

## Merging Cultural Services in Perth

The City of Wanneroo is the fastest growing outer metropolitan local government authority in Australia. It currently has a population of 126,000, which is anticipated to grow to 250,000 by 2021. As with any local government facing rapid growth, the City of Wanneroo recognises the need for new infrastructure to support the growing community's needs. However, this has been taken one step further and, as well as endorsing the construction of a new \$20million building which will accommodate a library, regional museum and exhibition centre, the council also heralded the beginning of a new era in the delivery of cultural services for this area.

The new building will be the city's largest capital works project in over ten years and will replace existing library and museum services. Construction is due to commence in November 2007 with an opening in April 2009. The building will include a 1,420 square metre library to accommodate up to 60,000 items and a regional museum. Other spaces include a café, retail space, theatrette, conference and meeting facilities as well as exhibition spaces capable of supporting national A class displays. Overall, the facility will be over 2,500 square metres and house 45 staff.

It is intended that the building will create a cultural, information and lifelong learning centre that will reinvigorate the city centre as well as bring cultural experiences closer to residents. The facility will bring together library, heritage services and cultural development to forge a new service unit and create an opportunity to offer an exciting and varied cultural experience in the one space. This shared service arrangement will have several potential benefits including the combining of resources and skills as well as finding new and innovative ways to present learning and cultural opportunities to the community.



Artist's impression

*Taking to heart the concept of the 'third space', this building aims to be the first place in the northern suburbs for people to come to after home and work.*

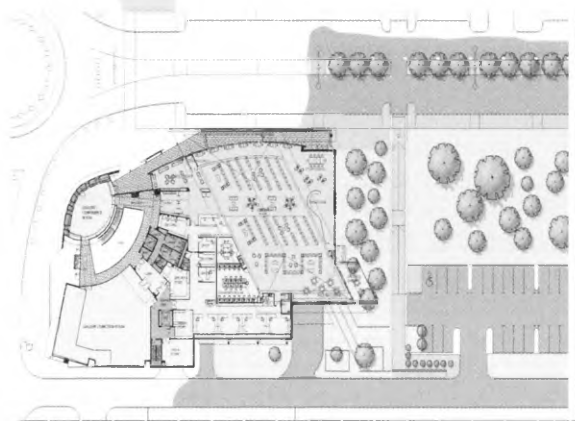
The new building is also the driving force for what will be a business and service transformation. Taking to heart the concept of the 'third space', this building aims to be the first place in the northern suburbs for people to come to after home and work. People will be able to use the library, see local or national art displays or museum exhibitions, explore the city's diverse history, hook up to the Internet anywhere in the building, even when having a coffee in the café. People will also be able to attend book clubs, art classes, family history talks, public lectures or just relax and enjoy the community space.

This building project presents a new and exciting model for customer and cultural services for three service areas traditionally treated as separate entities. The challenge of combining a building project with organisational restructure and re-engineering our business delivery systems at the same time is undoubtedly ambitious, but one that the team is working together wholeheartedly to achieve.

**Michelle Brennand, ALIA Board member  
Manager, Library and Heritage Services  
City of Wanneroo  
[michelle.brennand@alia.org.au](mailto:michelle.brennand@alia.org.au)**



Ground floor plan



First floor plan

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