



SULWOOD DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

Design work is progressing for improvements along Sulwood Drive to improve safety and access for both residents and visitors to the Mount Taylor Nature Reserve.

In 2018 the ACT Government converted part of the verge along Sulwood Drive in Kambah into a formalised carpark, replacing the dirt surface with recycled asphalt and creating defined entry and exit points including kerb barriers to improve safety and access for parking.

Following the completion of these works, in response to community feedback the Government progressed with design work for further safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists.

Key features of the designs

- A new four-kilometre long and three-metre wide asphalt, off-road path on the southern side of Sulwood Drive between Drakeford Drive and Athllon Drive, improving access for Kambah residents both to the Mount Taylor Nature Reserve and to the local Wanniasa shops. This new off-road shared path will include safety barriers where required.
- Traffic lights at the intersection of Mannheim Street and Sulwood Drive.
- Changes to the entry and exit points, as well as a safe right-turn into the carpark.

THE CONVERSATION

We held a conversation online and face to face from Thursday 10 June to Friday 9 July 2021.

A YourSay page went live on **Thursday 10 June 2021** containing details of the designs, including an image showing the proposed location of the improvements. The community was invited to provide their feedback via email and in person at a pop-up at the Mount Taylor Nature Reserve on **Saturday 19 June 2021**.

WHO WE ENGAGED

Feedback was received primarily from local residents and those who regularly travel along Sulwood Drive for both commuting and recreation (in accessing the Mount Taylor Nature Reserve).

The objective of this project is to improve access for pedestrians and cyclists along Sulwood Drive, particularly in accessing the Mount Taylor Nature Reserve. For this reason, letterbox drops were undertaken to approximately 1,200 residential properties and businesses on the southern side of Sulwood Drive. In addition, social media was targeted to the region and a pop-up was held at the Mount Taylor Nature Reserve to capture those who use the nature reserve for recreational purposes.

We received 54 emails regarding the improvements and approximately 40 people came to talk to us at the pop-up.



Key insights from the community

Location of the shared path

1. The majority of emails received expressed preference for the shared path to be located on the northern side.
2. Further reasoning was sought for the shared path to be located on the southern side of Sulwood Drive.

Environmental impacts

3. Concern was expressed for the removal of mature trees from the southern side of Sulwood Drive.
4. In addition, concerns about the shared path, traffic lights and perceived loss of the earth mound raised questions about increased noise for nearby residents.
5. It is important to the community that the existing amenity is maintained, and additional trees are provided.

Intersection improvements

6. There were mixed feelings about the decision to signalise the Mannheim Street intersection rather than provide a roundabout.
7. A number of respondents queried why similar treatments weren't being provided at Inkster Street and Livingston Avenue.

Additional improvements

8. A small number of respondents raised questions about an underpass at the intersection of Athllon Drive and Sulwood Drive. This is part of the designs for the future duplication of Athllon Drive.
9. A small number of respondents requested a lowering of the speed limit along this section of Sulwood Drive.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The project team has reviewed all feedback and will be individually responding to those who asked questions as part of the engagement process.

In addition, we have uploaded Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) to the YourSay page which respond to the main questions and concerns raised by respondents.

The Government will be proceeding with the design as presented to the community. However, the following changes will be made as we move to finalise the designs:

- in response to the feedback received, the missing link on Mannheim Street between Mackay Crescent and Sulwood Drive will be delivered with this project
- additional tree planting will, where possible, be focused on the sections of the path that move up on top of the earth mound.



Still to be finalised are:

- a landscaping plan which will include the trees for removal, how they will be offset and where additional plantings can take place
- determination of the provision of an acceleration lane for traffic joining Sulwood Drive eastbound and a right-turn exiting the carpark onto Sulwood Drive westbound
- the exact alignment of the shared path on the southern side of Sulwood Drive; minimising the impacts on the existing mature trees where possible.

Construction of this project is subject to future investment opportunities. Updates will continue to be provided via the YourSay page.

Key Timings

June 2021: key details of the designs provided to the community for feedback.

September 2021: What We Heard report released to the community and finalisation of design underway.
[We are here]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

1,000+

We reached
1,163 people via
YourSay

130+

We received 54 emails
containing more than
134 items of feedback.

28,000+

We reached a social media
audience of 28,524.

<40

Around 40 people
came to talk to us at
the pop-up.

<1,200

We letterboxed around
1,200 residences and
businesses