

Historic image: 1927, looking east along Bunbury Street from the station
(Source: South Kensington to West Footscray, [railway excavations]; 2460782, State Library Victoria)

Have your say on Bunbury Streetscape improvements and the Bunbury Street Art Walk



Council is calling for feedback to develop a concept design for Bunbury Street, Footscray which is known for its character and charm. Shaded by large Elm and Ash trees, it is an important connection for pedestrians and cyclists from Footscray train station to the Maribyrnong River and Arts Centre at the other end.

The project aims to retain the unique features of Bunbury Street while introducing an Art Walk; improved footpaths and intersections; new bike lanes, new street furnishings, lighting and a management strategy for the aging avenue of trees.

We're inviting the community to participate in shaping the concept for Bunbury Street to meet the current and future needs of the area. Join the conversation online via the QR code below or type into your browser:
www.yourcityyourvoice.com.au/bunbury-streetscape-2021



Lifecycle:

18 May
through
6 June 2021



Initial consultation with local community and stakeholders
• 7pm on Tuesday 1 June 2021
Information session please register via the link



Concept Plan developed incorporating feedback received through the initial consultation



Community consultation on the concept plan



Council endorsement of the concept plan

Bunbury Street Concept Design Focus

QUESTION:

1. What are your future aspirations for streetscape improvements in Bunbury St? Please prioritise the following elements 1 for highest and 5 for least priority

- _____ Improve the ability for people to walk and cycle between the station and the riverfront
- _____ Improve the streetscape entrance to the Footscray Train Station at Hyde Street and Bunbury Street
- _____ Improve the condition of the avenue of heritage trees on Bunbury St from Hyde Street to Moreland Street
- _____ Establish an Art Walk which will assist in connecting the Art Centre and the riverfront to central Footscray
- _____ Express the heritage of the site

2. Are there other elements you would like to see prioritised? (Please specify the element and where it would sit in priority)



Improvements to Footscray Train Station entrance

The Edwardian-era train station is state heritage listed with the last upgrade to the station undertaken in 2014. There's an opportunity to acknowledge the important role this transport hub has played in our city and Victoria by improving the entranceway from Bunbury Street and acknowledging that it is a gateway entrance to central Footscray.

QUESTIONS:

- Would you support entrance improvements to Footscray Train Station at Hyde Street and Bunbury Street?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
- What improvements would you like to see at the Footscray Train Station entrance?
 - ☐ Increased plaza space at the Hyde and Bunbury Street facade for gathering and navigating
 - ☐ Elements which acknowledge the history of the station and the area
 - ☐ Artwork(s) that make the entrance more memorable and inviting
 - ☐ Additional green space garden elements at the Hyde and Bunbury Street facade
 - ☐ Feature lighting in the area
 - ☐ Increased bicycle parking
 - ☐ Better connectivity for cyclists to the station
 - ☐ Other: _____
- Your comments: _____





Addressing the aging avenue of trees

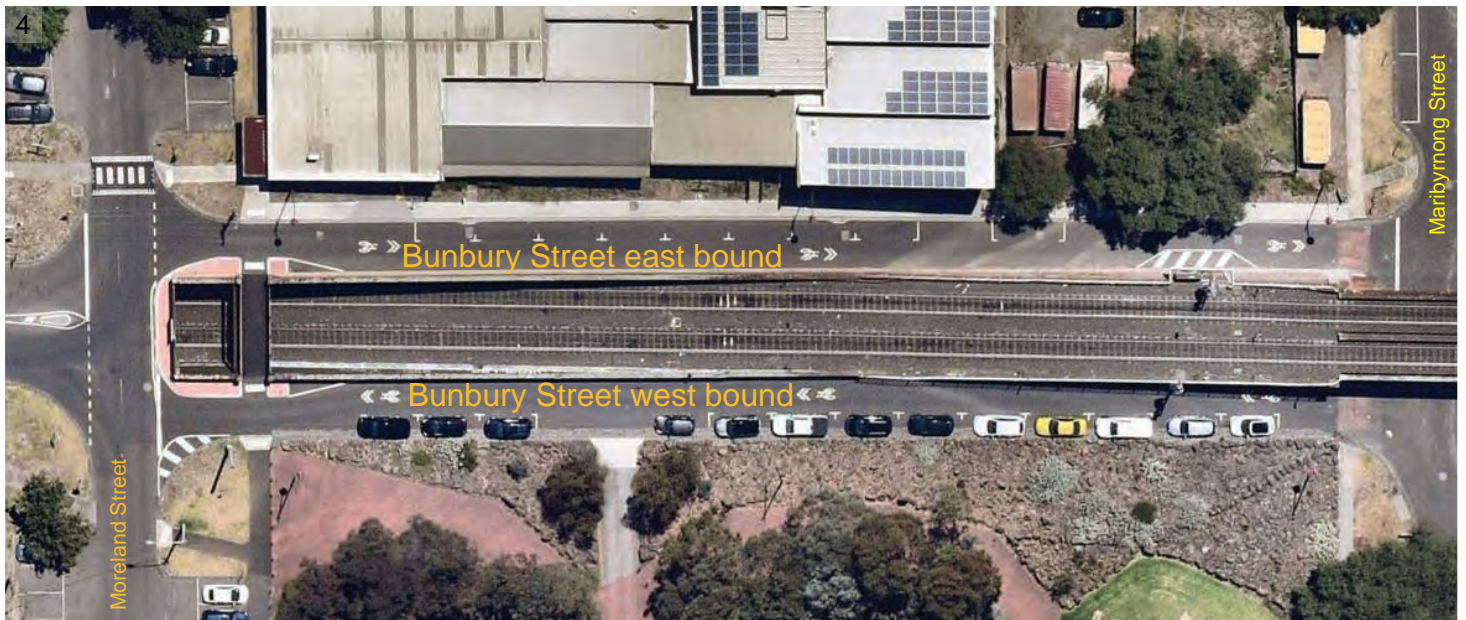
The Bunbury Street Elm and Ash avenue is recognised for its cultural heritage and beauty. In line with heritage guidelines for the avenue, Council is developing a tree management strategy for Bunbury Street as many of the trees are reaching the end of their life expectancy and have a higher risk of structural deterioration. This plan will address the safety risks with the trees and create a forward plan for replacement of the trees.

