

Wodonga's Citywide Transformation

Regional City, Victoria

Date

2005-2007

ESD Role

Lead Consultant

Project Size

Citywide, current population 35,000, growth plan for next 75,000 people

Client

City of Wodonga

Implementation Status

City has adopted and is implementing



Leneva Valley regional structure plan.



North Leneva Draft Plan
Ecologically Sustainable Design Pty Ltd
3 December, 2005 Draft



New community of Northwest Wodonga, integrating Wodonga TAFE and LaTrobe University.



Indicative sketch of CBD intensification.

Context/History

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 CBD. The railway occupies a third of the CBD core, and has a no role for intra-city public transport. 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.

In 2005 New Urban practitioners Peter Annand (AAUD) and Chip Kaufman (ESD) were independently introduced to Wodonga Council, which quickly recognised Australian New Urbanism as a positive way forward to attain the City's urban objectives. Since then, Peter has consulted extensively for the private sector, while ESD has comprehensively assisted Council. Council held a 'New Urban Initiatives Day' on 29th March 2006 to announce this transition. All new urban extensions in Wodonga since 2006 are New Urbanist.

Key Projects with ESD involvement

North Leneva, about 4km southeast of the CBD, is a mixed-use urban extension designed by ESD for about 25,000 people (with two more latter stage townships in the Valley). It will have a substantial town centre and several neighbourhoods. Council has adopted ESD's design into its regulatory framework, and implementation is under way. Whenby Grange (also redesigned by ESD) is likely to be the first neighbourhood.

Northwest Wodonga (see plan) will integrate a new local centre and surrounding community with the Latrobe University and Wodonga TAFE campuses.

The CBD revitalisation will (see Café Street sketch) 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 are also being re-designed to enhance the public realm and maximise on-street parking. Design-based negotiations are ongoing with numerous key CBD owners to implement the plan.