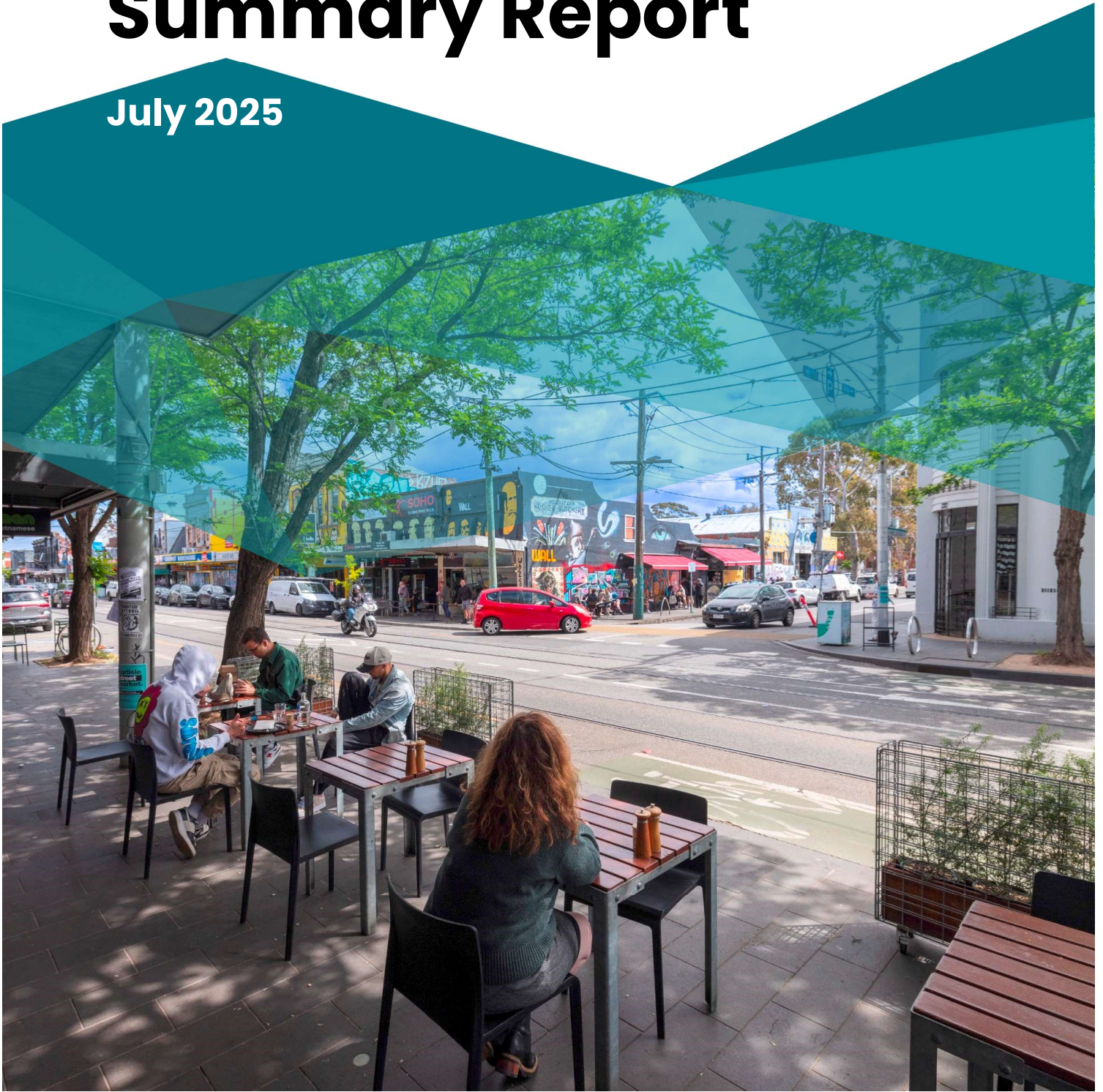




CARLISLE STREET STREETScape PLAN

Engagement Summary Report

July 2025





Acknowledgement of Country

Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.

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Introduction

Project background

Council is developing a Streetscape Plan for Carlisle Street. The Plan will provide a long-term vision for improving public spaces, and will help guide decisions on future projects in the area, ensuring they align with our community's goals. The streetscape plan will be a positive way to assess and bring these goals together – to ensure that changes and improvements to the area contribute to the identity of Carlisle Street.

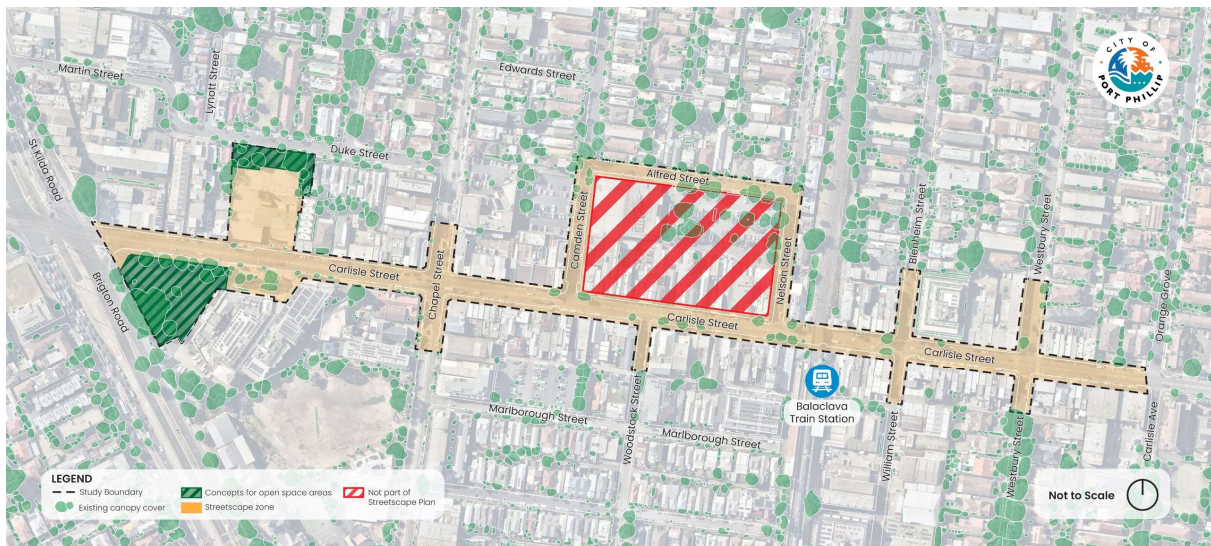


Figure 1: Area under consideration in this process.

What we set out to achieve

In this first phase of community engagement, Council sought feedback from the community about their priorities, aspirations and concerns about Carlisle Street. Council specifically sought feedback about the issues and opportunities presented in discussion papers.



About this report

This report is a record of the planned engagement process undertaken by Council which outlines the methodology, presents participant demographics (where available), and summarises the feedback received through the process.

Before reading this report

The following should be considered in reading this report:

- The information in this report is based on qualitative research and does not necessarily reflect the views of a statistically representative sample of the community.
- Participants attending the community events were self-selecting. As such, the key themes of conversations at these events may reflect only a limited proportion of the local community.
- Council strives to include diverse voices in our engagement activities. We acknowledge, however, that some people are likely to have experienced barriers to participation in the activities that are outlined in this report – including people with disability, multicultural communities, older people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and others.
- The word '**participants**' is used to describe the total group of community members and stakeholders who contributed to this engagement process. The terms '**respondents**' is used to talk about the sub-group of total participants who responded to a specific question or engagement activity.
- The information and views presented in this report are a summary of the feedback heard from the engagement activities. As such, some information maybe factually incorrect, unfeasible or outside of the scope of this project.
- The report summarises the feedback from engagement activities. While every effort is made to include the full breadth of feedback provided, not all comments, views or advice are shown in the findings of this report.



Where appropriate, a mix of quotes, themes and metrics are used to convey community feedback.