We are fortunate that Dutch Elm tree disease is not a current threat in Australia and the existing elm beetle is manageable through maintenance practices, therefore replanting Elms in this location can be sustained.

COMMENTS:

6. Are there practices or maintenance items which you would like to comment on for inclusion in the creation of a tree management plan?





Tree Planting from Moreland Street to Maribyrnong Street

From Moreland Street to Maribyrnong Street additional planting may be possible. This area is outside the heritage overlay of the avenue of trees and is located adjacent the arts centre and rail tunnel exit.

QUESTION:

7. What are the most important considerations for you in planting in this area?

- ☐ Continuation of the avenue of large canopy trees if possible
- ☐ Trees which are known for their air cleaning properties to mitigate the freight and V-line rail exhaust as the tunnel opens at this end
- ☐ Maintaining the view to the city from the intersection of Moreland Street and Bunbury Street
- ☐ Native species
- ☐ Drought tolerant trees
- ☐ Balance the planted elements with elements which express the entrance into the riverside and arts area

8. Your comments: _____





Introducing bicycle lanes

The need to replace some of the aging street trees provides the opportunity to address maintenance issues such as levelling the verges, footpath and portions of the street in addition to improving drainage. With these works Council recognises that bicycle and walking connectivity can be improved in line with the Maribyrnong Bicycle Strategy 2020-2030 and the Footscray Structure Plan 2014.

QUESTION:

9. What improvements are important to you to encourage bicycle use of Bunbury Street?

- ☐ protected bicycle lanes which connect from the river corridor to Footscray Train Station and into central Footscray.
- ☐ separate bicycle paths from pedestrian paths
- ☐ improved crossings at intersections
- ☐ improved lighting
- ☐ integrated artwork and wayfinding to express and encourage bicycle use in the area
- ☐ improved facilities for cyclists, additional bike racks, drinking fountain and maintenance station
- ☐ Other (please specify) _____





Art Walk and reflecting the stories of the location

During consultation on the Footscray Structure Plan (2014) community called for an Art Walk in Bunbury Street.

An Art Walk can foster connections and contribute to an attractive, unique place. Artwork outcomes could include both permanent and temporary installations. While there are many opportunities for artwork; future budget allocation, heritage requirements and site conditions will stipulate the scope of the future Art Walk.

Please refer to the Site Features Plan to gain an understanding of the history and elements of the street.

QUESTIONS:

10. In creation of an Art Walk for this avenue are there key themes you would like to see addressed?

11. Are there key sites or important features of Bunbury Street you would like to see addressed by the Art Walk? Please prioritise from 1 most important to 6 least important.

- ☐ the connection between the river, art centre and central Footscray
- ☐ the view over the east rail tunnel entrance
- ☐ the station forecourt
- ☐ the unique avenue of trees along Bunbury Street from Hyde Street to Moreland Street
- ☐ heritage locations along Bunbury Street
- ☐ the Aboriginal cultural area extending up Bunbury Street from the riverside

12. Are there other key sites or important features you would like to see addressed by the Art Walk?
(Please specify the site/feature and where it would sit in priority)

13. Which of the following possible strategies to create an Art Walk are most important to you? Please prioritise from 1 most important to 4 least important.

