

<b>12.6</b>	<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>BOLLEN ROAD UPGRADE – DESIGN AND CONSULTATION SUMMARY</b>
	<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>5 FEBRUARY 2024</b>
	<b>FILE NUMBER:</b>	<b>DOC/23/174262</b>
	<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b>	<b>ATTACHMENT 1 – CONCEPT DESIGN - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION AND PROPOSED AMENDMENTS (SCPA) - DOC/23/148289</b>
	<b><u>Key Contact</u></b>	<b>Matthew Dawkins, Manager Infrastructure Planning</b>
	<b><u>Manager/Sponsor</u></b>	<b>Phil Burton, General Manager Infrastructure</b>

**Community Plan 2020-2035:**

CW Goal 1 Activity and movement Physical and mental health and wellbeing is supported by opportunities to access parks and natural areas, quality open space and recreation and sporting facilities.

CW Goal 4 Undertake town planning, infrastructure provision and asset management to facilitate healthy lifestyles and safety.

CW Goal 5 Apply a strategic, planned and consistent approach to the provision, development and maintenance of roads and footpaths.

**Annual Business Plan:**

Bollen Road is a project within the endorsed annual business plan.

**Purpose:**

To present a summary of the feedback received during community engagement on the draft concept design for the upgrade of Bollen Road.

**Summary – Key Issues:**

1. During the community engagement period between 18 October and 6 November 2023, 804 people viewed the project information webpage and draft concept design, 52 people completed the online survey, around 100 people attended the drop in session to provide feedback in person and 5 people emailed more detailed responses.
2. Feedback themes included tree preservation, local area traffic management and speed control, road network connections (Flaxley and Hawthorn), pedestrian and cyclist access and property access.

3. All of the feedback received has been collated, summarised and responded to in Attachment 1. As a result of the feedback received, changes are being made to the concept design where feasible and this will be brought back to Council in March for endorsement.

**Recommendation:**

**That Council:**

1. **Note the feedback provided by the community on the draft concept design for the Bollen Road Upgrade and the proposed amendments to the concept design arising from this feedback shown in attachment 1;**
  2. **Note that staff are amending the concept design in response to the community feedback and will present an updated draft to Council Members at an informal briefing on 12 February 2024, and;**
  3. **Note that a further Council report will be tabled at the March meeting to endorse the final concept design with an indicative staging plan, cost opinion and funding strategy.**
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**Background:**

1. Council has allocated funding to prepare a concept and detailed design for the upgrade of Bollen Road in Mount Barker.
2. On 3 October 2023 Council resolved to authorise staff to undertake Community engagement on the draft concept design for the upgrade of the Bollen Road.

**Discussion:**

**How We Engaged:**

3. The consultation period between 18 October and 6 November 2023 included the community engagement activities:
  - **Webpage:**  
A project information page was created on Council's engagement platform "Yoursay", providing details on the proposed 30% concept design;
  - **Mail Out:**  
An information letter was mailed to all households within a 400m radius of Bollen Road, providing arrangements for the drop in session (held at King Baptist Grammar School), the consultation period and information on how to provide feedback;
  - **Online Feedback:**  
An online feedback survey was created for those taking part to give feedback online;
  - **Email:**  
An email address was provided for those wanting to provide more extended feedback responses;

- **In Person:**

A drop in session was held on Tuesday 31 October 2023 at the King Baptist Grammar School on Bollen Road for community members to attend and provide feedback. Further consultation was also held with residents directly affected by the design.

**What We Heard:**

4. In response to the feedback received, a Summary of Consultation and Proposed Amendments (SCPA) table has been prepared. The SCPA table and full summary of all feedback received on the project is contained within Attachment 1.
5. The key themes in the feedback were associated with:
  - a) Preservation of trees (exotic and native)
  - b) Local area traffic management and speed controls
  - c) Property access
  - d) Pedestrian and cyclist access and safety
  - e) Bollen Road connection to Flaxley and Hawthorn Roads
6. The key specific feedback included the following:
  - a) Strong support for splitting the road into two carriageways either side of the large trees between Mansfield and Memorial on the basis that it preserves the exotic oak trees and the remnant native vegetation.
  - b) Concerns about potential tree removals, emphasising the historical significance of oak trees in the context of Bollen Road and Mount Barker;
  - c) Concern about sightlines at intersections particularly in close proximity to large trees.
  - d) Concerns around loss of the “green belt” of land between Mansfield and Memorial.
  - e) Support to close current Bollen/Hawthorn intersection.
  - f) Concern that Silverwood Drive may become a cut through road to Hawthorn Road (Relates to the timing of the new link road by the developer of land west of Hawthorn).
  - g) Strong support to include school zone and lower speed limit (50kph) along Bollen Road.
  - h) Support for the roundabout proposed at Memorial Drive that retains the trees and better manages the sight lines at that junction.
  - i) A need to improve safety and crossing points for pedestrians.
  - j) Support for a new pedestrian footbridge link over Western Flat Creek to link with the existing linear trail.
  - k) A need to identify the future recreation grounds carpark access.
  - l) Concern about speed along Bollen Road and the safety of property access (requests for local area traffic management controls to slow traffic).
  - m) A need to improve Flaxley/Bollen intersection (and Flaxley/Hurling – outside scope).
  - n) Appreciation for the environmentally sustainable elements of the design.

