

DICKSON STREETScape UPGRADE

LISTENING REPORT



From 26 March – 14 May 2021, community members were invited to review and give feedback on a proposed design concept for streetscape upgrades to Woolley Street, Dickson.

We sought feedback on unforeseen issues with the concept designs. We also asked for your preferences to guide artwork commissions, and we spoke with local traders about how to shape the construction program to minimise impact.

Feedback received varied. 73 per cent of survey respondents were supportive of the proposed designs, particularly the improvements that slow traffic, make the street more attractive, and enhance outdoor dining. Unsupportive respondents were largely concerned about parking, safety near the water play feature, active travel along the length of Woolley Street, and further upgrades in Dickson.



THE CONVERSATION

These designs reflected the recommendations of the Dickson Place Plan, which was developed in partnership with the local community in 2018 to guide improvements to public spaces in the area.

Feedback on the streetscape designs was received via an online survey, doorknock with traders, two pop-up sessions, and meetings with local stakeholders. The engagement was promoted through local media and newsletters, flyer drop to 4200 local residents and businesses, social media advertising, direct emails, and signage on the street.

WHO ENGAGED

Engagement with key stakeholders included meetings with businesses potentially most-affected by the proposal, and community associations representing cycling and people with vision impairments.

Of the 139 online survey respondents, 50 per cent were aged 25-44 years old, 33 per cent were aged 45-64, and the remaining 17 per cent were aged under 25 or over 64. More than 100 identified themselves as regular visitors to Dickson, rather than residents or property owners.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING

2635

2635 people viewed the design online via YourSay Conversations

50+

We spoke to 50+ individuals through pop-ups, meetings and calls

4200

4200 flyers were distributed in the local community

73%

73 per cent of survey respondents were supportive of the proposed designs

20,000

We reached approximately 20,000 people through social media

139

We received 139 survey responses via YourSay Conversations

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WHAT'S NEXT?

We're using the insights from this engagement to refine the streetscape upgrade designs based on the responses over page.

You can register to receive project updates by using the 'Follow' function online at: yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/dickson-streetscape-upgrade

To find out more about the Dickson streetscape upgrade and other City Renewal Authority projects, visit CityRenewalCBR.com.au

Key timings

2018

Dickson Place Plan created

In 2018 a broad cross-section of the Dickson community came together to shape the Dickson Place Plan, which guided the proposed concept designs presented here.

2020

Development of draft concept designs

The City Renewal Authority has worked with local urban designers AECOM to transform the Dickson Place Plan into streetscape upgrades that improve safety and aid pandemic recovery.

26 March - 14 May 2021

Public consultation on concept designs

We invited community to review the proposed concept designs.

Mid-late 2021 [We are here]

Final designs and construction tender

We are reviewing the designs and preparing for construction.

Early 2022

Construction begins

We will begin construction, avoiding peak trading times and Lunar New Year, and consult with traders to minimise negative impacts of construction.



COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

This table outlines how we've responded to the key comments we heard across all feedback methods including YourSay, submissions from community associations, and comments from pop-up sessions.

Comment	Response
Active transport	
Maintain the local cycling access route along the northern side of Woolley Street.	Planned. This access is retained in this design. We will speak to property owners to discuss the importance of this route and how to maintain it in future.
Make active travel a priority the length of Woolley Street, rather than only in the plaza and entry areas.	Planned. Traffic calming measures on Woolley Street, such as narrowing the entry at Badham Street, and formalising the shared zone at the elbow of the street, will create a safer environment for cycling through the street.
Consultation	
Keep traders and locals updated and informed about the project's progress and construction.	Planned. We look forward to continuing our work with community associations, and directly with local traders and residents, to minimise adverse impacts of construction.
Landscape design	
Art and sculpture should be playful, well-designed, celebrate the street's Asian heritage, be colourful and vibrant, fun and interactive. Designs should be unique to Dickson and take advantage of its distinctive character. Ensure the design and landscaping elements reflect Woolley Street as an 'Asian eat street', including more colour.	The designs reflect in-depth research on ways to reflect a range of Asian cultures and add colour in simple ways, such as through moon gates and careful use of exotic flowering plants from across Asia.
Collaborate with artists to achieve unusual and exciting effects, such as in most of the murals to date.	We will continue to take this approach to commissioning artwork as part of our place management program.
Make sure the water play area is located safely to prevent interaction with the road and pedestrians passing through.	Change incorporated. We have reviewed the location of the water play in light of this comment, shifted it further from the roadway, and created a stronger separation using landscaping elements.
Provide power for busking and live music at the plaza area.	Planned. Power for busking, live music and/or market stalls will be incorporated in the central plaza.
Maintenance	

