

## Report to the Future Melbourne Committee

Agenda item 6.1

### Greening Roden Street

3 October 2023

**Presenter:** David Callow, Director Parks and City Greening

#### Purpose and background

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Greening Roden Street Final Concept Plan (Concept Plan) (refer Attachment 2).
2. The Concept Plan responds to feedback received during community engagement in May and June 2023 (refer Attachment 3).
3. Greening Roden Street delivers on objectives of the North and West Melbourne Urban Forest Precinct Plan and the Nature in the City Strategy by creating 1000 square metres of additional greening, as well as a net increase of 27 trees and 800 square metres of biodiverse understorey plantings.
4. West Melbourne is identified as a high priority for additional open space in the Open Space Strategy 2012. The Greening Roden Street Proposal (Proposal) improves on and expands the existing small local link open space to improve usefulness and amenity for the local community.

#### Key issues

5. The Concept Plan responds to the needs of the growing and changing West Melbourne community by ensuring that the environment is better adapted to the effects of changing climate conditions. Implementing the Concept Plan will create 1000 square metres of additional greening and permeable ground area by removing paving and converting roadway into green space while maintaining its function, introducing additional tree and understorey species that will strengthen urban forest resilience and plant community biodiversity.
6. Community engagement on the Proposal was undertaken between 18 May and 15 June 2023. A high level of support was received, with 91 per cent of respondents to a survey indicating either strong (82 per cent) or mild (nine per cent) support. Minor design changes have been made in response to community feedback.
7. Car parking is being rearranged to accommodate the new green areas and traffic calming in response to community feedback and there is a reduction of approximately two on-street car parking spaces in the project area. In response to a specific survey question on the topic of car parking loss, a majority of respondents (72 per cent) supported car parking loss to allow for additional green space. As detailed design is undertaken, there may be minor changes to car parking numbers.
8. The Concept Plan will be delivered through the Climate Adaptation Urban Landscapes New Works program in the Budget 2023–24.
9. A road discontinuance process to partially discontinue sections of Roden Street and to narrow sections of the constructed road will be undertaken. Public submissions will be invited through a public notice at that time.
10. Pending the completion of detailed design and the public tender process to engage a construction contractor, it is anticipated that the proposed delivery program for construction will commence in mid-2024.

## **Recommendation from management**

11. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 11.1. Approves the Greening Roden Street Final Concept Plan (Attachment 2 of the report from management) to enable management to finalise the detailed design and tender for works.
  - 11.2. Notes that a formal statutory road discontinuance process for the partial discontinuance of Roden Street will be undertaken and referred to Council at a future date.
  - 11.3. Notes the proposed commencement of construction in mid-2024 subject to the road discontinuance process.

### **Attachments:**

1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 23)
2. Greening Roden Street Final Concept Plan (Page 5 of 23)
3. Greening Roden Street Engagement Summary (Page 13 of 23)

## Supporting Attachment

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### Legal

1. Implementation of the Concept Plan requires the discontinuance of part of Roden Street (Road) under the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989* (LGA). Once the Concept Plan is approved, Council will be required to commence a formal statutory road discontinuance process which will include a public notice in accordance with sections 206 and 223 and clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the LGA. Following the community engagement and hearing of any submissions received, a report will be presented to Council to consider whether or not the Road is reasonably required for public use and the suitability of the discontinuance.
2. If considered appropriate, a notice will be published in the Victoria Government Gazette to discontinue the Road.
3. As the Road is a government road, the Road ownership will revert back to the Crown. The Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action has approved “in-principle” support to the Road being reserved for public purposes in accordance with the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978* with Council appointed as Committee of Management.

### Finance

4. The estimated project cost, based on the Concept Plan, is \$2.75 million, of which \$1 million is expected to be spent in financial year 2023–24 and \$1.75 million in 2024–25. Funding for the project will be sourced from the Climate Adaptation Urban Landscapes New Works program budget, which currently has an approved budget of \$1.62 million in 2023–24 and \$2.06 million in 2024–25 per the Council Works Program 2023–24.
5. Project costs may be subject to change pending design development and projected market conditions. The final cost plan will be undertaken following approval of the Concept Plan.
6. It is estimated that the loss of two car parking bays will result in an annual reduction in parking revenue of \$12,500 from financial year 2024–25 onwards.

### Conflict of interest

7. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a material or general conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

### Health and Safety

8. Implementing the Concept Plan will improve pedestrian safety and participation by reducing road crossing distances and improving pathway surfaces and connections.
9. Expanding the provision of green space makes an important contribution to social and environmental resilience of the City of Melbourne. It also directly and indirectly benefits the health and wellbeing of the community.
10. No occupational health and safety issues have been identified.