- We acknowledge that, while efforts are taken to manage duplication, there is potential for double counting where participants have attended multiple events, and/or completed online activities via the *Have Your Say* website.
- Detailed participant demographic data was not collected or mandatory across all engagement events and activities. This may affect the weight of findings about community participation. Where appropriate, response numbers for each question are displayed or acknowledged.
- This report focuses on the communication and engagement activities delivered by Council in a planned engagement process. It does not necessarily include events, meetings, surveys, petitions, or communications organised by the community or third parties.

Acknowledgement and thanks

We would like to acknowledge and thank the community members who contributed feedback on this project.



What we did

Between **Thursday, 8 May and Sunday, 15 June, 2025**, we let the community know about the Carlisle Street Streetscape Plan (called publicly **'Help Shape the Future of Carlisle Street'**) and collected feedback through a mix of engagement activities.

To increase awareness of the engagement process, we did the following:



Posters in the area x 10

Posters about the engagement process and the opportunity to provide feedback were placed around Carlisle Street.



Social media posts x 4

Social media posts were used to promote engagement via the City of Port Phillip's social media accounts:

- Instagram post (8 May, 20 May, 26 May and 30 May) reach 6,593; 290 reactions, 13 comments, 54 share.
- Facebook post (8 May, 20 May, 26 May and 30 May) reach 7,876; 32 reactions, 25 comments, 13 share.
- Instagram story (21 May and 29 May) 623 views.
- Facebook story (21 May and 29 May) 757 views.



Information flyers x 9800

Flyers notifying the community about the project and the opportunity to attend the Balaclava Community Forum. Flyers were sent to owners, occupiers and traders of Balaclava.



Newsletters x 2

Project information and an invitation to engage was included in two newsletters during the engagement period: the *Community News* and *DiverCity* newsletters.



'Have your say' website

Council's dedicated engagement website, 'Have your say' included a page for this project, with information on the process, a timeline, contact details, and opportunities to engage.

Engagement activities

To collect feedback from the community we did the following activities:



Survey (Available online)

This survey collected demographic details about participants, and asked for community feedback on:

- The objectives shown in the discussion documentation
- Priorities for the study area
- Preferences for the open spaces next to St Kilda Town Hall and the St Kilda Library.



Local Traders Information Session x 1

Members of the project team spent time with local traders to discuss the future of Carlisle Streetscape and collected feedback.



Balaclava Community Forum x 1

A two-hour forum called 'Shaping the Balaclava Area Together' was held bringing together different projects currently open for consultation in the Balaclava area.

This project had a stall for participants to drop in a leave comments about Carlisle Street, the Town Hall area, or Library open space. This was delivered on:

- **29 May 2025, 6:00 to 8:00pm**



Submissions

Community members or groups were able to send written submissions to the project team via email. Submissions are often long-form responses to a project which can include information outside of the project scope. As such, project teams often receive and review these first.



Participation

Participation by engagement activity

Approximately 267 community members participated in this engagement process. This was spread across the engagement activities below:

Activity	Number of participants	Insights
Survey (online)	137	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women aged 35 to 49 years were the most likely to complete the survey.
Information Session	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The information session provided a good opportunity for retailers and shop owners to understand the engagement process and provide feedback.
Community Forum	122	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were largely local to the area, attending to discuss some, or all, of the current projects around Balacclava and Carlisle Street. Post-it notes were a great way for participants to see what other feedback community members had provided and engage with the project team.
Submissions	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions provide greater depth and detailed feedback for the project team to consider. (add extra submission)
'Have your say' website	964 views	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most visitors came to the website directly (66.7%). 13.6% of visitors were found the website via a search engine. More than a fifth (21.6%) of visitors made at least one contribution on the website.



Who we heard from

Targeted groups

The **Carlisle Street Traders Association** was directly targeted using Council's Business Engagement Coordinator. The Association was sent emails that included an invitation to engage via the Have Your Say website and/or to attend an information session at an association meeting.

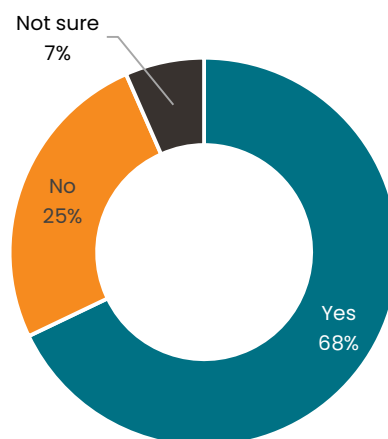
Participant demographics

When we asked for community feedback, we also asked who in the community we were talking to. This helps us understand which parts of the community we have heard from. Of the total 267 participants, 138 shared at least some of their demographic information with us. This section explores those demographics.

Previous engagement with Council

We also asked if participants had engaged with Council on any other projects in the past 12 months. We had 137 responses to this question and the majority (93, 67.9 per cent) of these said 'Yes' they had engaged with Council in the past 12 months. 35 participants (25.5 per cent) said 'No', and 9 participants (7 per cent) were unsure.

Previous Engagement with CoPP



Relationship to Carlisle Street

We asked participants about their relationship to Carlisle Street. Participant could choose the most relevant option. **The vast majority of participants (94.9 per cent) told us they were a 'resident'.**



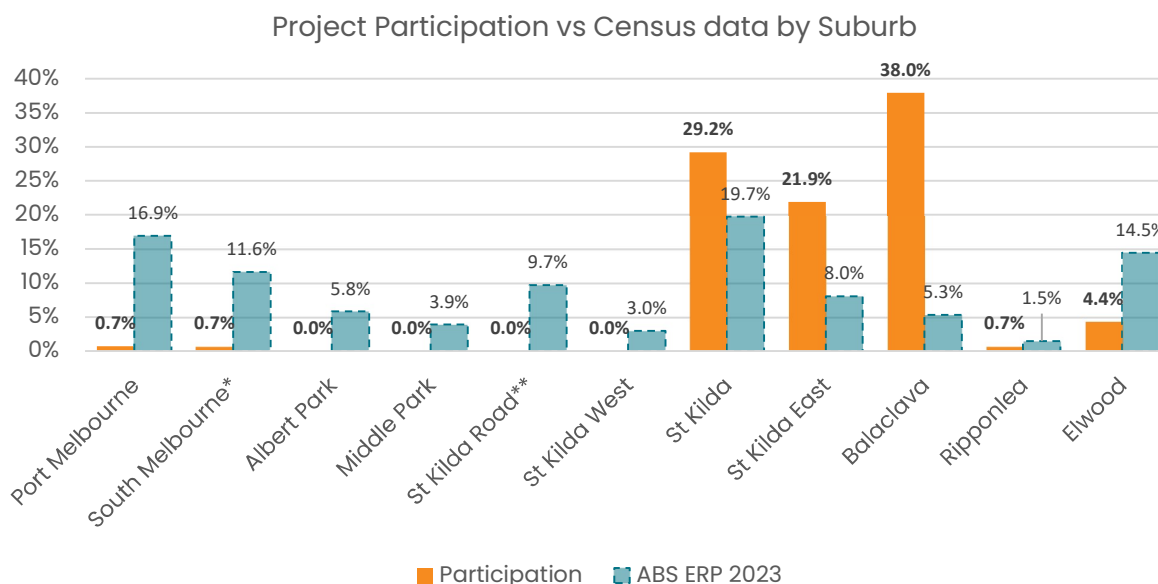
Resident: 131 (94.9%)

Visitor: 6 (4.3%)

Worker: 1 (0.7%)

