



SASSAFRAS VILLAGE STREETSCAPE PLAN

Community Engagement Report

November 2025

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The **Sassafras Village Streetscape Plan** is the first in a series of plans for townships across the Hills. These plans provide a framework for Council and the community to work together in shaping a shared vision for vibrant, accessible, and welcoming town centres.

A Streetscape Plan sets out a blueprint for improvements that may include:

- Accessibility and movement
- Landscaping
- Footpaths and walkways
- Outdoor furniture
- Signage to town facilities
- Drainage
- Bike facilities

Enhancing accessibility and the overall look and feel of the town centre can create lively, inviting spaces for the community to thrive and visitors to enjoy.

Over recent years, we've received significant feedback about Sassafras. This plan will bring those ideas together into a consistent vision for the township. During August and September 2025, we asked the community to prioritise themes identified through previous consultations and share what improvements they would like to see.

The Streetscape Plan will provide clarity on priorities for Council, allowing better planning of budgets and future works programs. It also acts as an advocacy tool for State Government funding and development opportunities.

This Community Engagement Report summarises the priorities identified by the community and outlines the design initiatives Council is working towards based on that feedback.

The next step will be the development of the draft Sassafras Village Streetscape Plan, which will be shared with the community for further input.



WHO WE SPOKE TO



Engagement period 28th August to 28th September 2025



A **letter was mailed out to property owners** in the Sassafras area to inform community of the project and provide details on ways to engage.



Door-to-door engagement with local businesses



Over 500 page views of the Shaping Yarra Ranges Sassafras Village Streetscape Plan page



55 contributions through the Shaping Yarra Ranges Sassafras Village Streetscape Plan page either rating the **key themes** or using the **map tool to leave feedback**



Businesses were approached to put up **flyer in their shop fronts and on counter tops** promote the project to locals and visitors



14 people attended advertised **drop in sessions**.



Presentations and interviews with **local stakeholder groups** including Villages of Mount Dandenong Traders Group, Sassafras Ferny Creek Community Group, Ferny Creek CFA, Mount Dandenong & District Historical Society.



Signage promoting the project displayed throughout the township

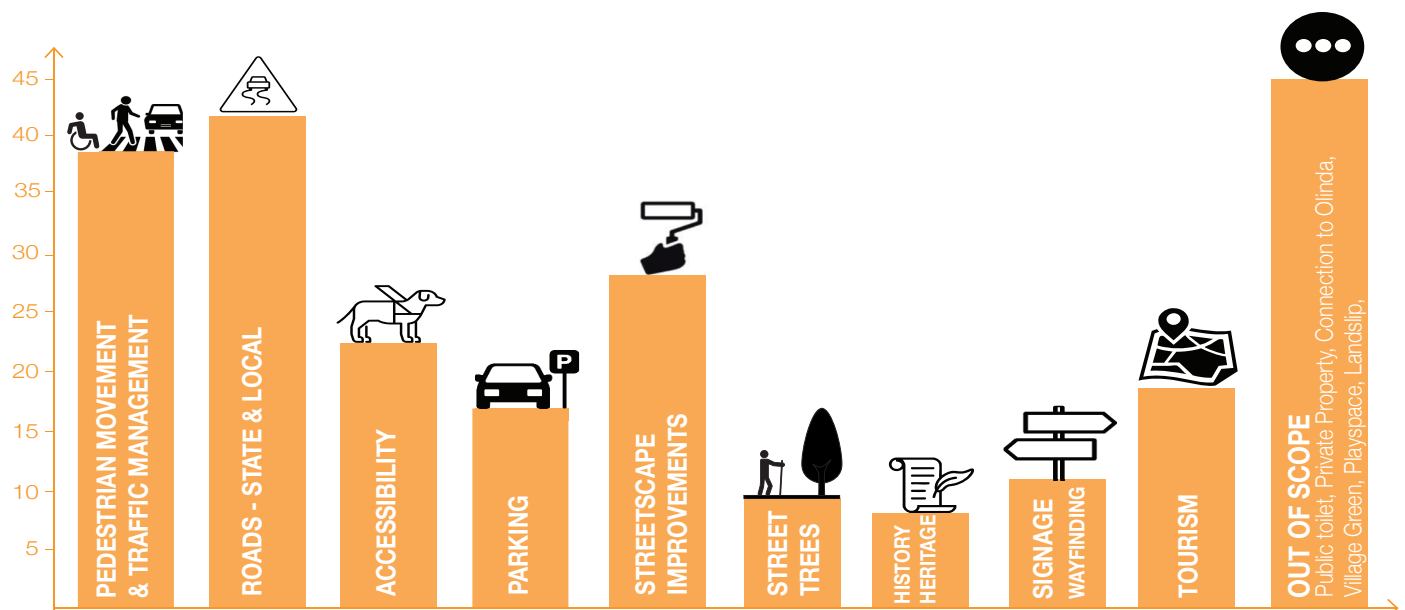


Social Media Promotion via Facebook, Instagram and Yarra Ranges Local e-newsletter reached **12,680 people**, with over 240 recorded clicks from these channels.



TOWN CENTRE OPPORTUNITIES

Opportunities identified through community consultation for the Sassafras Village Streetscape Plan are summarised below and will be considered in development of the draft Streetscape Plan.



OUT OF SCOPE

Feedback was received regarding the following elements that do not fit within the scope of this project.



Public Toilets - A project delivering new public toilets in the corner of the Sassafras Mechanics Hall Car Park is designed and preparing for delivery early 2026.



Play Space - The Village Green refurbishment project is currently underway. A small play element has been incorporated in the design, there will be no additional play spaces planned for Sassafras Village.



Events Space - The Village Green refurbishment project is currently underway. Power and shelter elements have been incorporated to allow for outdoor events and entertainment.



Pedestrian Connections to Olinda - Many requests came in for an accessible pedestrian connection between Sassafras and Olinda. This does not fit within the scope of the Streetscape Plan, but this feedback has been passed onto our Paths & Trails team for consideration.



Private Property - There was some feedback received regarding private property in and around the activity centre. Council does not have authority to enforce changes to private property. It is noted that underdeveloped private property in the centre of the Sassafras is a key concern for community, Council is supportive of seeing positive activation of this site.

DESIGN INITIATIVES



SAFER
PEDESTRIAN
MOVEMENTS



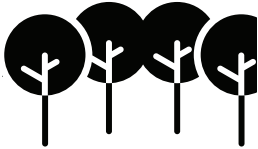
IMPROVEMENTS
TO THE CAR
PARKING



CONSISTENT
AESTHETIC



UNIVERSAL
ACCESSIBILITY



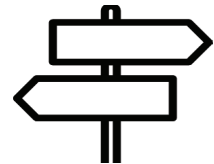
INCREASED
STREET TREE
PLANTING



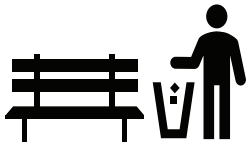
UPGRADE AND NEW
FOOTPATHS



CELEBRATION
OF HERITAGE



IMPROVED
SIGNAGE &
WAYFINDING



IMPROVED
AMENITIES



ADVOCATING FOR
SAFE INTERSECTIONS
AND CROSSINGS



ADVOCATING
TO REDUCE
SPEED LIMIT



SEALING LOCAL
ROADS IN CENTRE



