

December 2025

Background

Council is delivering four public space projects in Footscray to help improve connectivity, appeal and greening.

The four improvement projects will help create greener, leafier streets, upgrade existing public areas, and introduce new open spaces and outdoor dining opportunities in central Footscray.

The four projects include:

- Leeds Street Open Space and Donald Street intersection improvement
- Byron Plaza – shade structure and greening
- Nicholson Street – streetscape renewal and Concept Design
- Donald Street Reserve – slip lane removal and open space improvements.

Methodology

Engagement was open from 14 November to 5 December 2025. Feedback could be provided by completing a survey online Your City Your Voice, by speaking directly to Council staff at an in-person event, or by email directly to the City Development Team.

Engagement was promoted across the following Council channels:

- a media release published on 14 November 2025
- a letter to residents and businesses located 200-400 metres within the locations
- corflute posters on site
- electronic posters and signage on screens at the Civic Precinct and Community Hub and Smart City Kiosks around Footscray
- two social media posts on Council official channels.

Overall response

There were **51** contributions from **48** contributors via the Your City Your Voice questionnaire.

Additionally, there were **38** interactions at the two in-person events.

Your City Your Voice

There were **372** visitors to the project page, resulting in **687** views.

There were three main peaks across the engagement period as per the figure below.

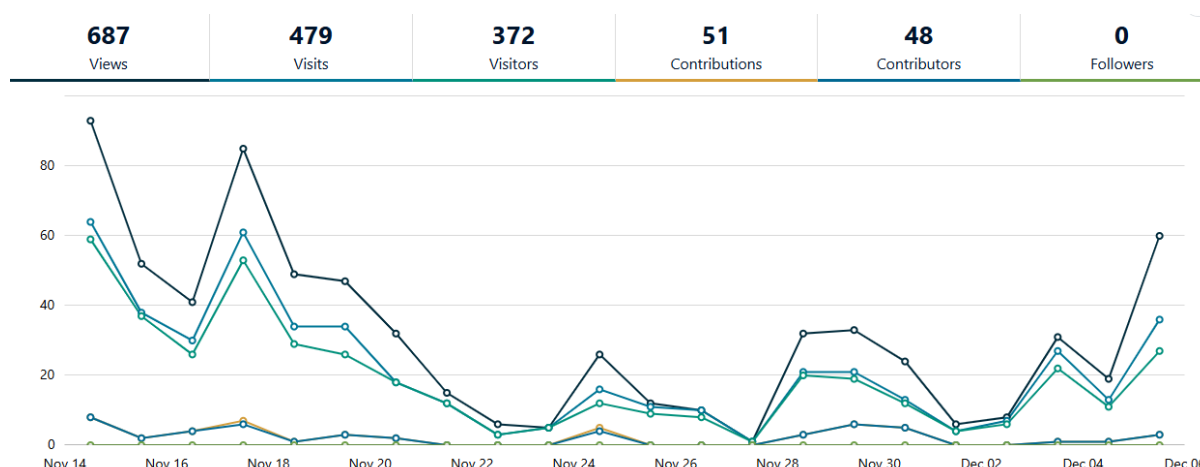


Figure 1. Online engagement performance summary for the Footscray Short Term Projects YCYV page.

Social media

There were two social media posts promoting the project as per below.

- **Facebook**
The Facebook posts were viewed 14,545 times, reaching 8,925 people and generating 87 interactions.
- **Instagram**
The same posts on Instagram were viewed 6,324 times, reaching 4,368 people and generating 96 interactions.

Findings – overall

- There was strong support for each of the proposals, both at the in-person events and online via the Your City Your Voice questionnaire.
- At the in-person events, community members were supportive of more open space and greening, particularly in Byron Plaza. There were also concerns with parking and congestion and a suggestion for Little Saigon to become an open space.
- For the Your City Your Voice questionnaire, respondents also liked the fact there will be more open space, highlighting environmental benefits and safer connections from the proposals.
- Across all engagement channels, there were calls for more shading, more seating, to maximise planting/greening, as well as concerns around congestion, reduced parking along Nicholson Street, lighting and general safety concerns.