### Stakeholder consultation

11. Community engagement on the Proposal was undertaken between 18 May and 15 June 2023. The Greening Roden Street Engagement Summary (Attachment 3) outlines the community feedback received during this engagement.
12. Community engagement on the Proposal was undertaken via the following engagement methods:

- 12.1. Participate Melbourne webpage created for the Proposal, which included an online survey, the Proposal, artist impressions, before and after slider, frequently asked questions, tree removal fact sheet and further proposal information.
- 12.2. 405 letters were sent to owners and occupiers with information regarding the community engagement process for the Proposal.
- 12.3. Two A1 sized signs were installed onsite with a QR code that provided a link to the Participate Melbourne website and advertised an onsite meeting.
- 12.4. An in-person onsite meeting was held with the project team and community members.
- 12.5. 8647 e-newsletters were sent to the Participate Melbourne subscriber community.

#### **Relation to Council policy**

13. Roden Street (between Spencer and King Streets) was identified for priority planting in years 5 to 7 (2019–21) of the North and West Melbourne Urban Forest Precinct Plan, a key implementation tool of the Urban Forest Strategy 2012. The Greening Roden Street project will introduce additional tree and understorey species that will strengthen urban forest resilience and plant community biodiversity and deliver on the Nature in the City Strategy 2017.
14. West Melbourne is identified as a high priority for additional open space in the Open Space Strategy 2012. The Greening Roden Street project responds to the needs of the growing and changing West Melbourne community by increasing the quantity and quality of public green space and ensuring the environment is better adapted to the effects of changing climate conditions.

#### **Environmental sustainability**

15. The total amount of green space and permeable ground on Roden Street (between Spencer and King Streets) will increase from approximately 1000 square metres to 2150 square metres.
16. 17 trees in stress or decline have been identified for removal as part of the project. The project will replace these trees and improve the growing conditions.
17. A net increase of 27 native Australian tree species is proposed in the Concept Plan, which will increase shade provision, canopy cover, and contribute to improving biodiversity and local area cooling in the warmer months.
18. The introduction of over 800 square metres of garden beds will further increase biodiversity in the city.



# FINAL CONCEPT GREENING RODEN STREET PROPOSAL WEST MELBOURNE

# EXISTING CONDITIONS

## RODEN STREET, WEST MELBOURNE



### LEGEND

- Existing tree
- Existing pavers
- Lawn

### BACKGROUND

In line with our Open Space Strategy, Urban Forest Strategy, and West Melbourne Structure Plan, we're committed to increasing open space and tree canopy cover across the city, to help adapt to climate change, mitigate the urban heat-island effect, and create healthier and more enjoyable landscapes for our community.

The City of Melbourne is proposing to improve the look, environment, and liveability of Roden Street between King and Spencer Streets. The Street Greening Proposal transforms the streetscape with an increase of lawn, additional trees, biodiverse garden beds and traffic calming measures. The project team at City of Melbourne has worked hard to assess the technical feasibility of this street greening project, undertaking soil testing, traffic swept path analysis, service proving and assessment of existing trees to ensure the proposal is achievable.

The Callistemon (Bottle Brush) street trees indicated for removal have been assessed and identified by an independent arborist as having low retention value due to sustained and ongoing Saw Fly larvae damage. A tree removal fact sheet for Roden Street is available on the Greening Roden Street proposal website: [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greening-roden-street](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greening-roden-street)

The proposed removal of the Callistemons will allow for increased and improved growing conditions, to support the growth of a thriving and healthy tree community.

# GREENING RODEN STREET PROPOSAL

## WEST MELBOURNE



### LEGEND

- Proposed tree
- Proposed garden
- Lawn
- Existing tree
- Tree to be removed
- Paving
- Granitic gravel
- Speed hump

### PROJECT SUMMARY

By expanding the green space and reducing paving along Roden Street we will be able to create a larger, more beautiful and functional green space for the local community to enjoy.

The Greening Proposal transforms the streetscape with:

- 1000sqm of additional greening and permeable ground through the removal of paving and the conversion of roadway
- The creation of a new path network
- Increased canopy
- Biodiverse garden beds
- Traffic calming with the introduction of a speed hump where the road transitions from two-way to one-way. This will discourage vehicles driving the wrong way up the one-way section.

The proposed design increases green space and tree canopy, improves local area cooling, enhances native ecology and stormwater retention, improves pedestrian connectivity, and provides a more pleasant user experience.

To create the new green space, we will need to relocate some of the existing car parks from the proposed closed section of Roden Street. The new parking configuration will match the existing parking conditions seen towards Spencer Street.

This is represented in the above concept plan and further illustrated through the following artist impressions.