- o) Concern about use of single driveway/service road for ingress/egress to Numbers 14 to 20 Bollen Road;

**How We Listened:**

- 7. As a result of the feedback received from the community, a number of changes will be made to the draft concept plan to ensure the final design outcomes are, where possible and practical are consistent with the community expectations.
- 8. The following are some of the key changes being considered for the final concept plan:
  - a) Review of the divided and single carriageway proposals in relation to tree retention, cost and amenity. This may include minor encroachment of the road onto the Council land south of Bollen Road (adjacent to the school) to preserve trees and minimise road construction costs.
  - b) Greater tree retention.
  - c) Review of service road in front of Numbers 14 to 20 Bollen Road to retain the existing driveways (subject to more detailed design).
  - d) The pedestrian crossing on Memorial Drive moved further away from the intersection and at a better alignment to the proposed footbridge across Western Flat Creek.
  - e) The pedestrian crossing for the Newenham Linear Trail to provide safety features (fencing, signage, etc.)
  - f) Corrections to driveways that were initially missed or incorrectly shown.
  - g) Houses with secondary driveways will be reviewed for sight lines and safety to access whether the dual access is warranted and/or can be retained to facilitate egress in a forward direction.
  - h) In order to address speeding concerns, review the merit of gently ramped raised intersections particularly on the downhill section of the road noting that speed humps or single lane driveway links are not considered appropriate for the traffic volumes predicted on this road.
  - i) Identification and provision for possible future access to the Western Field recreation grounds car park.
- 9. Council staff and the design consultants will review in detail the feedback gathered and refine the concept design for presentation to Council Members for endorsement in March with a briefing preceding this on 12 February 2024 to review the changes made. Indicative project staging, cost estimates and a funding strategy will be included in the report to Council.
- 10. Subject to Council endorsement, the project will advance to a 50% design through 2024.

**Policy:**

In accordance with Public Consultation policy.

**Long Term Financial Plan:**

The current endorsed LTFP has made a provision for the upgrade of Bollen Road with an assumption that approximately one-third is funded from renewal.

**Budget:**

There is \$138,175 for Bollen Road Upgrade Design in the current annual business plan and budget.

**Statutory/Legal:**

N/A

**Staff Resource Requirements:**

Consultant design resources and internal project management.

**Environmental:**

Detailed design work will give consideration to retention and reuse of existing pavement materials where possible and utilisation of recycled products wherever suitable. Other initiatives such as permeable paving and tree sensitive pavements will be included where feasible to do so.

**Social:**

This project will have a positive social benefit as there will be pedestrian infrastructure linking with existing trails and paths, enhancing active transport opportunities and improving safety and function.

**Risk Assessment:**

The local area is under pressure from growth in housing, schools and other uses that will access Bollen Road. Progression of the concept to the preliminary design (then then ultimately detailed design) is important to enable timely planning, design and implementation of improvements to Bollen Road.

The risk of community not supporting the project is mitigated by undertaking community engagement and keeping them informed of any major changes.

**Asset Management:**

Much of the road infrastructure is at the end of its useful life and is due for renewal in accordance with Council's asset management plan.

There will likely be an increased maintenance cost due to the upgrade and so an estimate of the ongoing maintenance costs will be provided when the final design is presented to Council for endorsement.

**Conclusion:**

Bollen Road Upgrade is an important project for the local community. Results of community engagement on the draft concept design have now been summarised and will be considered and incorporated into the final concept design for Council endorsement in March 2024.

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**Previous Decisions By/Information Reports to Council**

Meeting Date	3 October 2023	CM Reference	DOC/23/123469
Title	Bollen Road Mount Barker Concept Design		
Purpose	To present Council Members with the draft concept design for the proposed upgrade of Bollen Road, Mount Barker and to seek endorsement to undertake community consultation on the 30% concept design.		