In-person event findings

A total of **38** people attended two in-person engagement sessions. The locations, times and number of interactions recorded at these events are displayed in the table below.

Location	Time	Interactions
Byron Plaza	Thursday 20 November, 11am-1pm	25
Outside Rudimentary Café, Leeds Street	Wednesday 26 November, 11am-1pm	13

Table 1. Location of in-person events.

Key feedback provided to Council staff at the in-person sessions included:

- Strong support for the proposed park at Leeds Street, kerb extensions, Byron Plaza greening and more greenery in central Footscray generally.
- A desire for more greenery and less grey surfaces, with some suggestions for future expansion
- Creative ideas for activation, such as a skate park on the **Byron Plaza** car park roof or Footscray Market.
- Calls for improved lighting and to revitalize the streetscape to make the area safer and more vibrant.
- Interest in spreading activity beyond Madden Square and activating Little Saigon, including a suggestion for it to become an open space.
- Provide more places for people to sit and enjoy the food options in the area.
- Consider play spaces for children.
- Explore the use of real grass for a more natural feel.
- Integrate more local artists' work into the design for Byron Plaza.
- Extend similar furniture and treatments to Leeds Street.

Some concerns raised at the in-person sessions included:

- Parking and congestion, especially on weekends along Donald Street, as well as questions about alternative parking on Newell Street and potential parking reductions.
- Safety issues in surrounding areas and calls for better lighting.
- Need for clear signage for pedestrian crossings and wayfinding.
- Questions about traffic flow, turning lanes and parking meters.

Your City Your Voice

Online engagement via Your City Your Voice provided the option for feedback to be submitted via a questionnaire. Respondents could select one, multiple, or all of the proposals to provide feedback on.

Your City Your Voice Questionnaire:

There were **51** contributions from **48** contributors.

Question: Which project would you like to provide feedback on?

Please note, totals add up to more than 51 as respondents could select multiple options.

- All of them – **54.9% (28)**
- Nicholson Street Concept Design – **25.49% (13)**
- Donald Street Reserve – **15.69% (8)**
- Byron Plaza – **13.73% (7)**
- Leeds and Donald streets intersection – **11.76% (6)**.

Question: Leeds and Donald streets intersection – do you support the proposed designs to deliver a new public open space?

Of **31** responses:

- Yes – **83.87% (26)**
- No – **9.68% (three)**

- Unsure – **6.45% (two)**.

Of the **26** responses who selected 'Yes', the top tagged reasons were 'Support it/like it' **52.1% (12)**, followed by 'Improvement on current state' and 'More open space', both **17.39% (four)** respectively.

A sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Support it/like it	"I strongly support this new open space in order to improve safety, walkability, and amenity in a part of Footscray that serves residents, students, workers and later hospital visitors and hospital staff. The proposal aligns with the community's general desire for more greenery, shade, public gathering spaces in Footscray CBD."
Improvement on current state	"It will help make the area more liveable and a more pleasant environment."
More open space	"Footscray needs more open space."

Table 2. Tagged comments and a sample quote.

Of the 'No' responses, a sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Not needed	"This is so not needed".
Needs to prioritise cycling and pedestrian safety	"From the materials provided, the design doesn't take into account that this is a cycling through route and doesn't prioritise cycling and pedestrian safety through the intersection."

Table 3. Tagged comments and a sample quote.

Of the respondents who selected 'unsure', a sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
More information/clarity required	"I would like to have more of an understanding of accessibility within these designs, the use of greenery within these spaces - Will there be more canopy coverage? Will the use of Indigenous plants be implemented? Will these spaces be for the public, not just private business owners to profit off?"

Other project feedback	"Draft Proposal: Supporting Rough Sleepers and Restoring Compassion in Footscray in green spaces".
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Table 4. Tagged comments and a sample quote.

Question: Are there any other features you would like to see included or changed in the proposed design?

Of **22** responses, the top tagged responses were:

- 'Needs traffic calming measures' – **three** comments
- 'Support it/like it' – **two** comments
- 'Needs to prioritise cycling and pedestrian safety' – **two** comments
- 'Maximise planting/greenery' – **two** comments
- 'Child friendly areas' – **two** comments
- 'Will there be more canopy coverage' – **two** comments
- 'More trees required' – **two** comments.

