



# UPGRADES FOR GWYDIR SQUARE, KALEEN

## REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

**As Canberra grows, the ACT Government is supporting sustainable urban renewal that enhances the qualities we value in our capital.**

Funding was provided in the 2020-21 ACT Budget to progress detail design work on upgrades at the local shops at Gwydir Square in Kaleen. Preliminary sketch plans (PSPs) were prepared in 2017 as part of the early concept design phase. These included a range of public space upgrades to improve amenity and access.

Upgrades at the Gwydir Square Kaleen local shops will:

- help revitalise and improve access in and around the centre
- encourage people to shop locally
- support local businesses
- encourage new tenants to occupy vacant shops
- support the changing needs of the community.

## THE CONVERSATION

### Online survey

An online YourSay survey was open during the consultation period from Monday 22 March until Monday 10 May 2021 for the local community to provide feedback on the preliminary sketch plans. The plans included improvements to safety and accessibility, including footpaths, and well as improvements to the look and feel of the public spaces such as landscaping, seating, bike racks and shade.

Members of the local community also provided feedback via email.

### Pop-up session

On Saturday 17 April 2021 a pop-up was held at Gwydir Square for the local community to ask questions and share their thoughts on the proposed improvements.



## WHO WE ENGAGED

**Feedback was received from a range of stakeholders including local businesses, community groups and residents.**

With a strong focus on local communities and stakeholders, a letterbox drop was carried out to all residential properties in the suburb of Kaleen inviting residents to visit the YourSay page and complete the survey.

A pop-up session was held on a Saturday at Gwydir Square to capture the views of regular visitors with 35 community members speaking with the project team. The project team also met with business owners from Gwydir Square to provide information on the project and get their feedback.

Those who engaged by filling out the online survey were predominantly Kaleen residents (74%) that identified as being part of a couple living with children at home (36.7%). Around 65% told us they visit Gwydir Square either every day or a few times a week.

### Key insights from the community

#### Parking and safety

1. There is strong support for addressing the issue of parking.
2. Issues related to the insufficient number of carparking spaces to service the shops (primarily due to use by daytime offsite workers and for school drop off/pick up), public safety in the rear car park due to heavy vehicles using the area for deliveries and waste collection, and speeding vehicles in the surrounding streets.
3. Suggestions raised by the community to address the issues included time d parking and enforcement.

#### Amenities, landscaping and shade

4. There is support for additional amenities, landscaping and shade .
5. Feedback received suggested the installation of public art, additional seating, a new public toilet and additional trees to provide shade would support local residents and shop users.

#### Footpath and cycle connections

6. The community considered improving footpaths and connections to be important.
7. Feedback received suggested that the paths could be improved, and bike racks installed to better connect the shops with pedestrians and encourage active travel.

#### Lighting

8. There is support for addressing the poor lighting in the area and the vandalism of streetlights.
9. Suggestions raised by the community to address the issue included lighting improvements.



## WHAT'S NEXT?

**Feedback received has been used to finalise the designs for upgrades at the local shops at Gwydir Square in Kaleen.**

The final designs are now available on the YourSay project page. Key features of the final designs include:

- parking spaces with safer areas for goods and services drop-offs
- community artwork
- a new public toilet
- improved landscaping and more planting, including native trees
- better seating, shade and lighting.

Tenders for construction are expected to be released in the coming weeks with works to begin onsite in early 2022.

If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email [communityengagement@act.gov.au](mailto:communityengagement@act.gov.au).

### Key Timings

**2017** – Engagement undertaken with key stakeholders, including the businesses at the time, resulting in the development of preliminary sketch plans.

**22 March 2021** – Community consultation on the preliminary sketch plans begins.

**10 May 2021** – Consultation closes.

**September 2021** – What We Heard report and final designs released. [We are here]

**Early 2022** – Construction works expected to commence onsite.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK****1,000+**

We reached 1,132 people via  
YourSay

**181**

We received 181 completed  
surveys

**5**

We received five written  
submissions via email.

**2,700+**

We distributed more than  
2,700 letters to local  
residents and businesses

**6,700+**

We reached 6,797 people on  
social media with a 7.6%  
engagement rate.

**35**

We spoke to 35 community  
members at the pop-up