8 CENTRAL MEDIAN

This intervention involves using the excess width of a street to create a central median strip for tree planting. Centrally planted street trees are generally unencumbered by underground and overhead service constraints, allowing for the largest, widest-spreading tree species. The central median enables extended strips of connected soil and canopy, and can be used to capture road runoff.

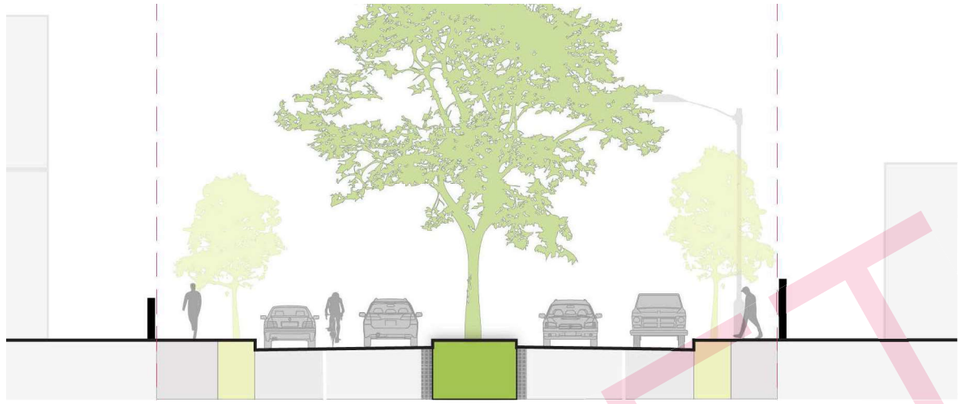
KEY BENEFITS

- Has a traffic calming effect.
- Provides generous space for tree soil volume and connected soil.
- Typically, will include opportunities for understorey planting.
- Typically, will not impact footpaths, kerbs and existing service infrastructure.
- Trees are inset to roadway meaning they are less likely to be encumbered by overhead services.

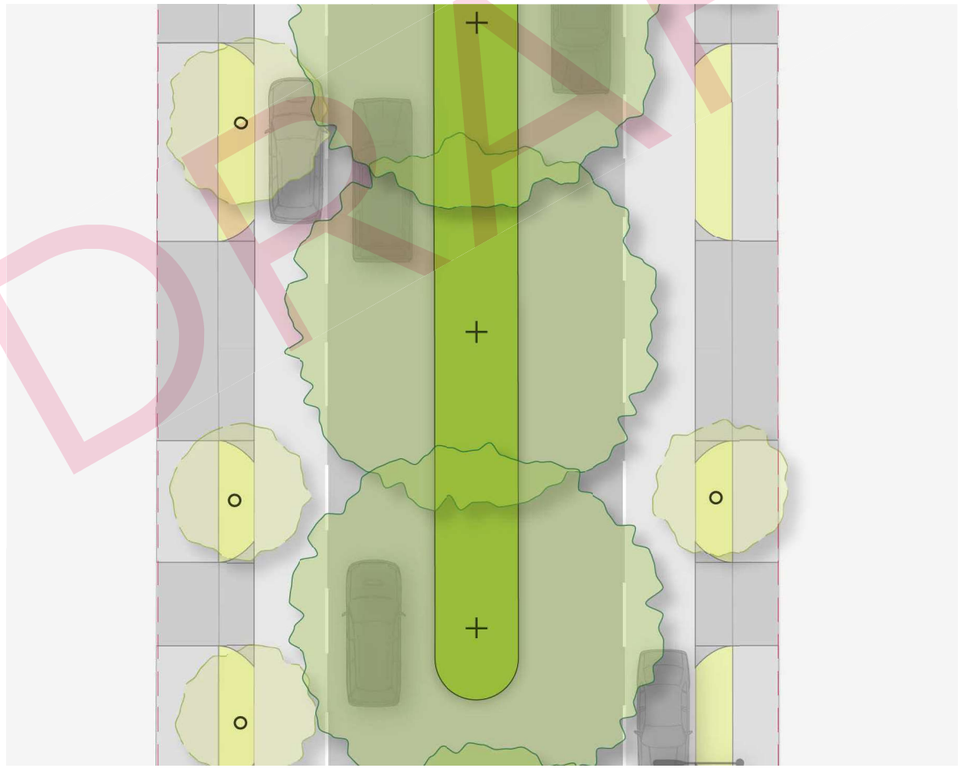


Figure 50: Highlighting all of the streets that are suitable for a central median.

FUNCTIONAL LAYOUT



STREET SECTION



STREET PLAN SCALE 1:200 0 5 10m

TECHNICAL AND MAINTENANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- Formative pruning required to establish clear sight lines.
- Depending on the proximity of trees to overhead services a tree species may need to be selected that will tolerate crown pruning at maturity.
- Understorey planting should be a secondary consideration to tree selection and increasing canopy.
- Sightlines will need to be considered as part of tree placement and may impact the number of trees that can be installed.
- Large canopy/legacy tree species should be installed where space permits on Connector Boulevards.
- Structural soil should be considered to increase soil volumes and connect soils below pavement.
- Irrigation or hand watering required during hot dry periods.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO BE CONSIDERED AS PART OF INTERVENTION

- Integrated water management (IWM) interventions such as passive irrigation, soaker pits and rain gardens.
- Traffic calming measures such as pedestrian priority crossings and shared streets.
- Understorey planting that increases and supports site biodiversity. Particularly wide medians can become bio-links, as seen on Bothwell Street, Balaclava.
- Place making initiatives such as outdoor dining and seating.

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE COMMITMENT

$ **TBD** $$$

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EXEMPLAR IMAGERY



Bothwell Street in Balaclava has a particularly wide central median strip that is currently being converted into a walking trail and 'bio-link'.

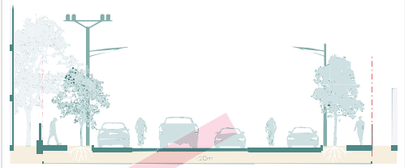


Below: A central median strip on Bridge Road, Port Melbourne (Image Credit Google Street View)



A vegetated swale in a central median strip in Bungarribee, including breaks in the kerb for passive irrigation (Image Credit Blacktown City Council)

SUITABLE STREET TYPES, TREE SIZE AND FORM GUIDANCE

STREET TYPE	CONFIGURATION	RECOMMENDED TREE SIZE	RECOMMENDED TREE FORM
Connector Boulevard		Large (the largest specieis considered)	Clear trunked, largest canopy spread

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