Question: Byron Plaza – please share your comments on the proposed design for Byron Plaza below.

Of **30** responses, the top tagged responses were 'Support it/like it' **53.33% (16)**, followed by 'Like more shading' **26.67% (eight)**, 'More seating' **13.33% (four)** and 'Maximise planting/greenery' **13.33% (four)**.

A sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Support it/like it	"Great idea! It will be so much nicer."
Like more shading	"Extra seating and shade areas. Variety of different stalls and shops. Water feature for kids to play in during the summer."
More seating	"Mature ficus trees, kids water play, more tables and seating, permanent shade."
Maximise planting/greenery	"Increase trees and shade cover would be fantastic."

Table 5. Tagged comments and a sample quote.

Question: Do you support the proposed concept design for Nicholson Street?

Of **37** responses:

- Yes – **78.38% (29)**
- No – **8.11% (three)**
- Unsure – **13.51% (five)**.

Of the **29** 'Yes' responses, the top tagged responses were 'Support it/like it' **42.31% (11)**, followed by 'More lighting' and 'Needs to prioritise cycling and pedestrian safety', both **19.23% (five)** respectively.

A sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Support it/like it	"Very supportive of wider pathways and trees in this area. A great project."
More lighting	"Wider footpaths, improved lighting and outdoor dining opportunities will create a safer and more welcoming environment for people walking, prams, mobility devices and local traders."
Needs to prioritise cycling and pedestrian safety	"Making pedestrians and bicycle users feel safer is important not only for safety but the amenity of Footscray. Slowing down the roads by reducing traffic and dissuading people from driving in will help this."

Table 6. Tagged comments and a sample quote.

Of the **three** 'No' responses, a sample quote for each is below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Bring back the mall	"Bring back the mall."
Separate bike lanes	"Separate the bike lanes. Don't just paint them on."
Other	"What's on this strip of Nicholson Street?"

Table 7. Tagged comments and a sample quote.

Of the **five** 'Unsure' responses, a sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Separate bike lanes	"How does this design accommodate the aims of the Bicycle Strategy, that every time road infrastructure is refreshed or rebuilt, it will incorporate safe cycling infrastructure? I didn't see anything included for safe cycling."
Unclear	"It's unclear how the proposed changes will create a coherent passage between Barkly Street and Ballarat Road."

Table 8. Tagged comments and a sample quote.

Question: Are there any other features you would like to see included or changed in the Concept Design?

Of the **20** responses, the top tagged responses were 'Like more shading', 'More trees required', 'Wider footpaths', and 'Needs to prioritise cycling and pedestrian safety', each **15% (three)** responses respectively.

Question: Do you support the larger open space on Donald Street, at the Moore and Donald Streets Intersection?

Of **33** responses:

- Yes – **81.82% (27)**
- No – **9.09% (three)**
- Unsure – **9.09% (three)**.

Of the **27** 'Yes' responses, the top tagged responses were 'Support it/like it' **42.86% (nine)**, followed by 'Reserve not currently used' **19.05% (four)** and 'Slip lane is dangerous' **14.29% (three)**.

A sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Support it/like it	"What a wonderful opportunity. It's a busy intersection so maybe worth trying to make it a place to enjoy but not expect people to spend long there."
Reserve not currently used	"The current reserve is never used, and its size is a limiting factor in that."
Slip lane is dangerous	"Currently slip lane presents a great danger to pedestrians particularly given most cars exceed 40kmh on Moore Street."

Of the **three** 'No' responses, a sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Keep the slip lane	"The slip lane is essential in preventing traffic build-up on Moore Street northbound – especially in the afternoons when many vehicles turn left towards Ballarat Road. Removing this slip lane would create: - longer queues on Moore Street - increased congestion for residents and buses - slower and more unpredictable peak-hour movement".
Ned to resolve congestion issues	"Moore Street has terrible congestion already, particularly since the introduction

	of the 40km/h limits. Council should be laser focused on solving congestion in Footscray.”
Update the 2013 Footscray CBD Activity Zone	“What happened to all those plans from 2013 FBD activity zone update? Future tram line extensions, playgrounds, greening. “

Of the **two** ‘Unsure’ responses, a sample quote for each is provided below.