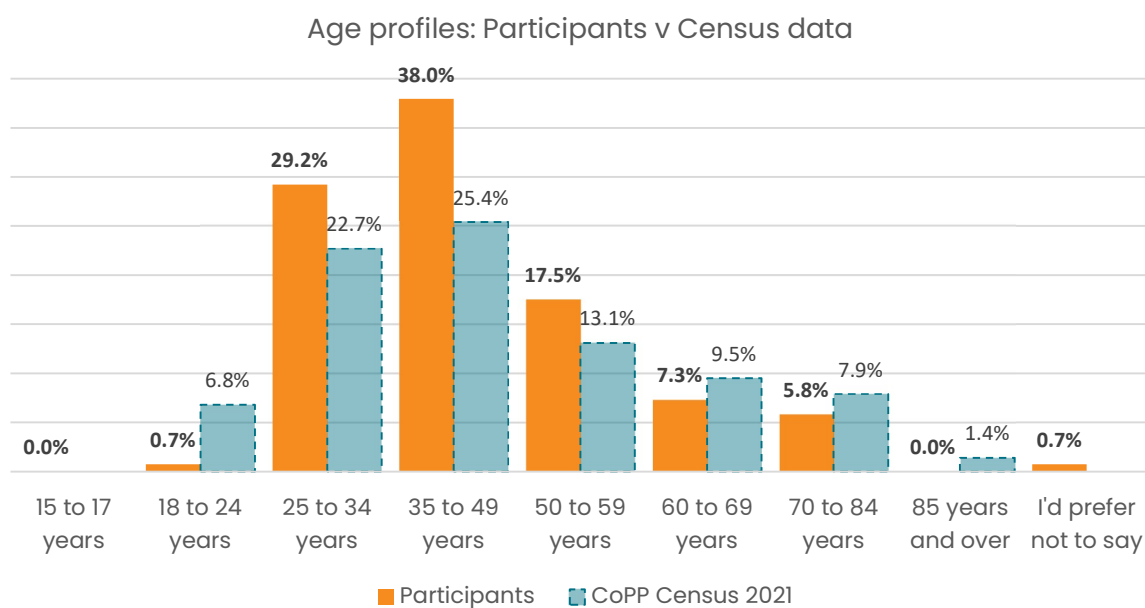
Suburb

131 participants told us which suburb they live in, with an additional five participants living in suburbs outside of Port Phillip, and one participant who chose not to say. **The most common suburb was Balaclava, representing 38 per cent of all responses.** St Kilda (29 per cent), and St Kilda East (22 per cent) were also highly represented. This concentration of responses makes sense given the specific location of the project.



Age

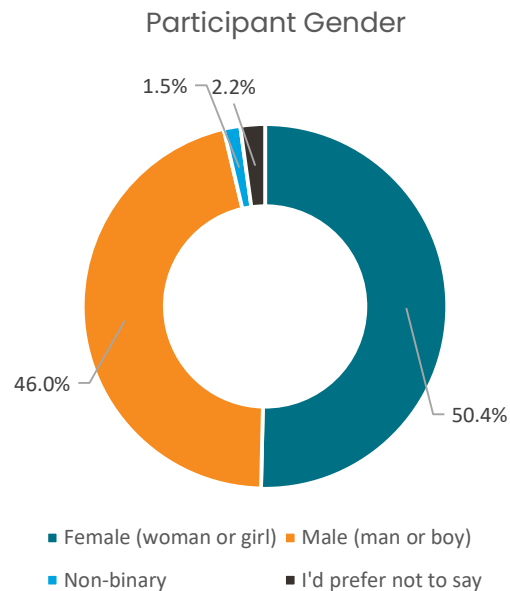
In total, 137 participants told us their age group. The graph of age groups against the 2021 Census data shows a similar rise and fall of age groups compared to the municipality. **The higher proportion of ages 25 to 49 is largely consistent with the ages of residents in St Kilda, St Kilda East and Balacclava when compared to the municipality.** Participants aged 50 to 59 were also slightly overrepresented whereas age groups 15 to 24, and 60 to 85+ were underrepresented.





Gender

In total, 134 participants provided an answer to this question, with 3 (2.2 per cent) participants preferring not to say and 1 participant not providing an answer. **69 (50.4 per cent) respondents identified as 'female', and 63 (46 per cent) identified as 'male'.** A further 2 (1.5 per cent) respondents identified as non-binary.



Diversity statements

We asked participants if they identified with any of a range of statements, to help us understand if feedback had been collected from different groups within community.

- 'None of these apply to me' (76 participants)
- 'I identify as LGBTIQ+' (33 participants)
- 'I am from a non-English-speaking background' (14 participants)
- 'I am a person with disability' (10 participants)
- 'I am from an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander background' (1 participant)



What we heard

From the survey

Feedback on the Streetscape Plan Objectives

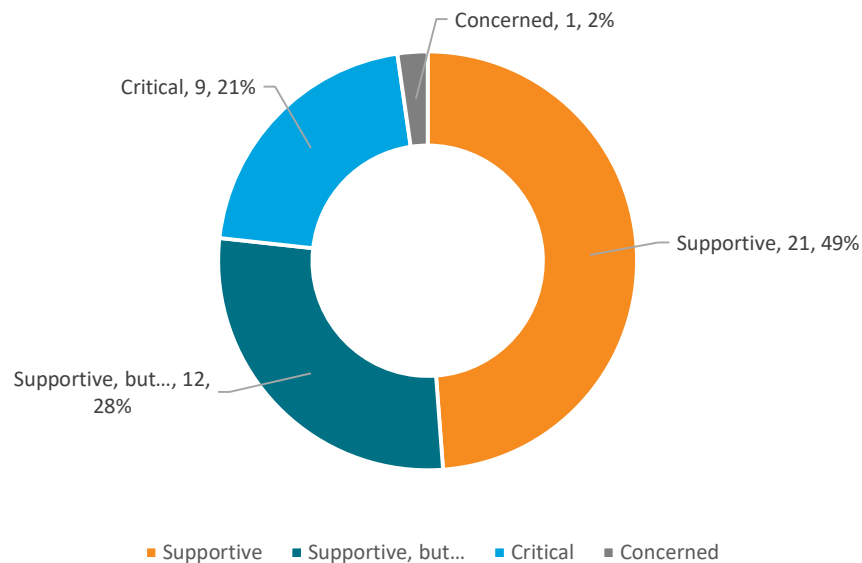
A set of objectives for the streetscape plan were outlined in the 'Issues and Opportunities' 'Draft for Discussion' document. These were also included on the Have Your Say page in more simplified language as:

- Create a plan for Carlisle Street that shows how to upgrade things like the materials used, furniture, lighting, plants and services, so the street becomes **safer, more accessible, eco-friendly and welcoming** for everyone.
- Find and **highlight what makes Carlisle Street unique** and special, to help people understand its character.
- Describe what we want Carlisle Street and the nearby public areas to **look and feel like in the future**, so we can work better with developers when they build new things.
- Choose a set of materials and furniture for the street that reflect its character and **make the whole area look consistent and attractive**.
- Make initial design ideas for improving the open space near St Kilda Town Hall and St Kilda Library to make these areas **lively and encourage people to use them**.

Participants talked about the objectives in a general way, or talked specifically about what they would like to see implemented in the Streetscape plan. The general comments on the objectives are explored below, and the specific advice on elements of the streetscape are explored in the 'Overarching Themes' section.



General comments – Sentiment



In total, 43 survey participants made general comments about the objectives. Of these, nearly half (49 per cent) expressed general support for the objectives.

‘Supportive of overall goals. Rezoning, enabling more flexible occupancy and improvements would be helpful in taking local streetscape improvements further’ (Balaclava resident).

‘I think the objectives are very strong. There is no mention of a graffiti action plan for the area. I believe that Council should set out objectives to monitor the strip on a daily basis and have graffiti dealt with in a very timely manner – graffiti left there only attracts more’ (St Kilda resident).

‘The project objectives are fairly comprehensive’ (Balaclava resident).

‘We absolutely need this actioned! I am not sure that all will agree on proposals, but we need to feel safe in our local Main Street, and we want to bring back its vibrancy! For all!’ (Balaclava resident).

A further **28 per cent of comments were ‘supportive, but...’** – meaning they support the objectives but expressed some other concern such as empty shopfronts, or implementation issues.



'All the objectives seem fair and reasonable. In particular more greenery will be great. Is it all shifting deckchairs on the Titanic if all the shops are boarded up?' (St Kilda resident).

'Great objectives, but let's see if you can achieve them... I understand that compromise is always necessary, but so too is leadership and determination' (Elwood resident).

'It's a good start. I'm not sure what will encourage business back to the street which I think should be the primary focus. The area around the Station has some life, but the rest of the strip is dead' (Balaclava resident).

'I think that the objectives are laudable, but I can see a certain amount of community fatigue with "plans", without concrete changes that follow soon after. To maintain a sense of morale I would suggest prioritising "low hanging fruit" to demonstrate a commitment to realising tangible changes' (Balaclava resident).