# GREENING RODEN STREET PROPOSAL

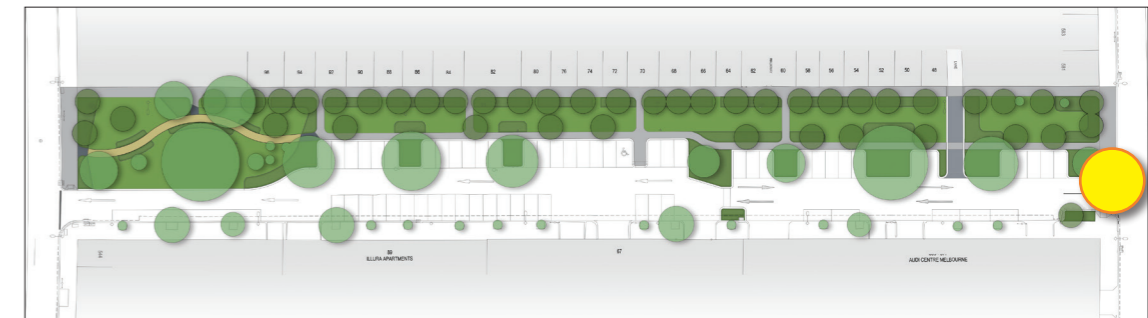
## WEST MELBOURNE



ARTIST IMPRESSION: VIEW FROM KING STREET



VIEW LOCATION PLAN





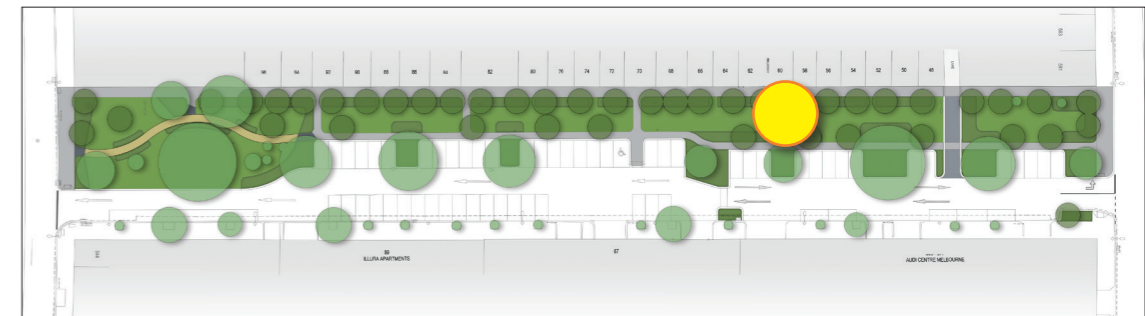
# GREENING RODEN STREET PROPOSAL

## WEST MELBOURNE

ARTIST IMPRESSION: VIEW OF THE PROPOSED GREEN SPACE



VIEW LOCATION PLAN





# GREENING RODEN STREET PROPOSAL

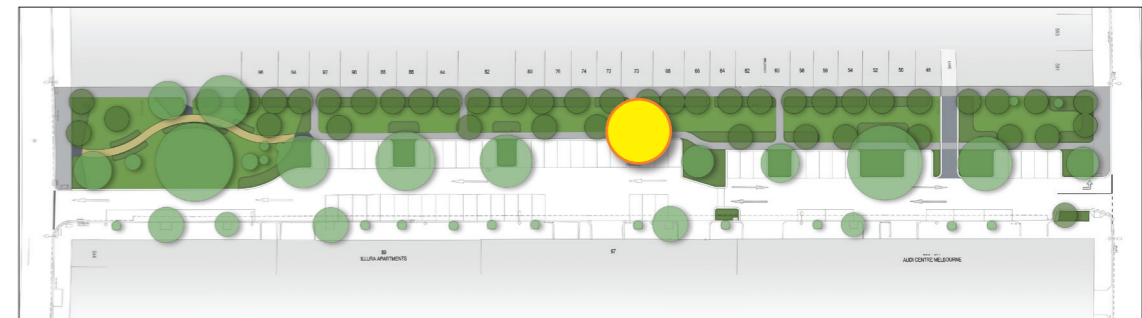
## WEST MELBOURNE



ARTIST IMPRESSION: VIEW OF THE PROPOSED GREEN SPACE, PARKING CONFIGURATION & SPEED HUMP



