



# Media release

**The Hon Matthew Guy MLC**  
Minister for Planning

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## A new civic heart for Carlton

Carlton will get a new civic heart with the ownership transfer from the State Government to the City of Melbourne of the Kathleen Syme Centre which is to become a new community centre.

The \$4.88 million sale has been a long running issue for Carlton residents who have sought action for many years to create a new civic centre for the suburb.

Planning Minister and Local Upper House MP Matthew Guy said the sale was expedited under the Coalition Government and represents the fulfillment of an election promise to Melbourne's inner north.

"This is great news for Carlton residents as the new civic centre will give the suburb a permanent community presence that has been missing for so long," Mr Guy said.

"The sale of the Kathleen Syme Centre languished as a non-priority issue under the previous government for years. It is hugely satisfying as the local Northern Metropolitan MP to have delivered this result, in conjunction with the City of Melbourne, for the residents of Melbourne's inner north.

Mr Guy paid tribute to the City of Melbourne and local community groups for their hard work in raising the issue of a permanent civic presence for Carlton for so many years.

"The City of Melbourne, the Lord Mayor and outgoing Councillor Peter Clarke all deserve great praise for their work to achieve this result for residents of Carlton," Mr Guy said.

"Carlton was missing a community centre and the City of Melbourne worked hard with local residents to achieve this great result," Mr Guy said.

Mr Guy's fellow Liberal MLC for Northern Metropolitan Region Craig Ondarchie said the Kathleen Syme Centre was a beautiful building and would be a terrific location for a new community heart for Carlton residents.

"I look forward to visiting the centre once the Council has completed the necessary interior works and to see it back in its prime as a community hub for one of Melbourne's most diverse and vibrant suburbs," Mr Ondarchie said.

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