Comments that were critical of the objectives made up 21 per cent (9 comments), these comments focused on changing the scope, areas of focus, or general criticisms of the objectives.

'I don't think this is enough. There are so many empty shops and we need to think about why this is? What will make retailers want to move into the area' (Balaclava resident).

'They are fluffy and not very articulated or clear' (Balaclava resident).

'Not sure why the council is wasting their time with this and selling off land to make back money. stop doing vague consultations and then you won't need to sell carparks etc.' (St Kilda resident).

'Scope needs to be increased to include Chapel St from Duke to Nightingale Street, all of William Street, and Collaboration with Victrack regarding the walkways along Balaclava Station' (St Kilda East resident).

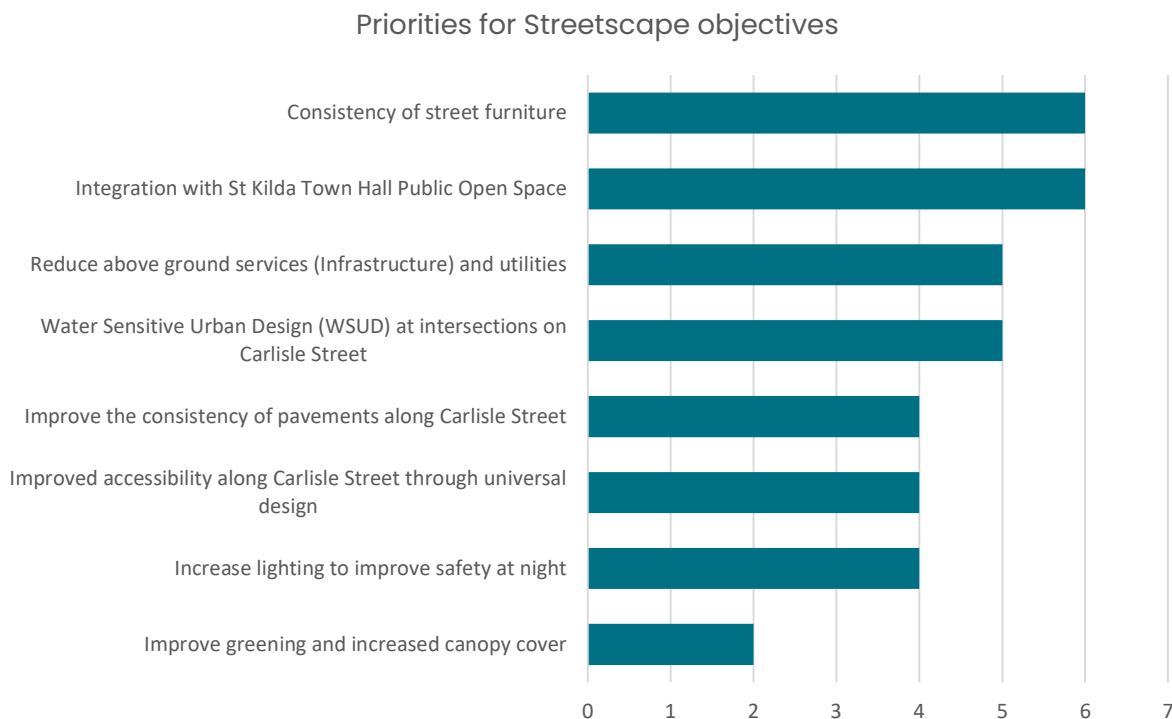
One comment expressed concerns that this initiative would the negatively impact area if poorly executed.



Ranking Streetscape priorities

Survey participants were asked to rank a series of priorities on their importance. In total, 115 participants responded to this survey question. Scores for their response were averaged out, with the higher number implying more importance, or a bigger priority.

Consistent street furniture, and integration with the Town Hall public open space were the most important (or highest ranked) priorities.

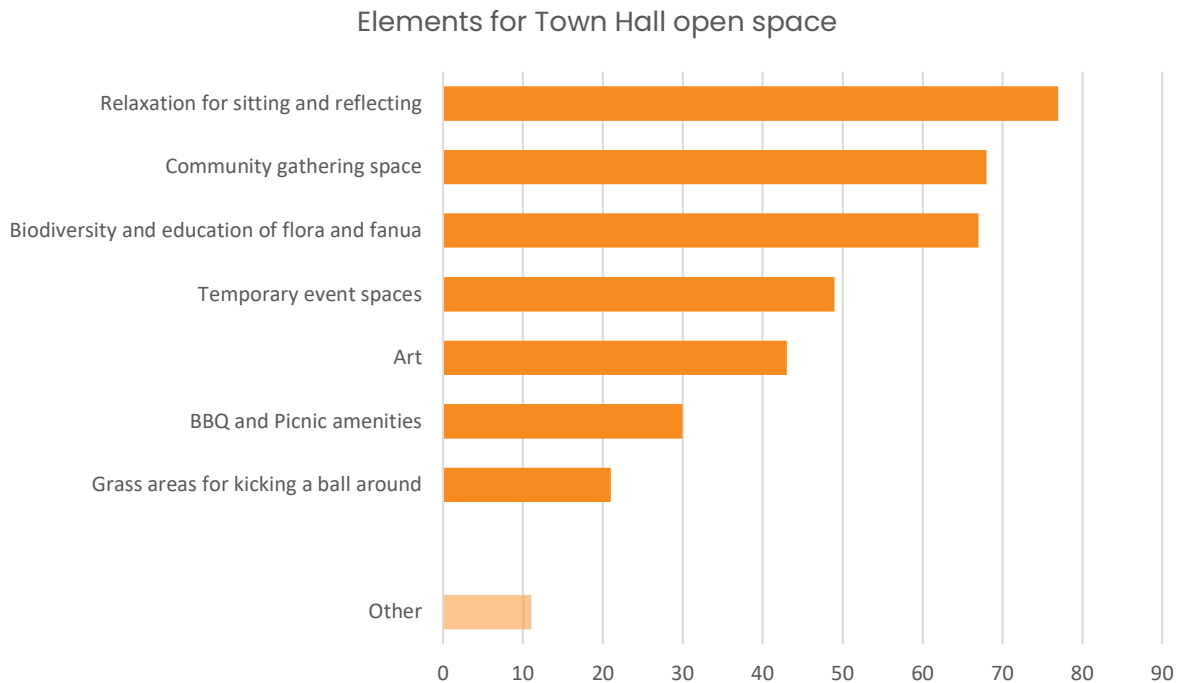




St Kilda Town Hall open space

Survey participants were asked to vote for the top three preferred elements they would like to see in the Town Hall open space. In total, 128 participants responded to this question. The most popular element was '**relaxation for sitting and reflecting**', followed by '**community gather space**', and '**biodiversity and education of flora and fauna**'.

'Other' comments included calls to do nothing, deprioritise this open space, or to include arts and events, a basketball court, or a community garden.