VIEW LOCATION PLAN





# GREENING RODEN STREET PROPOSAL

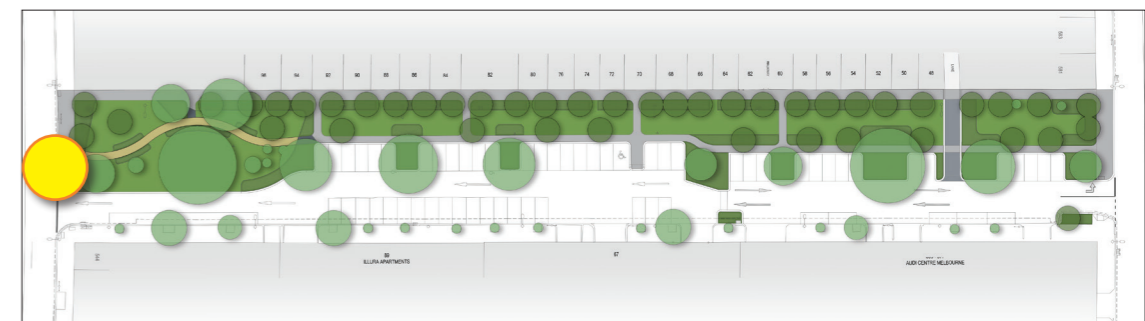
## WEST MELBOURNE



ARTIST IMPRESSION: VIEW FROM SPENCER STREET



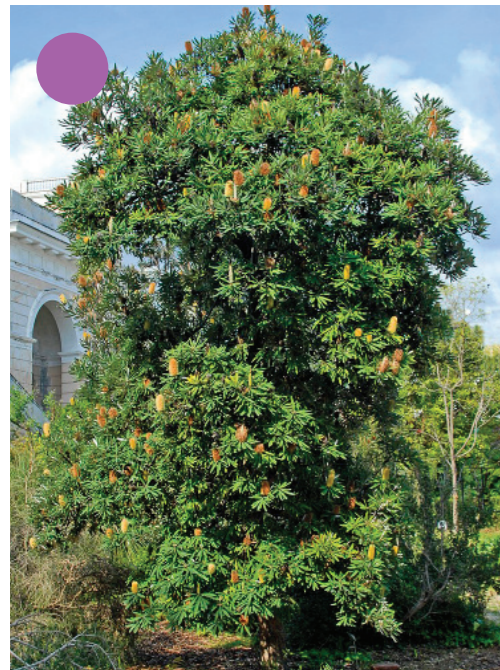
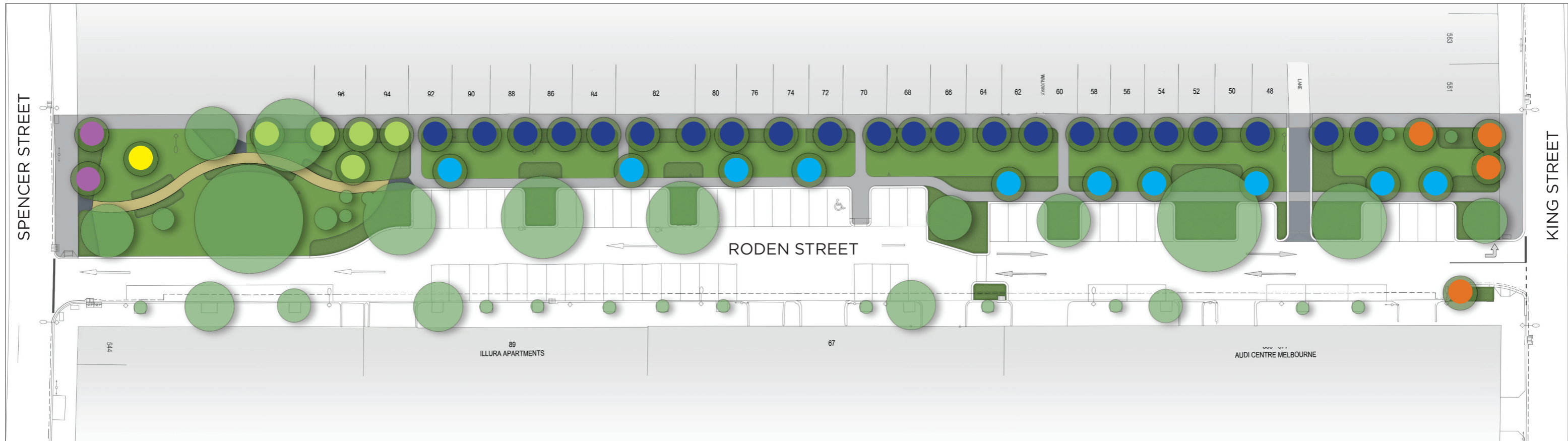
VIEW LOCATION PLAN





# GREENING RODEN STREET - PROPOSED TREES

## WEST MELBOURNE



*Banksia serrata* (H: 5m)



*Corymbia citriodora* (H: 12m)



*Backhousia myrtifolia* (H: 3m)



*Hakea laurina* (H: 4m)



*Melia azedarach* (H: 6m)

