

School, artistic space and hub on the agenda

Blueprint for city centre

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A NEW primary school, children's centre, multi-purpose community hub and several artistic spaces are on the cards for central Geelong.

The list of public facilities is laid out in a report that examines the infrastructure needs of a Geelong CBD population that is expected to soar eight-fold in the next decade.

Released by the City of

Greater Geelong yesterday, the report analyses the CDB's changing face as it races towards a residential base of more than 10,000 people by the year 2028. The draft plan forecasts the need for:

THREE creative spaces;

AT LEAST one community office space for non-government organisations;

A LARGE multi-purpose community hub, capable of hosting large events and offering meeting spaces;

AN integrated children's centre; and,

A YOUTH enterprise hub.

It also calls for the State Education and Training Department to assess the need for a new primary school.

The infrastructure plan coincides with multiple developers pursuing high-rise residential developments.

These include the approved 21-level Miramar complex on Cavendish St, a 121-apartment block on Mercer St and a 410-

room project by Deakin University on Brougham St.

This is on top of the hundreds of workers being brought in via towering headquarters on Malop St for WorkSafe and the National Disability Insurance Agency.

The council's plan notes the pitfalls of the increased activity, stating community service agencies were leaving the CBD due to rising land costs.

"Community organisations

are also affected by rising rents or the financial gains from selling their land assets," it said.

"Holistic solutions to affordable office space problems are required."

With limited land, the new community spaces would need to repurpose existing buildings or gain allocated space in new residential developments.

Suggestions include using City Hall for functions, converting the City Square into an arts hub and encouraging pop-

up stores for events such as exhibitions, meetings and book launches.

The emerging trend of co-working spaces and pop-up spaces should also be encouraged.

The report states that 1230 people now call central Geelong home, with the population expected to top 10,000 by 2028.

Submissions on the plan are being received by the council until June 16.