

RAS Showgrounds Grand Pavilion

Peter Lim
Tensys Engineers

Summary

The Royal Melbourne Showgrounds has been a vital link between country and city throughout its 150-year history. To strengthen this tradition, the Government committed funding to redevelop the Ascot Vale site – one of Victoria's much-loved landmarks.

This redevelopment restored buildings and created new facilities. Environmentally sustainable designs were also used to deliver a quality, versatile exhibition precinct capable of hosting events and functions throughout the year as well as the Royal Melbourne Show.

The project aimed to:

- enhance the Melbourne show
- improve the link between urban and rural Victoria
- help Victoria's agribusiness sector grow, and
- create a flexible, multipurpose events and exhibition precinct

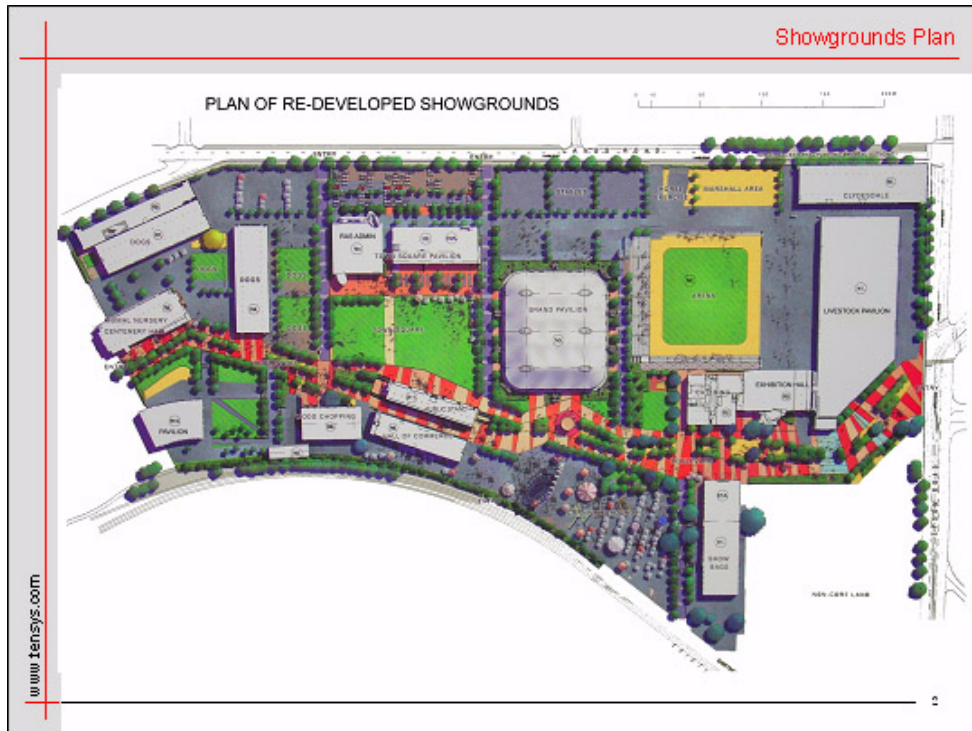
The new buildings and facilities at the showgrounds include:

- Grand Pavilion, providing 8,000 square metre of enclosed exhibition space
- Town Square, providing 8,500 square metres of grassed public open space
- a revitalised main entrance and Grand Boulevard
- 10,000 square metre Exhibition Pavilion
- 8,000 square metre Main Arena with 4,300 permanent seats

Some of the heritage buildings which have been renovated and restored as part of the redevelopment include:

- Centenary Hall, an art-deco hall built in 1934
- Public Grandstand, built in 1915
- the heritage-listed Pie in the Sky.

Two-thirds of the 27-hectare site will be developed as a venue for the Royal Melbourne Show, while land on the eastern side of the site near Epsom Road is planned to be developed for possibly commercial and/or retail use.



The future of the non-core land on the western side, near Langs Road, has not been finalised. The Royal Melbourne Show has been a major event for Victorians since 1853, successfully showcasing the best of rural and regional Victoria. The new Showgrounds will build on this history while contributing to the growth of the Victorian food and agribusiness sector and improving the understanding between city and country communities.

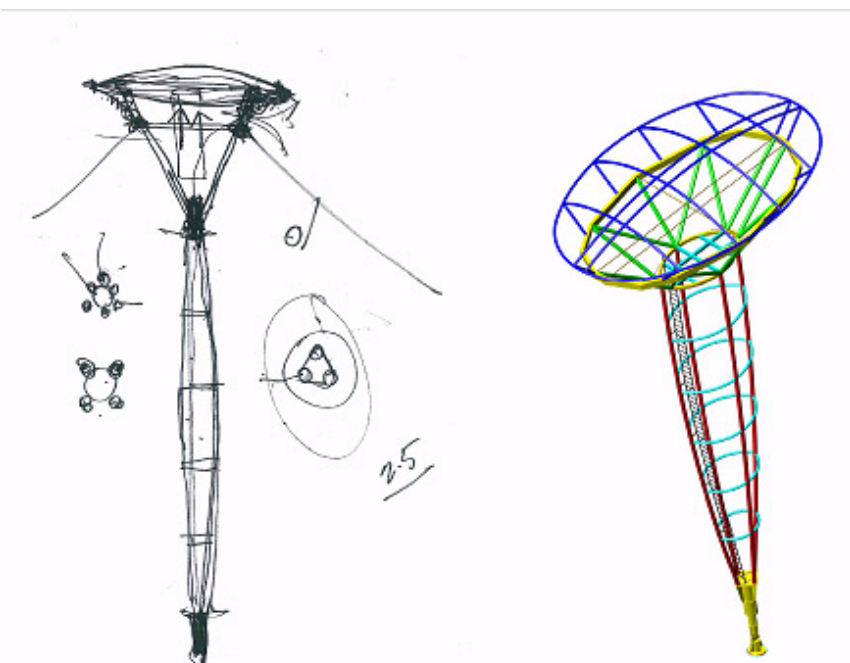


The joint venture between the State and the Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria is overseeing the project which will be delivered under the State Government's Partnerships Victoria policy. Any involvement by the private sector has been to best meet the project objectives and sustain the long term future of the Royal Melbourne Show.

PPP Solutions, comprising Multiplex Infrastructure and Babcock & Brown, delivered the redevelopment works.

Design Concepts – Overall and Mast tops

- A large plan area approx 98m x 84m to be covered
- Overlaying fabric over the area required some form of support
- A multi conical fabric form was decided as a lightweight solution
- Development and focus on 6 mast conic type structure



Perimeter mast head details received considerable attention to reduce the bulk and permit erection webbing to be wrapped around the smaller diameter but extended mast heads as shown below.



Erection





Final tensioning was done by jacking of the masts from the base.



