

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-07-10/former-cessnock-ambulance-station-to-be-reused-for-retail-space/5586312>

Former Cessnock ambulance station to be reused for retail space

Posted 10 Jul 2014, 6:44am

Cessnock's 50-year-old former ambulance station is set to be revamped into a boutique retail and commercial office space.



PHOTO: An artist's impression of Cessnock Central, the town's revamped ambulance station. (Supplied: VC Management)

PHOTO: Cessnock's former ambulance station will be revamped and turned into a retail and commercial space. (Supplied: VC Management)

The two-storey art deco building was purchased by VC Management a year ago, and council has approved plans for it to be redeveloped into a small CBD shopping centre, called 'Cessnock Central'.

At the back of the building on North Avenue and Keene Street there will be a courtyard for alfresco dining.

VC Management CEO Lee Woodward says the centre should be open in the first half of next year.

"It's an old ambulance station, beautifully constructed, but no longer practical for that usage," he said.

"We've decided that it's worthwhile retrofitting the building, it's significant in its profile, and putting some modern technology in the building, and some facilities for the community.

"We're going to place a central courtyard and an area where people can meet and relax."

Mr Woodward says the back of the building will be redeveloped into a courtyard for alfresco dining.

"April 2015 will be our target - we think it's going to be a nine to 12-month retrofit of this existing building," he said.

"It's an important part of a community's heritage and where it can be done, although it's not a cheap process, I think the end product is significant and worthwhile."