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Comment	Response
Fix paving along Woolley Street to improve accessibility and prevent trips and falls.	Change partially incorporated. We will improve a large area of Woolley Street's pavement, and we will continue to work with TCCS on improvements and maintenance to the rest of Woolley Street.
Outdoor dining	
Support for expanded outdoor dining areas, seating and licensed areas. Some support for removing existing temporary outdoor dining areas.	Noted.
Parking	
Maintain parking availability, including short stay, and improve access for deliveries.	A small number of car spaces will be used to create the central plaza space, and we will work with TCCS to review the mix of parking options and ensure it meets the needs of the street.
Precinct	
ACT Government agencies must collaborate on a unified approach to upgrading Woolley Street	We are working closely with other agencies, including TCCS and EPSDD, to ensure a coordinated approach to the Dickson Centre.
Improve connectivity with the Dickson shops and to the interchange via laneways and pedestrian crossings, especially the Badham Street crossing.	These aspirations are part of the Dickson Place Plan, therefore planned for Dickson in future upgrade projects.
Make Woolley Street one way or a shared zone with more parking, wider verges and a cycleway.	One-way treatments can make it harder for vehicles to access the street, and they can have big implications for the surrounding streets. Additionally, the cost implications of making these streets one-way would be much greater than the current budget.
Manage the impact of construction so it does not compound negative impacts of the Coles development.	TCCS is the lead agency on managing the impact of this development on parking, and a number of changes have been made to the parking plan to improve wayfinding and availability of accessible parking.
Prepare and consult on a plan for more extensive streetscape upgrades throughout Dickson centre.	The Dickson Place Plan outlines aspirations for future improvements. At this stage, improvements to Woolley Street have been prioritised as they avoid further disruption to the centre during the development of Dickson Village.
Prevent antisocial behaviour in Dickson centre	We're working on several improvements to improve comfort and safety in Dickson this year. These include new permanent tree lighting, increasing community services availability through the Dickson Friends Hangout, activating vacant shopfronts, and programming regular events and music. Our colleagues across government are

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Comment	Response
	undertaking a range of activities as well. We are open to ongoing feedback about this.
Provide clean and safe 24 hour public toilets.	Referred to TCCS as asset owner.
Remove physical clutter on Woolley Street to increase space available to pedestrians in verges.	Planned and noted for future. This project will reduce 'clutter' and create a coherent approach to landscaping within the upgrade sites. In future upgrades we aim to broaden this approach.
Resolve the issue where private lessees are responsible for public space at the elbow on Woolley Street, including access from Woolley Street to the car park behind Jimmy's and to the carpark on Challis Street, and the courtyard area near Sfoglia cafe, to make sure these areas are secure and high-quality in the long term.	Change incorporated. We will work with relevant lessees to address this issue and discuss opportunities for maintaining these thoroughfares.
Programme	
Grateful that the upgrade sites mean the whole street won't be closed for construction.	Noted.
Vehicle speeds	
Ensure Woolley Street is safe by limiting rat-running and ensuring safety when people reverse out of car spaces.	Planned. New raised crossings will aid in slowing traffic through Woolley Street and lighting will improve visibility.