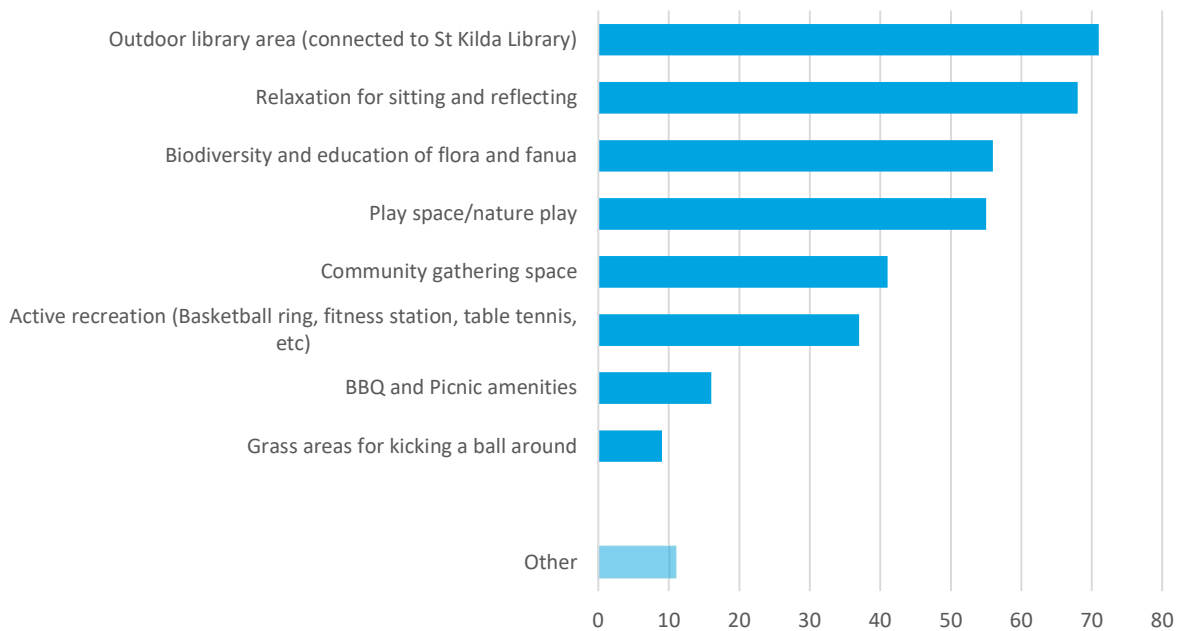


St Kilda Library open space

Survey participants were asked to vote for the top three preferred elements they would like to see in the St Kilda Library open space. In total, 128 participants responded to this question. The most popular element was '**Outdoor library area**', followed by '**relaxation for sitting and reflecting**', and '**biodiversity and education of flora and fauna**'.

'Other' comments included calls to do nothing, deprioritise this open space, or to include a community garden or short-term parking.

Elements for Library open space



From the Community Forum

The 'Shaping the Balaclava Area Together' Community Forum, the Carlisle Street Streetscape Plan had a stall for participants to visit, talk to the project team, and record their feedback about specific parts of the streetscape study area.



Image 1. The project stall at the 'Shaping the Balaclava Area Together' Community Forum.

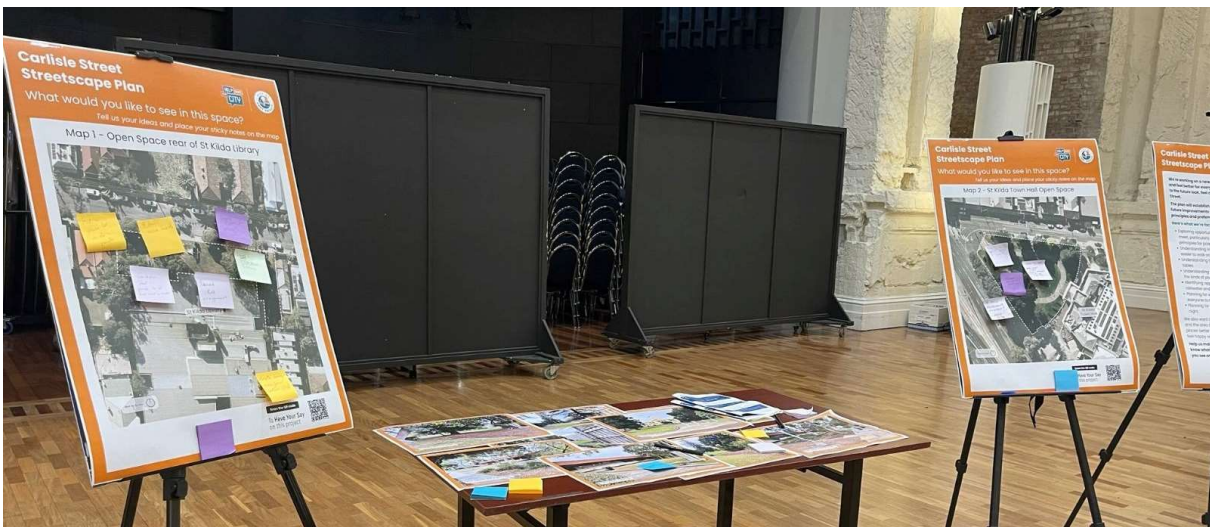
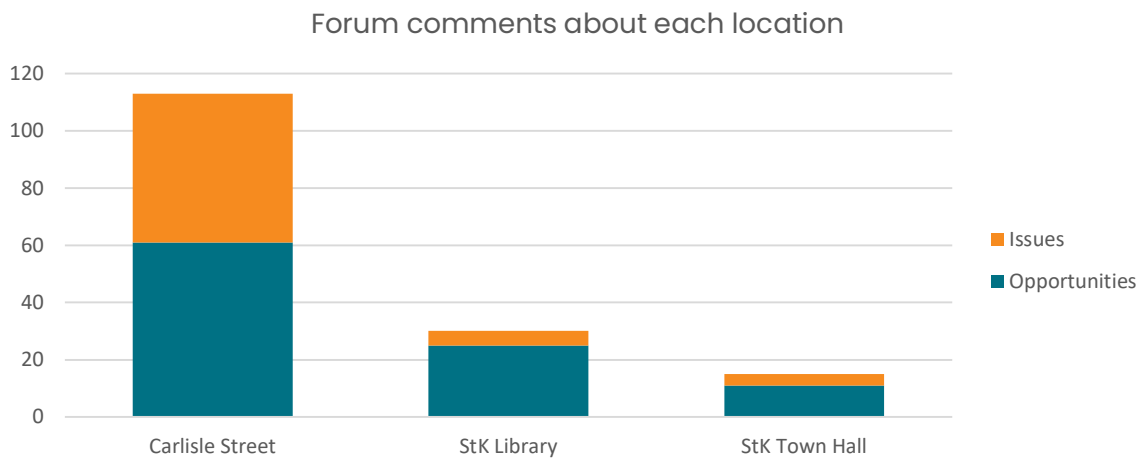


Image 2. Participant comments at the Community Forum stall.



122 participants attended the Community Forum and left a total of 158 comments at the Carlisle Street Streetscape stall. Most of these comments focused on Carlisle Street (72 per cent), followed by St Kilda Library open space (19 per cent), and St Kilda Town Hall open space (9 per cent). Additionally, almost two-thirds (97, 61 per cent) of comments identified opportunities, and 61 comments (39 per cent) identified issues.

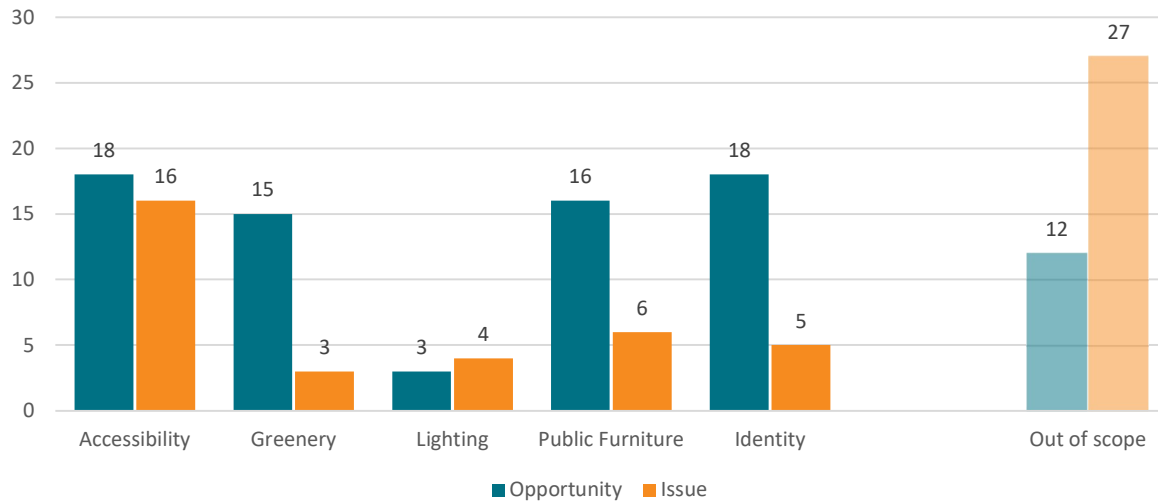


The comments left by Community Forum participants have been analysed and grouped against the themes outlined in the draft documentation that was used for the consultation. A thematic analysis of all participant feedback (across surveys, forum data and submissions), is included in the final section 'Overarching themes'. A brief summary of the types of comments left by Community Forum participants is provided on the following pages. *Please note: Where a comment related to multiple themes, that comment has been counted once against each relevant theme*



