

DRAFT FACT SHEET

As @ September 1

Yarra Park to be improved

1. As part of today's announcement, the MCC and the State Government announced a \$22m capital injection into Yarra Park as part of a comprehensive Yarra Park Draft Masterplan, designed to greatly improve the parkland.
2. The project involves renewal and rejuvenation of Yarra Park through implementation of the Masterplan, based on the original design themes within Yarra Park.
3. The Draft Masterplan will see the addition of new avenues of trees, selected tree planting, mulching on avenues, significant tree protection measures introduced, lawn upgrades, improvements to the playground, additional garden beds established, new pedestrian paths, additional park benches and tables, and the establishment of a gravel car park area for 150 vehicles.
4. As part of the Draft Masterplan, an underground water recycling plant will be installed, which will secure essential non-potable water for use in Yarra Park and the MCG. This water will ensure the park receives sufficient water, regardless of the drought situation.
5. The Draft Masterplan includes:
 - 5.1. Provision of tree planting, mulching, tree protection works, pedestrian paths and grass resurfacing.
 - 5.2. The securing of a non-potable water supply through the recycling of water for use on the parklands
 - 5.3. Retro-fitting the MCG for recycled water use
 - 5.4. Installing upgraded irrigation in Yarra Park
6. The MCC will invest \$16 million into Yarra Park to undertake the water-securing project and undertake greening initiatives, whilst maintaining an appropriate level of car parking for the venue. The State Government will contribute \$6 million to the Draft Masterplan.
7. This will significantly cut the MCC's reliance on Melbourne's precious water resources and restore the parkland surrounding Australia's most famous stadium, the MCG.
8. The project will enable the MCC to cut its consumption of drinking water by more than 50%.
9. The water recycling facility is part of the MCC's concerted effort to reduce its ecological footprint.
10. The MCC recognises its responsibility to balance the needs of the environment and community with its operations, particularly in this time of drought. It is making a commitment to using less water and energy, and generating less waste.
11. The MCC is working with local and state authorities, including City West Water, to finalise the detail of the water recycling facility.

12. The proposal will provide for a capacity of up to 180ML/year, from which 100ML/year would be utilised for the watering of Yarra Park, and a reduction in potable water consumption of up to 40 ML/year for the MCG – a cut of 50% on current use. This will remove the MCG from the list of Melbourne’s top 100 water users.
13. It is proposed that the water recycling plant be underground within Yarra Park to minimise any visual impact.
14. Under the agreement, management of the Yarra Park will be assigned to the MCG Trust. A consultative group will be established to allow for external input into the Draft Masterplan and its ongoing management.
15. The Draft Masterplan was created to retain the Park’s integrity and guide the Park’s capital development over the next five years and into the future. The MCC has brought together a well-credentialed team of independent experts to contribute to this Draft Masterplan, including independent landscape architects, arborists, soil experts and traffic management experts.
16. A recent City of Melbourne study showed that 18% of trees in Yarra Park are “under stress” due to drought conditions. While this is well below the average of 40% shown across all of the City of Melbourne’s parks, we are looking forward to being able to provide sufficient additional water to reduce this even more and greatly improve the overall amenity of the Park.”
17. Twenty per cent of MCG patrons arrive by vehicles parked in Yarra Park on an annual basis.
18. As a result of consultation between MCC and City of Melbourne, the volume of vehicles parked within Yarra Park has been reduced from 471,000 in 1991, to 253,000 in 2008 - a reduction of 48%.
19. The retention of car parking in Yarra Park is critical to the viability of the whole sporting precinct.
20. Parking has been allowed for events at the MCG for over 50 years, and for major events at Melbourne Park since 1988.
21. Currently, only periodic water supply is available to trees. The MCC does not believe this is sustainable.
22. Class A water is certified by the EPA as being safe for non-potable uses such as watering lawns. It will be safe for Park users.

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