the design negotiations for the City with the owners.