Commentary about Carlisle Street

Forum: Carlisle Street comment themes



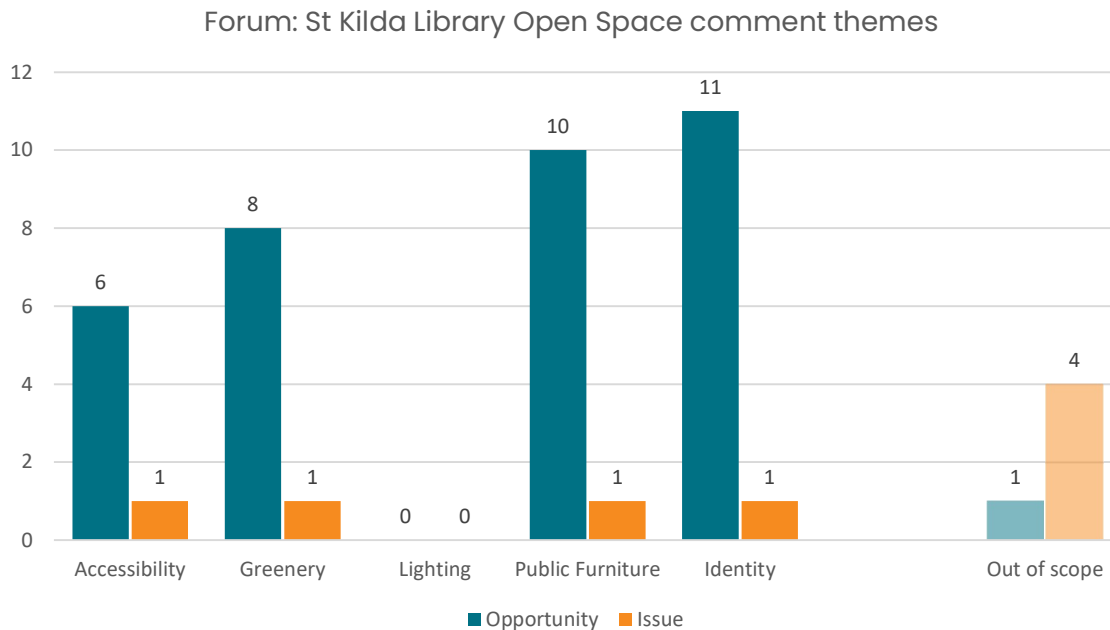
The themes in order of most frequent to least frequent are:

- Accessibility and Pedestrian Safety (34 instances, 24 per cent)
- Identity and Activation (23 instances, 16 per cent)
- Public Furniture and Streetscape Design (22 instances, 15 per cent)
- Greenery and Environmental Resilience (18 instances, 13 per cent)
- Lighting (7 instances, 5 per cent)

On average, comments focused more on opportunities for the Carlisle Streetscape plan. The highest number of issues recorded were outside of the scope of plan – which largely related to cleanliness of the street, the Carlisle Street murals, the potential redevelopment of Coles, and managing homelessness.



Commentary about St Kilda Library Open Space



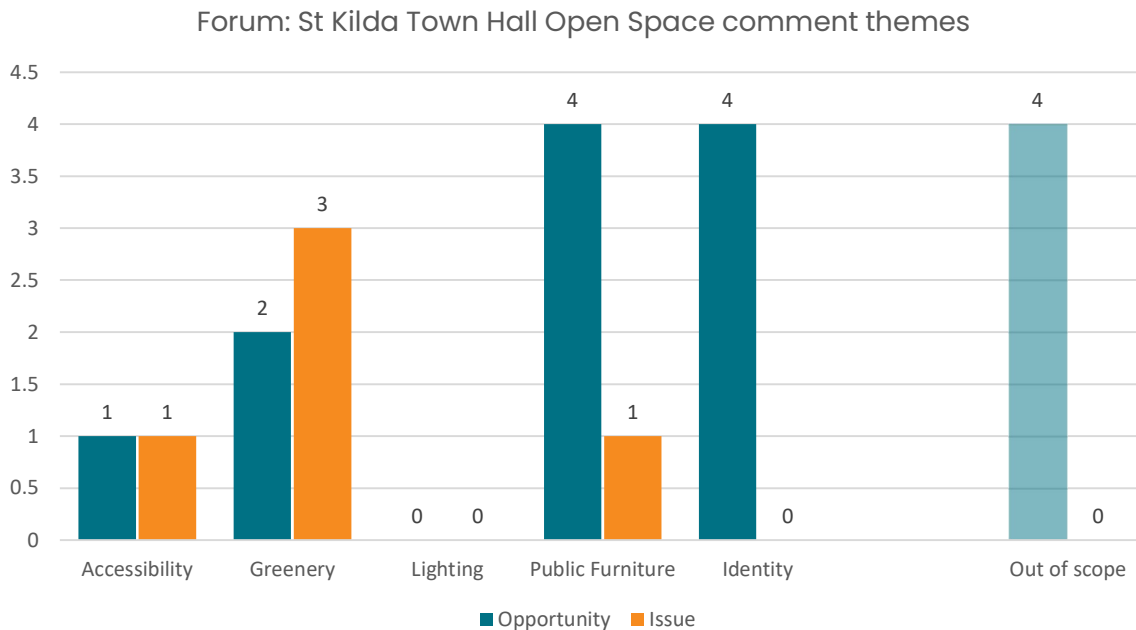
The themes in order of most frequent to least frequent are:

- Identity and Activation (12 instances, 27 per cent)
- Public Furniture and Streetscape Design (10 instances, 25 per cent)
- Greenery and Environmental Resilience (9 instances, 20 per cent)
- Accessibility and Pedestrian Safety (7 instances, 16 per cent)
- Lighting (0 instances, 0 per cent)

On average, comments focused more on opportunities for the Library Open Space. The highest number of issues recorded were outside of the scope of plan – almost exclusively relating to issues of homelessness.



Commentary about St Kilda Town Hall Open Space



The themes in order of most frequent to least frequent are:

- Greenery and Environmental Resilience (5 instances, 25 per cent)
- Public Furniture and Streetscape Design (5 instances, 25 per cent)
- Identity and Activation (4 instances, 20 per cent)
- Accessibility and Pedestrian Safety (2 instances, 10 per cent)
- Lighting (0 instances, 0 per cent)

On average, comments focused more on opportunities for the Town Hall Open Space. The highest number of issues recorded related to greenery and environmental resilience – with comments about pruning, the types of plants, and using planting to abate traffic noise.



Image 3. Participation at the Community Forum stall.

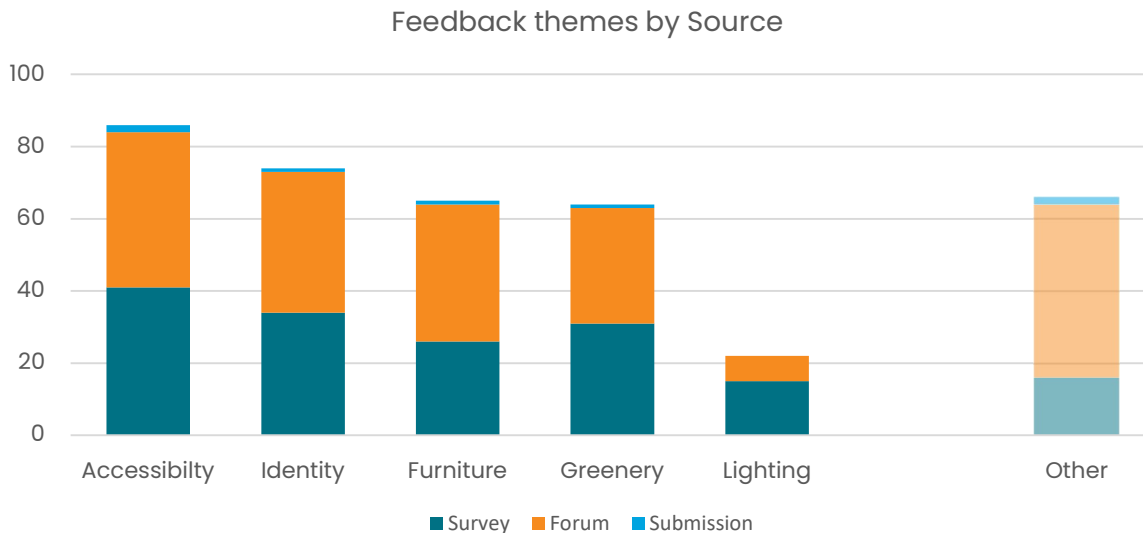
From the Submissions

Two submissions were received during the engagement process. These submissions were received via email to the project team. Both submissions included detailed feedback on the draft documentation, as well as strategic and technical advice on improving the streetscape.