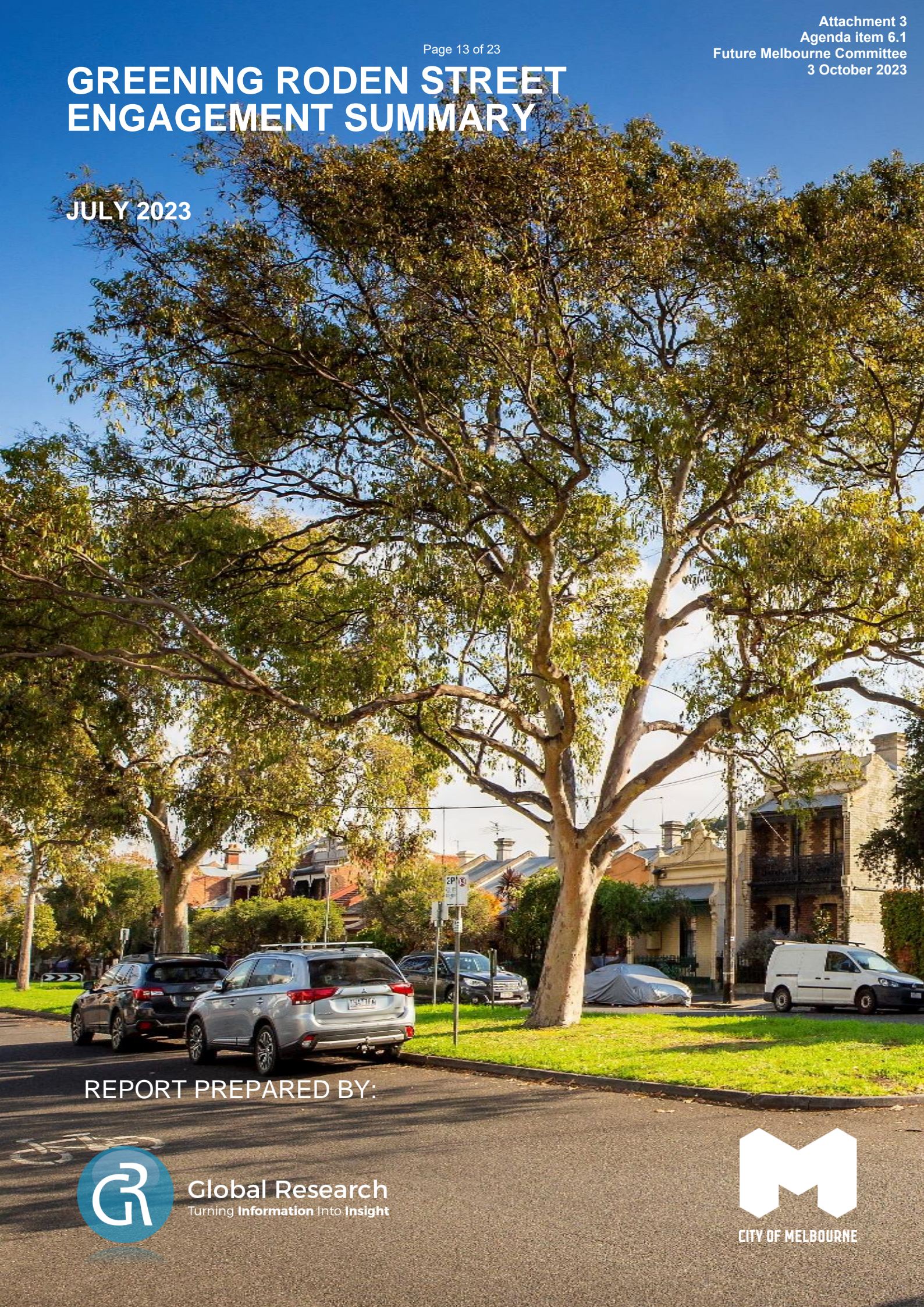


*Banksia integrifolia* (H: 6m)



# GREENING RODEN STREET ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

JULY 2023



REPORT PREPARED BY:



**Global Research**  
Turning Information Into Insight



CITY OF MELBOURNE



## **Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners**

The City of Melbourne respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land we govern, the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Boon Wurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge and honour the unbroken spiritual, cultural and political connection the Wurundjeri, Bunurong, Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wadawurrung peoples of the Eastern Kulin have to this unique place for more than 2000 generations.

We are committed to our reconciliation journey, because at its heart, reconciliation is about strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples, for the benefit of all Victorians.

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## **This report was prepared by:**

Global Research

150 Office Road, Merivale

Christchurch 8018 – New Zealand

+64 3 355 4562 – [www.globalresearch.nz](http://www.globalresearch.nz)

6 July 2023

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# The Greening Roden Street Proposal

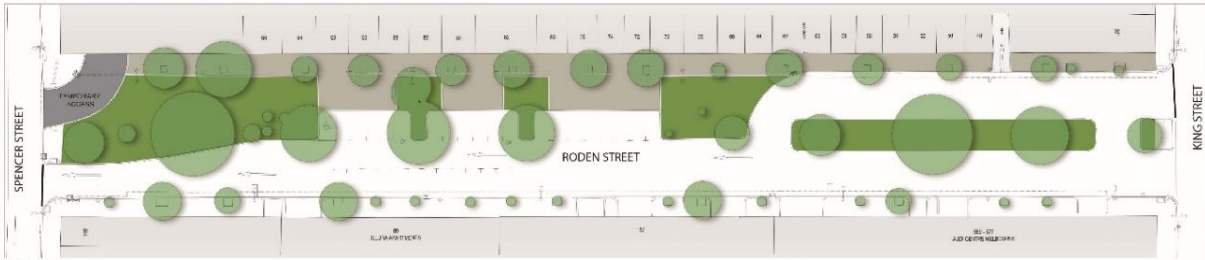
The City of Melbourne undertook community engagement on the Greening Roden Street proposal from 18 May to 15 June 2023. The proposal (pictured below) responds to the growing and changing needs of the West Melbourne community, and ensures the environment is better prepared for the effects of changing climate conditions.