- ☐ Integrate artwork into the streetscape design (bespoke furnishings, signature lighting, paving details and layout).
- ☐ Create a space(s) for a changing program of artworks. The artworks could celebrate local events with changeable displays or temporal artworks. Or the space(s) could house a curated rotation of artwork to be on display.
- ☐ Showcase long term public artworks at appropriate points on Bunbury Street
- ☐ Create a digital walking tour of the street

14. Are there key strategies you would like to see added to this list?

Please specify



Share your stories and ideas:

As part of this consultation you are invited to share local stories of Bunbury Street that could contribute to the concept plan, future walking tours and future art concepts. The stories should relate to the place history, character, past, current and evolving culture.

QUESTIONS:

15. Do you know of significant stories to be told about Bunbury Street?
Description of story or element

16. Why is this story important to the community?

17. Contact for further detail

My contact details:

18. For project survey reference I am:

- ☐ a resident or owner on Bunbury Street
- ☐ a local business located on Bunbury Street
- ☐ a local artist or arts organisation
- ☐ other _____

19. I'd like to be involved in the development of the concept.

- ☐ Yes and my contact details are below
- ☐ No

20. I'd like to be informed of the development of the concept.
Please add me to the mailing list:

name _____

email _____

For further information on this project please contact Chelsea in our City Design Team on CD@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au or by telephone on 0418 178 322.

Heritage of Bunbury Street and surrounds

See the link here www.yourcityyourvoice.com.au/bunbury-streetscape-2021 to view the Heritage review of Bunbury Street site.

Aboriginal connection

The area around Footscray was home to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and the Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation for more than 40,000 years. The banks of the Maribyrnong River still preserve archaeological sites of significance. As a result we have Aboriginal heritage overlays that reach 200m from the banks of the river, midway to the intersection of Moreland and Bunbury streets.

At the other end of Bunbury Street, at the heritage listed Footscray Railway Station, there is an overhead walkway named after William Cooper. He was born in the Yorta Yorta territory in 1860 but moved to Footscray in 1933. He was an Aboriginal Rights activist since the late 1880s and in his 70s, Cooper became a recognised activist after forming the Australian Aborigines League in 1935.

Settlement hub

Footscray became the place to connect in the mid-1800s. The installation of a punt at Bunbury Street in 1839 helped travellers cross the Maribyrnong from Melbourne to reach places like Footscray, Williamstown and head towards Geelong. The gold rush began in 1851, ushering an era of migration and hopeful travellers seeking their fortune. Our early records show that Bunbury Street had about 100 residents in 1854 and that jumped to 1070 residents in 1861.

Footscray Station

The Footscray Railway Station complex is valued for its elaborate stucco decoration, it has architectural, social and historical importance in Victoria.

There were originally two railway stations built at Footscray - one on the first rural line built to Geelong in 1857 and one built in 1859 as part of the first major government built railway to Bendigo. They became part of a complex that branched into two lines in 1899-1908. The central building has a V configuration and a beautifully designed entry, notable at the time for its bluestone quoin work around the doors, arched windows and stucco cornice bands.

The landscaping around the building was described as 'dramatic' with exotic plantings. A section of garden from the original time remains and are managed by Council, there's a lasting legacy of flowering greenery at the west entry where Peppercorns and mature Palm Trees welcome travellers.

Workers and families

The area around Bunbury Street became a hotbed of industry in the 1860s. Key industries included the wharves, boat building and repairs but there were also tallows that boiled down meat to make candles and soap, there were abattoirs and associated industries such as piggeries and in later years there were producers of fertilisers and chemicals. As jobs in the area grew so did hotels and residential development. Part of the Arts Centre site on Bunbury Street was once a piggery. Factories were built along the river and further inland. Jobs continued to be created in the manufacturing industries past the 1900s and continued to offer work to new arrivals that migrated in the aftermath of World War I and World War II.

Historic trees, streetscape and rail tunnel

The street was constructed in the late 1800s and early 1900s with a wide footpath to the south and narrow footpath to the north of the street. The avenue of trees was established in the first decade of the 1900s by a Mr J J Whyte who offered to pay for the planting of 50 trees on Bunbury Street between the railway station and the river. Excavation to create a tunnel underneath began in the 1920s to accommodate the new South Kensington-West Footscray rail line. The tunnel carries passenger and freight trains from Footscray Train Station through the underground tunnel emerging at the end of Bunbury Street on the city side. It was built as part of a broader scheme to improve the movement of freight and bring interstate/ country passengers through Melbourne's suburbs in the early part of the 1900s. After the tunneling works, the street was reconstructed and it was at this time that the grass verge with kerb and channel were introduced along with infill planting of Ash trees.

Bunbury Street has a layered history which the new works intend to preserve and express as Council renews the streetscape for current and future use.