



# Future of Bunbury Street

## Context

## Future of Bunbury Street

Bunbury Street in Footscray is a key civic avenue known for its character and charm. Shaded by large trees, it is an important connection for people travelling by foot and bike between the Footscray Train Station, Maribyrnong River and arts precinct.

Unfortunately, a number of heritage trees in the street have developed poor structure and posed high risk to life and property.

It is imperative that Council manages the risk and develops a plan to mitigate impact on the character of the street into the future.

Recognising the health of the trees, a warming climate, population growth and a desire to maintain the character of the Street in an area of growth, Council has undertaken extensive assessment of the avenue of trees, soil conditions and greening opportunities and further explored options for pedestrian and traffic movement.

In addition, Council has importantly undertaken the necessary removal in September of 12 trees at high risk of structural failure.



Building on the first conversations with residents and businesses, we are now seeking your views and comments on draft proposals for three key areas, informed by earlier feedback:

- Improving access – gathering your thoughts on options for pedestrian improvements and traffic calming measures along the Street
- Landscape – there is opportunity for improving growing conditions, increasing greenery, and biodiversity on this key avenue while respecting the heritage and maintaining healthy and sound trees – we are seeking your views on desired character attributes for the revitalised landscape

- Place and wayfinding – gathering your ideas on expressing the rich heritage of the place (Indigenous and colonial) and strengthening the connection between Central Footscray, the arts precinct, and riverside recreation area



## Issues and opportunities

Bunbury Street is referenced in a number of Council strategies and plans – including the Footscray Structure Plan, Footscray City Edge Masterplan, River Edge Masterplan, and Maribyrnong Bicycle Strategy – and is recognised as a key connector in the wider precinct, which is growing quickly.

The State Government has also recognised Footscray as a key Business Precinct and one of only nine Metropolitan Activity Centres in Victoria.

As significant investment is made in the area, further expansion and growth is expected further adding to the existing pressures on Bunbury Street, which include:

- increasing population and built form density
- increasing usage
- senescing (ageing) and fragmented avenue of trees
- heat island effect and the impact of a warming climate
- maintenance and enhancement of the heritage character

With this in mind, this project provides an opportunity to transform Bunbury Street into a thriving landscape with cohesive walking and riding links and a strong sense of place.

Council is looking to address the major pressures by:

- creating a slow vehicular traffic environment with multiple improvements for pedestrians
- maintaining the character of the street, bluestone kerb details and leafy green character while expressing the stories and history of the site
- replanting the street to include improvements to soils, provision of passive irrigation and rainwater capture, investigating climate ready species and increasing the green space of the street

The map to the right depicts the location including:

- Major projects
- Densification development sites
- Arts precinct

### Legend

- Major project locations
- Footscray Learning Precinct
- Arts precinct locations
- Development sites:
  - Constructed
  - Planning application



## Draft options

We have developed three draft options for community consideration that focus on three principles:

- increasing greenery, water sensitive urban design, climate ready planting, healthy and stable soils
- meaningful improvement to walking and bike riding along the street with minimal loss in car parking
- re-establishing connection to the rich heritage of the street and the arts precinct

As part of the engagement, the community will have the opportunity to provide input into the character of plantings, the options for improving access, and ways to present the heritage and wayfinding elements along the street.



## Share your thoughts

For more information, project updates and to share your thoughts online, visit

[yourcityyourvoice.com.au/bunbury](http://yourcityyourvoice.com.au/bunbury)

You can also get in touch with us by emailing

[CD@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:CD@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)