These submissions will be considered in depth by the project team, and we thank the participants for the considerable time and thought that these contributions represent.

Overarching themes

We brought together the feedback that included ideas and advice for the Streetscape plan from the different sources to look at overarching themes.



Theme 1: Accessibility and Pedestrian Safety

Across both surveys and forum comments, the most common themes related to Accessibility and Pedestrian safety. These made up **22.9 per cent of all comments**.

Comments focused on pedestrian and cyclist safety – Safer crossings for pedestrians, better cycling lanes, wider footpaths made of non-slip materials. Examples include:

‘Cycling is incredibly dangerous along Carlisle; I can’t imagine you’d get support for separated bike lanes (but you should try!)’ (Elwood resident).

‘I am happy to see a focus on safety in the report. Lowering speeds to 30 km/h creates a much safer and calmer environment. Raised pedestrian crossings with standard zebra markings makes walking much safer. Dedicated and protected bike lanes make it much safer for cyclists in the area and could provide a good opportunity for a safe easy-west connection given the recent decision to not physically separate cyclists on the updated Inkerman Street bike lanes’ (Balaclava resident).



'Clean up the footpaths, the entire area should be tiled like near the station where shops like YoChi thrive. As you walk towards St Kilda, this disappears, and the footpath narrows far too much' (Balaclava resident).

'Look to pedestrianise roads around the carpark, integrating and connecting pedestrian and cycling facilities through this corridor' (Forum participant).

'As a local resident for many years and now a homeowner... I would love for our area to feel safer, not be as congested, aggressive drivers and no parking, be taken care of and fill all the empty retail spaces. Bring it back to life! More greenery in our area is very much needed. More signage for public car park to clear up Carlisle Street a little more. The arcade could be incredible...'
(Balaclava resident).

Other comments in this theme focused on prioritising pedestrians over cars.

'Ideally, Carlisle Street would be more like Acland Street, which is for Pedestrian and tram use, while being closed to cars. If Carlisle Street is a shopping strip it shouldn't be a car thoroughfare. Cars are especially dangerous at the corner of Chapel and Carlisle where even when pedestrians have right of way they turn into pedestrians (especially children before and after school) with impunity' (Balaclava resident).

'The biggest challenge is opposing interests of pedestrians, cyclists, public and private vehicle transport. The desire or need to park directly in front of shops is a daily disruption to the shared use of Carlisle Street by non-car users' (St Kilda East resident).

Theme 2: Community identity and activation

Nearly **20 per cent of comments** in this first question related to the identity and character of Carlisle Street and surrounds. Participants spoke of keeping the character of Carlisle Street, with its ethnic mix and smaller locally-owned stores.

'Carlisle St is currently a great mix of great cafes, supermarkets, food, East European and Jewish and not full of franchise shops. Please don't ruin this special feel by repeating what was done to Acland St mall which is now boring and soulless. Add hanging flower baskets, change painted portraits over shops to more interesting colourful graffiti' (Balaclava resident).



'Public space, retail that can be successful, a buoyant and dynamic destination, retail which celebrates eastern European architecture' (Forum participant).

'We want a vibrant streetscape including commercial premises, entertainment, public seating and accessibility, increased residential. Carlisle St is a natural transport hub with the intersection of 3 tramlines and the railway. It's the natural gateway to St Kilda, to Chapel St locales all the way up to Richmond, and to beachside suburbs down to Sandringham. There is amazing local culture here through its European Jewish heritage, and a strong creative community, and more recently it's Gujarati and Indian residents. We want to catalyse this area as a destination in its own right' (Balaclava resident).

Participants emphasised the importance of a varied mix of high-quality local stores to give the area a village feel, more public spaces and things to do – to make Carlisle Street more 'sticky'. Comments about creating a vibrant and inviting street commonly came back to bigger issues of empty shopfronts, tired and damaged facades, perceptions of safety, and cleanliness of the street and surrounds.

'The area needs reinvigorating by activating the streetscape: Reduce the high amount of \$2 dollar shops and pharmacies; Fill the vacant tenancies that have been there for years... Increase the amount of useful amenities and shops e.g., grocer, butcher, bookshop or a drawcard for people to stay longer in the area such as an arcade, escape room, gallery or paid activity for younger people etc.; Put up more murals and artwork' (St Kilda resident).

'I think the street needs to be much more inviting to the public. At the moment it's incredibly dingy and antisocial. Certainly improved greenery will help to soften the graffiti. Proper graffiti art is great however the whole area in general is absolutely riddled with illegal graffiti. Increased lighting is a must, safety is such a huge issue within the area and at the very least, some proper [lighting] will hopefully help deter some antisocial behaviour (however this is doubtful). There needs to be some ownership from businesses about overflowing bins and boxes just left out on the street as well (not on bin days). It's hard enough to get around without the streets having bins constantly left out' (Balaclava resident).

'I'd like to see more spaces for local people to hang out at (aka third space). Not just bars, restaurants and pubs, but also free spaces' (Balaclava resident)



'Attracting a mix of USEFUL retail outlets e.g. butcher/greengrocer/fishmonger to restore a genuine feel of a LOCAL strip shopping centre. With that there will be increased pavement traffic & a more congenial local buzz. Otherwise, it becomes a shopping centre feel dominated by two supermarkets + surrounding cafes' (St Kilda resident).

'Carlisle St and the Balaclava/St Kilda/St Kilda East area has a community feel without the cold and sterile feel of big buildings and department stores. This is something worth holding onto and something residents feel they connect with. It's so nice to live in an area with colourful street art, green spaces, locally owned shops and cafes without neon signs and big businesses who don't connect with the community. We should focus on protecting that sense of community' (St Kilda resident).

Theme 3: Public furniture and streetscape design

Comments relating to street furniture and streetscape design made up **17.3 per cent of comments**, making it the third-most common theme in total. Many comments relating to this theme also fall within Theme 1: Accessibility and Pedestrian safety, where there is overlap with feedback such as choosing consistent (and safe) sidewalk materials, and building wider footpaths.

Comments around street furniture were largely in favour of more furniture and a consistent look and feel to this infrastructure. There were, however, **diverse opinions** on this, its impact, what that look and feel should be.

'I'm a big fan of making pavements more consistent, adding greenery and making public spaces more inviting and accessible. Balaclava certainly has a faded glory feel to it at the moment, with quite a few rough patches, and it'd be lovely to see it bloom again' (Balaclava resident).

'I am concerned that adding street furniture like benches and tables will allow further encourage the loitering of junkies. Currently they use of all of the existing street benches and nobody else is able to use these' (Balaclava resident).

'Very happy for the streetscape to be beautified, made safer, greener and more accessible and I like a lot of the opportunities outlined in the goals document and I like the ambition and creativity. Important to an interesting



streetscape is diversity of streetscape design. I am not supportive of all street furniture etc. looking the same, for example; diversity is interesting to look at and modern furniture is bland and uninviting' (Balaclava resident).

'Currently Carlisle Street appears unplanned and disorganised. The draft was wonderful at highlighting the issues faced. Consistency is the biggest down fall. One style of furniture and paving should be used to reduce visual clutter. Moving I services underground would also help with this. There are a lack of plants on Carlisle and adding more would help significantly to beautify the area and also meet the greening goals of the council. As someone with visual impairment at night, greater lighting would be appreciated as in winter it is tough to see in the dark' (Balaclava resident).

