



Design

The new temperature controlled Distribution Centre at Victoria Street Wetherill Park has been designed as a modern, efficient facility, workplace and transport hub for the receiving, storage and despatch of fresh produce, milk and dairy, meat, chilled and frozen goods throughout Greater Sydney and New South Wales via the Primary Connect supply chain network. The brief from Woolworths was to create a modern, dynamic, safe and efficient work environment for its team members and visitors to the facility. A team members starts their journey every day at the security office in the basement, continues up the vertical spine to the mezzanine level, which is the central hub for most activity and focal point for their work day and their sanctuary during their breaks away from their workspace, to prepare for the day, collect their equipment and continue on to their work space. At break times the team members return to this central hub and the vibrant and relaxing environment of the main lunch room and cafeteria to either prepare their own meals or take advantage of the commercial kitchen. The lunchroom opens onto a large balcony with views over the dock areas and looking outwards to beyond the site through a border of planting around the perimeter. These areas are designed to provide team members a retreat from the work floor and a place to relax and socialise with team mates.

It is extremely important to Woolworths that the building is designed to be sustainable and achieve a 5 star Greenstar rating to lower operating costs, water and electricity use, improve the health and wellbeing of team members and visitors and improve productivity. This will be achieved through the selection of materials to make the building more energy efficient and reduce its impact on the environment, construction methodology and procedures to reduce waste and inefficiency, catching the rainwater from the roof for reuse, and using all the available roof space for solar panels. Woolworths are also looking to the future with provision being made in the infrastructure for a number of emerging energy efficient strategies such as a transition to EV and PHEV truck fleets.

The distribution centre is sits within a well established industrial precinct in Wetherill Park which currently contains a mixture of light industrial and food production with a mixture of building styles and construction. Through the use of modern materials and elevational treatments, subtle use of colour and landscape buffers along both street frontages the facility will provide an uplift to the area and provide an enhanced experience for local residents and people travelling along Victoria Street.

The facility is designed from the inside out. We start from the client brief for storage requirement, for both picking for despatch to the supermarkets and store, and reserve requirements for storage, how the products will flow through the site via the receiving and despatch docks, and how the products will be arrayed throughout to follow the layout of the Woolworths supermarkets and then work with the Primary Connect design managers to come up with the optimal positions of the docks, staging areas and racking configuration to create the most efficient layout in terms of both floor area required and reducing the pick path (the internal route through the distribution centre the Primary connect team members take to build up the order for despatch).

The site layout and traffic flow has been designed for safe operation and reducing distance travelled. Heavy vehicles enter and exit the site via Redfern Street to the north and circulate the site clockwise in a one way traffic flow. The docks have been positioned facing to the north and west towards the industrial precinct and away from the residential zones to the south and east. Team members and visitors traveling by car, bicycle or foot will enter and exit the site via the basement carpark driveway onto Victoria Street to the south. This provides a fully independent site circulation for both the heavy vehicles and team member traffic flow, making for a safer work environment.



Landscape

The landscape design consists of three main areas across the site, the two street frontages and the main office and staff amenities, which have been designed by the landscape architect to work in with the architecture of the building to both soften and compliment appearance and uplift the views from within the local neighbourhood, and to follow the ethos of the 'Greener Places' design framework.



The landscape frontage to Victoria Street will act as the formal entry to the site and will consist of organised planting, canopy trees and gabion walls containing locally sourced natural stone.



The Redfern Street frontage shall contrast in aesthetic by having a strictly Cumberland Plain Woodland Forest plant mix, which increases ecology tree cover and helps to soften the built form of the building.



The planting around the main administration office and staff amenities is designed to help make this the focal point for staff and visitors to the site and provide a zone to relax away from the work environment. The ground floor has planting wrapping around the building, providing a relaxing outlook for staff in the offices, and providing a contrasting and relaxing path of travel away from the heavy vehicle zones for pedestrians walking between the northern and western docks. The planting on the mezzanine level around the perimeter of the outdoor balcony provides both a relaxing environment and gives a contrasting experience to working inside the temperature controlled work zones for team members.