Features of the Greening Roden Street proposal included:

- 1000sqm of additional greening and permeable ground area through the removal of paving and the conversion of roadway into green space
- the introduction of additional tree and understorey species that will strengthen urban forest resilience and plant community biodiversity, offering long term benefit to the community
- a reconfiguration of the existing car parking places for no net loss of parking
- new kerb and channel
- a reconfiguration of the roadway yet still maintain usability
- regrading of the footpath and increasing the pathway network for an improved pedestrian experience
- the introduction of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features to enable both water quality and quantity capture benefits and reduce storm water run-off.

This summary report contains a brief 'snapshot' of who was reached and what was heard during the community consultation period on the Greening Roden Street proposal. A detailed community engagement summary and analysis report is available for download at [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greening-roden-street](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greening-roden-street).

# EXISTING CONDITIONS RODEN STREET, WEST MELBOURNE



LEGEND

- Existing tree
- ing pavers
- Lawn

# GREENING RODEN STREET PROPOSAL WEST MELBOURNE



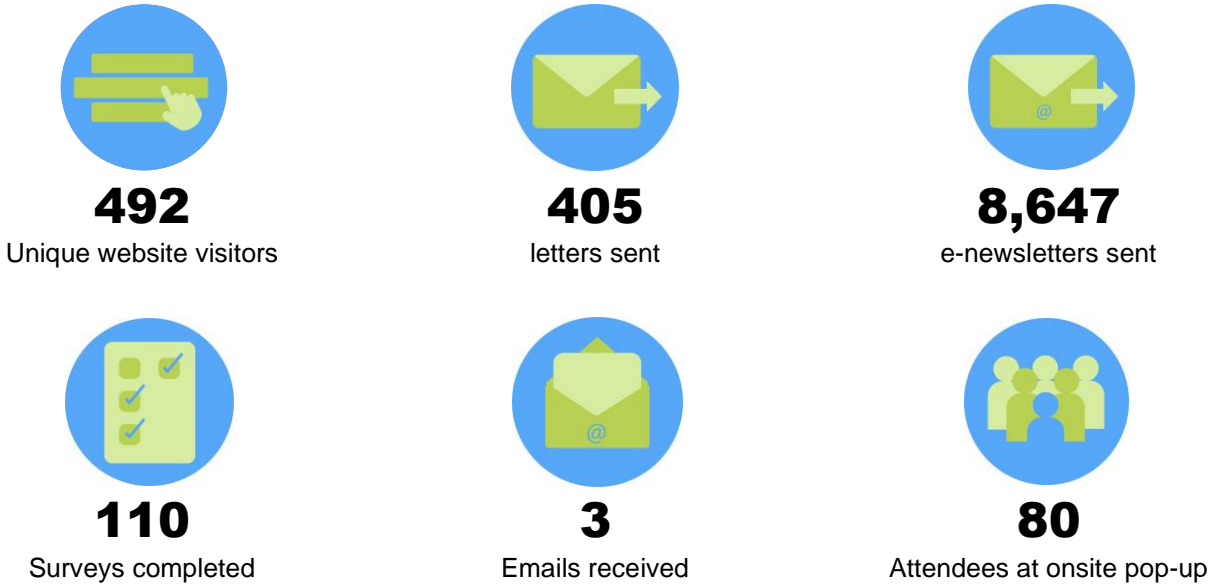
LEGEND

- Proposed tree
- closed garden
- Lawn
- Existing tree
- Tree to be removed
- Proposed paving
- ing pavers

Image above: Roden Street (between King and Spencer) existing conditions (above), and the Greening Roden Street proposed changes indicated in the Greening Roden Street Proposal (below).

# Who we engaged

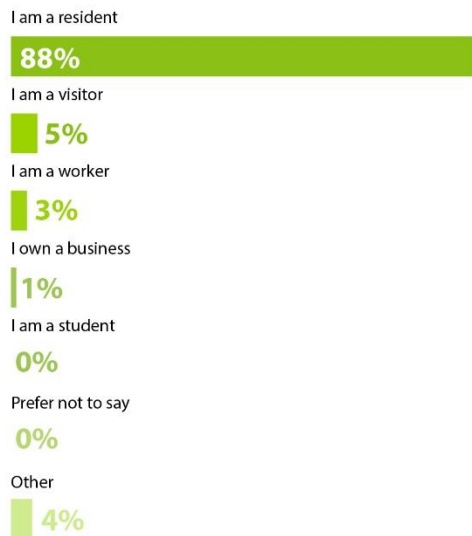
In total, we reached over 8000 people through posted letters, website visits and newsletter audiences. 113 community members provided feedback about our Greening Roden Street Proposal via online survey or email, while a further 80 people attended our onsite pop-up event.



