

Engagement Summary Report – Improving pedestrian and traffic safety in Olinda

Project overview

This project aims to provide safe and accessible pedestrian crossings on Mount Dandenong Tourist Road and Olinda-Monbulk Road, Olinda. The crossing on Mount Dandenong Tourist Road will also serve the future ngurrak barring | RidgeWalk trail.

Community engagement

The initial design (Figure 1) was open for feedback between 20 September 2023 – 25 October 2023. Feedback was also sought on a range of other transport topics in Olinda, such as parking, road safety, speed limits, public transport and active travel.



Figure 1. initial design presented for community engagement

How did people get involved?



Key Themes

Traffic congestion & road safety

The two most common concerns in Olinda were traffic congestion (72%) and safety (58%). Many noted that there were often large queues formed during periods of peak visitation, particularly on Olinda-Monbulk Road. Safety concerns were related to pedestrians attempting to cross busy roads, vehicles not shedding speed when travelling through the town, and sight distance limitations around the bends on Mount Dandenong Tourist Road.

“...the congestion at the intersection can be horrific, often backing up past the footy ground.”

“It’s very hard to cross the street anywhere...”

“I feel unsafe as a local crossing the road on weekends.”

Action

We will revisit alternative options such as traffic signals and roundabouts, with the view of creating a treatment which balances the concerns of traffic congestion with the safety and accessibility needs of vulnerable road users.

Speed limits

While there was very strong support for a speed limit reduction of some sort (75%), many people felt the change is only needed during business hours (e.g. 9am-5pm) rather than a blanket 24/7 reduction.

Action

We understand and will investigate this further. If appropriate, we will update our proposal.

Parking

Many contributors felt that there is insufficient parking and suggested to create more spaces near Olinda reserve or improve bus services to reduce congestion.

Action

We are currently undertaking a parking review in Sassafras and Olinda with the aim of making better use of existing infrastructure. This includes managing parking demands through timed restrictions, improving wayfinding signage and identifying carparks which can be formalised to encourage efficient use of space.

Active transport

Lack of separated facilities for pedestrians and cyclists was often cited as a cause for near misses. Many felt that bicycle lanes and wider roads would be beneficial for all. There were also suggestions to build a footpath between Olinda and Sassafras to connect the towns.

Action

We have identified some of these missing links, and where possible include these in our project scope or advocate for further funding.

Next steps

Community feedback will inform the next design iteration. Given the potential increase in scope, delivery will be set back later than anticipated however, we believe that this will result in a better overall outcome. There will future opportunities for community to provide feedback on the updated design.