Tagged comment	Sample quote
Create a new public space	“What is happening with the vacant lot next door to Moon dog? This area could be turned into public green space or a community garden of sorts, even if it’s just herbs.”
Community garden opportunity	“I understand this corner as a way to increase greenery in Footscray for which I support. However, I would be curious to know how much the space is currently used? Could it have a community garden or more productive trees and plants?”

Question: Are there any other features you would like to see included or changed at the site?

Of **17** responses, the top tagged responses were:

- improved cycling connections – **three** comments
- needs traffic calming measures – **two** comments
- needs to prioritise cycling and pedestrian safety – **two** comments
- adjust traffic signals – **two** comments
- no/nothing – **two** comments
- more seating – **two** comments.

Demographics

Question: What is your primary relationship to the project?

Of **51** responses, the top response was ‘I live nearby’ with almost 90% of responses (**88.24%** or **45**).

Gender

Of **51** responses:

- **45.10% (23)** identified as female
- **43.14% (22)** identified as male
- **9.80% (five)** selected prefer not to say
- **1.96% (one)** selected other identity.

Age

Of **50** responses, **35-39** years of age was the most popular age group **34% (17)**. There were **two** responses from residents aged under 19 years.

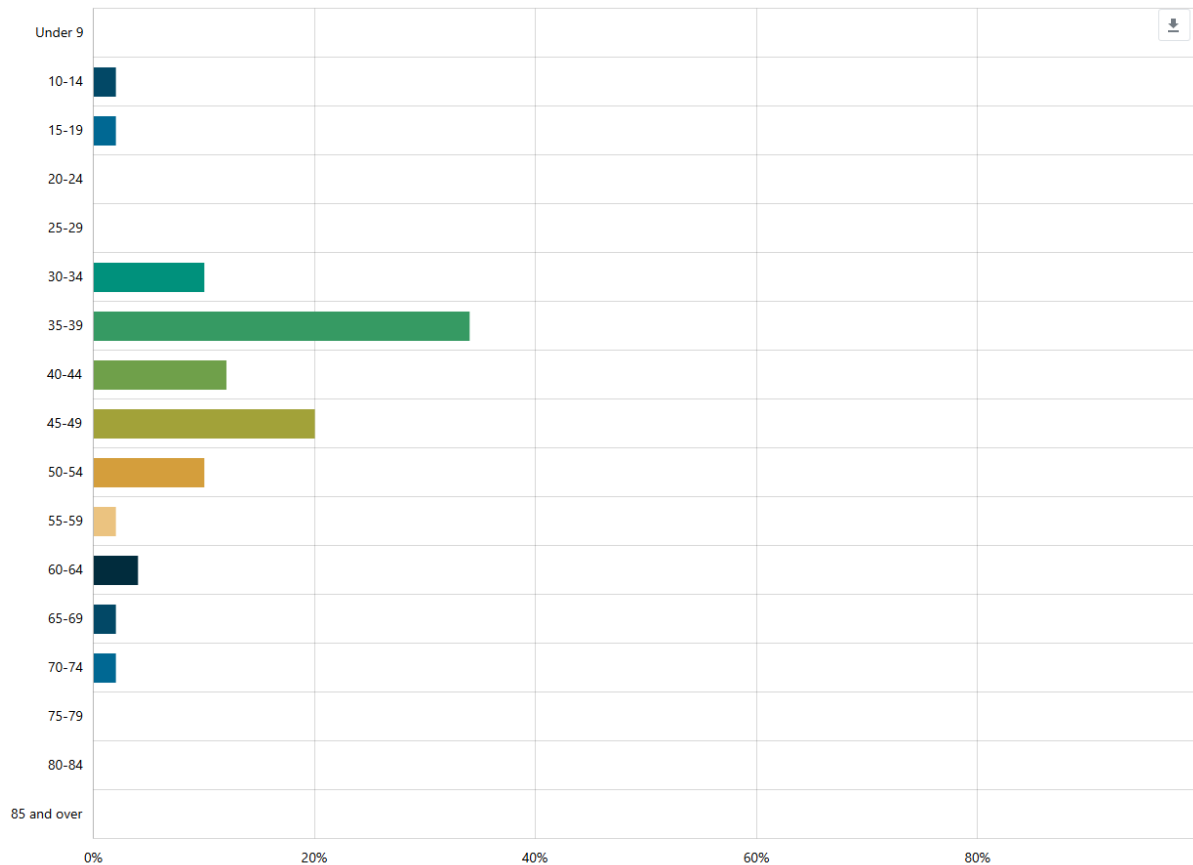


Figure 2. Age of respondents.