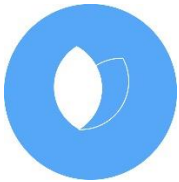
## What motivated respondents to participate in this engagement



## Respondent connections to the project



# Key topics and ideas



## Level of support for Greening Roden Street

- > There was significantly **more support than opposition** from survey respondents for the proposal to expand the green space on Roden Street, with 91% of respondents showing either strong (82%) or mild (9%) support.
- > The main reasons given for **supporting** this proposal were the range of benefits respondents anticipated seeing as a result of the changes. These respondents argued the upgrades would make the street more beautiful and pleasant, be good for biodiversity, provide habitats for native birds, help reduce the heat island effects, improve air quality, and be a welcome upgrade to the area.
- > Significantly fewer comments were made in opposition to the proposed greening of Roden Street. The main reasons given for **opposing** the proposed upgrade include concerns on loss of parking, the upgrades are not required or how the changes would affect the use and enjoyment of Roden Street.

## Level of support for further parking loss to accommodate green space



- > The majority of respondents (72%) were **supportive** of the potential for further parking loss to create additional green space.
- > The main reasons for **supporting** further parking loss were to help shift the focus away from cars; to encourage mode shift; that there is no need for so much parking on Roden Street; and, that the benefits of replacing parking spaces with green space outweigh the loss or potential inconvenience.
- > The main reasons for **opposing** further parking were that parking on the street is necessary for residents, visitors, and businesses; parking is already difficult on Roden Street; and that the availability of parking should be balanced with development in the area (and subsequent demand for parking).

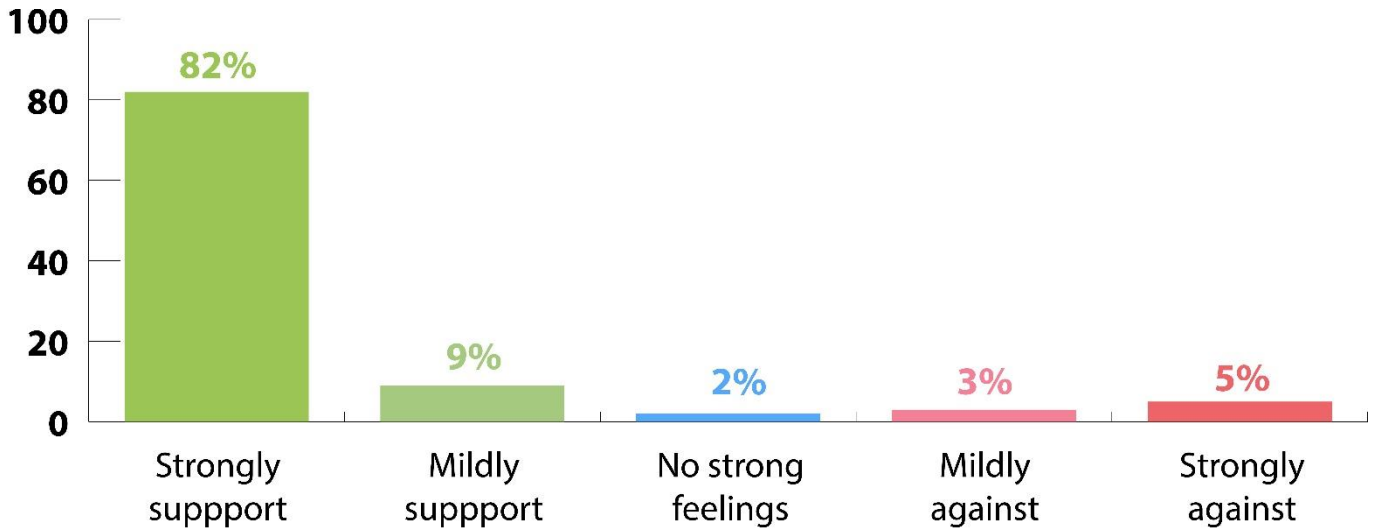


## Minor design changes

- > Minor design changes were suggested on the proposal, these included: maintaining access to properties, traffic calming measures, tree and garden bed species selection, dog waste facilities, and footpath materiality choice.

# Overall level of support for the proposal

Respondents were asked: *Do you support the proposal to expand the open space on Roden Street?*



- A strong majority (91%) supported the proposal.
- Only 8% of respondents were unsupportive overall.

## Reasons for your level of support for the proposal

Respondents were asked: *Why do you feel this way about the proposal?*

### You said

*“I feel it’ll make better use of the land. Create a more pedestrian and pet friendly environment, which encourages outdoor use which can improve safety and crime. It’s will also be more aesthetically pleasing than it is currently.”*

*“As a resident I welcome this initiative. I warmly welcome the idea of more open space, native planting to help support local wildlife and more options to spend time outside.”*

*“I would really like to see more eucalypts like the beautiful trees in the middle of the street – I think this is really where the beauty of the street comes from at the moment.”*

*“Would like to have grass around the base of the trees like in a park instead of all the gravel.”*

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*“Please do not remove any more car parks.”*

*“There is a good balance at the moment.”*

### We heard

#### Support

Respondents who support the proposal do so for the range of benefits they feel will result, including street beautification, biodiversity support and provision of habitats for native wildlife, reduction of the heat island effects, and improved air quality.

Respondents had a number of design suggestions to help ensure the best outcomes for the community. These suggestions ranged from what kinds of trees and planting people wanted to see, to concerns about the surfaces used or calls for particular amenities like lighting or seating to be included.