'Create a salubrious village feel to our shopping strip with safe but WARM lighting. Incorporate furniture made of wood and have as much greenery as possible. No plastic flowers or greenery allowed. An eclectic mix of shops, cafes that residents feel the need to shop elsewhere. And selective art that enhances the environment' (St Kilda resident).

'Timber slatted seats weather far too quickly – look at some recycled material that weathers better' (St Kilda resident).

Theme 4: Greenery and Environmental Resilience

Participant feedback on planting, green spaces and environmental resilience made up **17.0 per cent of comments**. Feedback was broadly supportive of more greenery for Carlisle Street. The majority of comments supported the planting of local native species, with additional comments on integrating lighting, shade-giving trees, and habitat/pollinator gardens.

'Replace non-indigenous trees with indigenous species. Ensure traffic movement is taken into consideration when selecting tree planting solutions... Where trees overhang properties ensure suitable species are planted and regularly pruned. If removing parking spaces by planting in street or boxes etc – ensure there is suitable replacement parking. Residents pay for parking permits and so if spaces are removed make appropriate other parking available. On low footfall streets plant in pavements as well' (Balaclava resident).



'Plant green trees that can light up at nighttime (fairy lights/ up-lighting). Include under-planting (flowers) for a nicer streetscape. See Melbourne Town Hall, Bourke St Mall for reference' (Elwood resident).

'Greener, Australian plants, less concrete grey footpaths' (St Kilda resident).

'Green open spaces are lacking or are not directly accessible from Carlisle Street, however, green spaces are usually not associated with a shopping precinct. A continuous "green canopy" of street trees could act as improvement to Carlisle Street' (St Kilda East resident)

'Flowers & nature to attract birds, bees & butterflies [at St Kilda Library]' (Forum participant).

'I think it would be great to include more street plants, especially locally indigenous plants. The native plantings on Gibbs Street are a great example of this, or the Danks and Bothwell Street BioLinks. There may not be space to do exactly this kind of thing on the main street itself, but perhaps in green areas like the back of the library or the Town Hall open space. The main strip of Carlisle Street could also have some native plants to encourage native pollinators' (Caulfield North resident).

Theme 5: Lighting

In total, **5.4 per cent of participant feedback related to lighting**. Lighting and safety were commonly discussed together, along with accessibility considerations for people with limited vision or mobility. For survey respondent, slightly more women commented on lighting compared to men. However, for both genders, lighting was the least frequent theme. More about gender differences is discussed in the next section. Comments included:

'For me lighting and accessibility are the big issues. I'm legally blind, I'm struggling to use my local shops at night' (Balaclava resident).

'I think the other objectives are good, especially improving the pavement so it's easier to walk on and improving the lighting so it's safer and more inviting at night. I currently reside on Blenheim Street and as a single woman with mobility issues, it is very scary walking home once it is dark. I have often



tripped up due to the uneven pavements, particular when it is dark and I am unable to see these. I would also feel much safer with better street lighting. I hope that both of these objectives extend to Blenheim Street' (Balaclava resident).

'I encourage any plans around lighting to consider how best to minimise light pollution to support our insects and bat populations. I would also support removing car spaces to make room for planting, bike lanes, and general accessibility. There is plenty of public transport so that car access should not be a priority' (Ripponlea resident)

'Make sure the shops get occupied. Better warmer lighting in the evening' (St Kilda resident).

Other / Out of scope themes

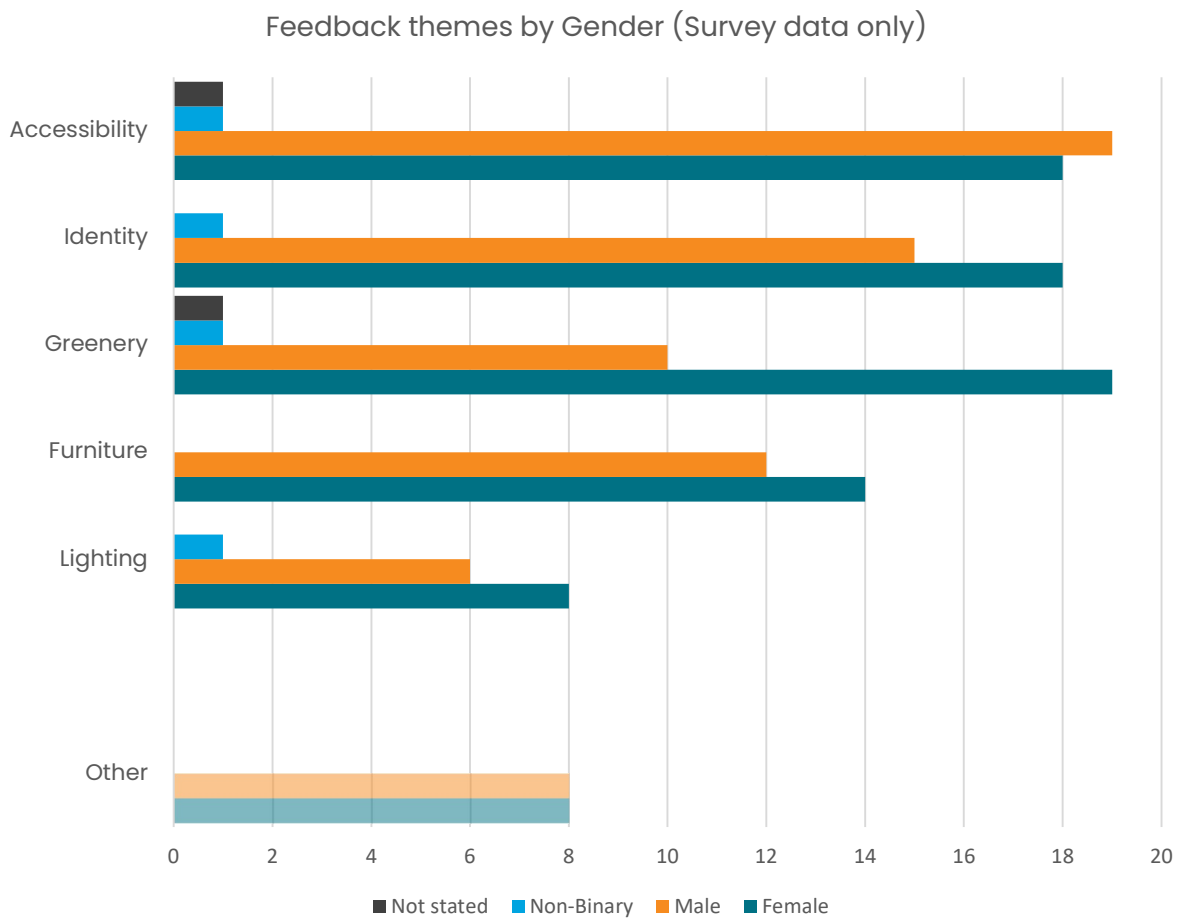
A range of other comments were collected from participant feedback that were outside of the scope of this project, making up **17.5 per cent of comments**. Where appropriate, these have been passed to other teams. Commonly these comments related to things such as:

- The Coles redevelopment and car park
- Facades of buildings
- Street cleaning
- Rough sleeping
- Policing
- Graffiti
- Building and development controls, and
- Car parking.



Differences in feedback across genders

Please note: Participant demographic data from the Forum is not attributable to particular pieces of feedback. As such, the only feedback which can be assessed for differences in gender is from the online survey. The size of this group is 137 participants. Across themes survey participant comments vary to explain different priorities based on gender. Participants identifying as female were significantly more likely to discuss planting and greenery, as opposed to male participants. Accessibility was the only area where men were more likely to comment than women – with slightly more likely to mentioned issues related to cycling.





Next steps

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this initial round of consultation about the Carlisle Street Streetscape Plan.

The findings from this round of engagement will be used to develop a draft Streetscape Plan. Later this year, around September 2025, we will ask for your feedback on that draft Streetscape Plan, and whether we have missed anything.

We will continue to keep the community updated on the progress of the project via the dedicated project page:

<https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/carlisle-streetscape>.