Suburb

Of **51** responses, over three quarters selected 'Footscray' **76.47% (39)**, followed by 'West Footscray' **7.84% (four)**.

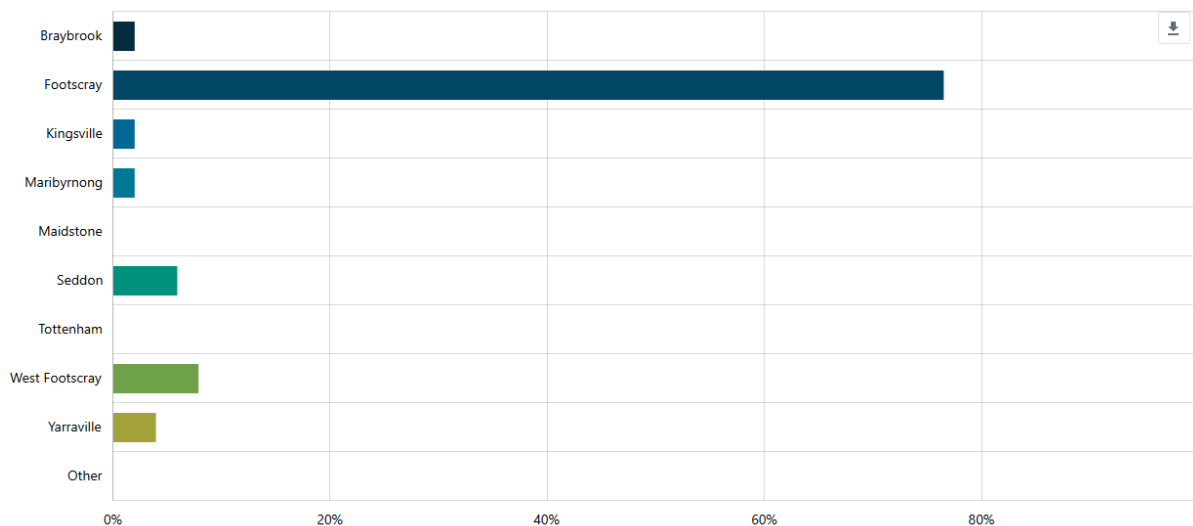


Figure 3. Respondents' suburb of residence.

Diversity

Of **16** responses:

- **10** said they were a member of the LGBTIQA+ community
- **seven** said they were a person with a disability
- **four** said they spoke a language other than English at home
- **two** said they were an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

How did you hear about this project?

Of **47** responses, 'On social media (Facebook or Instagram)' **42.55% (20)** was the highest.

Conclusions

Engagement on the Footscray Public Space Projects provided both in-person and online engagement opportunities for residents to share feedback on proposals for the Leeds and Donald streets intersection, Byron Plaza, Nicholson Street Concept Design and the Donald Street Reserve.

Overwhelmingly, there was strong support for each proposal, with approximately **80%** of respondents supporting each proposal. This was replicated at the in-person sessions, with respondents saying they liked increased greening, more shade and liked that Council was prioritising pedestrian and cyclist safety.

From both the online survey and the in-person events, those opposed asked for more shade, more greenery and asked for a greater focus on cycling and pedestrian safety.

Based on this feedback, Council will finalise work on the concept designs in early 2026.