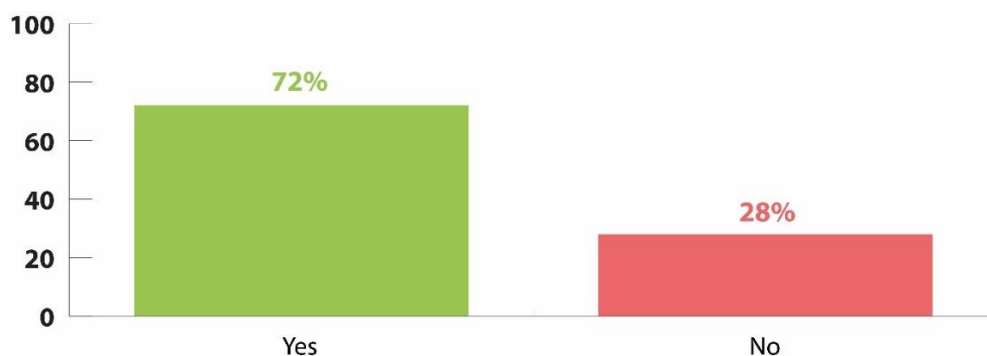
#### Opposition

Only a small number of respondents opposed the proposal. Those who were opposed were concerned about loss of parking spaces or how the changes would affect the use and enjoyment of Roden Street, or felt that the changes were not necessary.



# Overall support for parking loss to create green space

Respondents were asked: *Would further parking loss be supported for additional green space?*



- The majority of respondents (72%) indicated that they would support further parking loss to allow for additional green space.
- Over a quarter of respondents, however, did not support further parking loss (28%).

## Justification for your level of support for the parking loss to create open space

Respondents were asked: *Why do you feel this way?*

### You said

*“There is less need for parking with the close proximity to the city and access to public transport. It would encourage and welcome residents into the area who are invested in a more sustainable, healthy way of living.”*

*“We note that much of the parking is often empty due to permit zone parking so if such strict restrictions are going to remain, then it should be enough to have parking on one side of the street only. This would allow for a more seamless free flowing garden.”*

*“Green space is more important. The street is close enough to the city that public transport and walking/biking etc. are more important than cars for getting around.”*

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*“Multiple businesses along Roden Street rely on these on the street parking spots, including physio, mechanics, etc. the new parking is not as accessible for these businesses. There is also plenty of space to ‘greenify’ if the uneven and degrading pavement is removed.”*

*“Parking is already an issue and is only going to get worse.”*

### We heard

#### Support

The main reasons that people supported further parking loss to accommodate more green space were:

- That they felt this would encourage people to use other, healthier or more environmentally friendly modes of transport such as walking, cycling or public transport.
- That there is ample parking in the area so it would not create any problems.
- That the benefits outweigh the loss of parking spaces.

#### Opposition

Those who oppose further parking loss did so primarily because:

- Residents, visitors, and businesses rely on the current parking spaces in Roden Street, which is already in high demand.
- That the demand for parking spaces in the area is only going to increase as more development occurs.

# How this feedback will be used

Your values, priorities, ideas, and concerns relating to the Greening Roden Street proposal have been clearly articulated to City of Melbourne through this consultation period. Your sentiments have been collated and analysed by independent social researchers and what was heard has been presented back in the form of a detailed report, in addition to this synthesised summary report. These will be publicly available via [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greening-roden-street](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/greening-roden-street), and briefed to Council.

The Greening Roden Street team, including infrastructure planning, traffic engineering, park services and landscape design, will review and consider your feedback to help develop a more detailed concept plan.

Thank you to all participants in this planning journey. Your local knowledge and experience of the area is crucial. We look forward to talking to you in the coming months and working towards some outstanding outcomes for West Melbourne residents, businesses, and visitors.

## How to contact us

### Online:

[melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au)

### In person:

Melbourne Town Hall - Administration Building  
120 Swanston Street, Melbourne  
Business hours, Monday to Friday  
(Public holidays excluded)

### Telephone:

03 9658 9658  
Business hours, Monday to Friday  
(Public holidays excluded)

### Fax:

03 9654 4854

### In writing:

City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3001  
Australia



### Interpreter services

We cater for people of all backgrounds  
Please call 03 9280 0726

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03 9280 0719 Bahasa Indonesia  
03 9280 0720 Italiano  
03 9280 0721 普通話  
03 9280 0722 Soomaali  
03 9280 0723 Español  
03 9280 0725 Việt Ngữ  
03 9280 0726 عربي  
03 9280 0726 한국어  
03 9280 0726 हिंदी  
03 9280 0726 All other languages

### National Relay Service:

If you are deaf, hearing impaired or speech-impaired,  
call us via the National Relay Service: Teletypewriter (TTY)  
users phone 1300 555 727 then ask for 03 9658 9658  
9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday (Public holidays excluded)

[melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://melbourne.vic.gov.au)



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