

CITY OF
MELBOURNE

WEST MELBOURNE STRUCTURE PLAN

On Saturday 18th April 2015, over 70 people attended a 2.5 hour discussion workshop. This report is a summary record of the feedback captured at the session and how useful people felt it was. This data will be used to inform a second workshop scheduled for 9th May 2015 and contribute to the overall data for Stage 1 of this project.

WORKSHOP PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity to share what we like about West Melbourne and identify concerns we have for the area.



PART ONE

THE CURRENT SITUATION

We began our gathering with some small group conversations to identify our top of mind comments and questions the project has raised for participants. The following points were captured by scribes at the workshop.



What does structure plan (SP) cover e.g. state of infrastructure provision?

How will social impacts be addressed?

What is the relationship to 2005 West Melbourne structure plan?

Access and role of public transport

How will sustainability be addressed e.g., solar access for energy generation?

Challenge of defining community and ownership of the plan?

Place of West Melbourne sandwiched between City North and E-Gate urban renewal areas.

Where does structure plan fit in this complex planning environment?

Concern about how the structure plan will address height.

Need to run pedestrian lights more frequently, especially for access to parks.

Speed of change.

Heritage - how will it be protected?

How can SP clarify heights issue?

How will SP ensure concerns about change are listened to?

Place in complex planning environment.

How does the structure plan relate to other structure plans such as City North and Arden-Macaulay?

How does this connect with E-gate?

Risk of heights in the area.

Already structure plan in place.

Identity - heritage, place.

How can SP put clarity around ambiguous heights?

Existing guidelines aren't adhered to.

Will the community be listened to about concerns on change and impact?

Growth - what role SP will play in livability and impact on others?

Practical application of growth.

Climate change and solar access.

Limited amenity (sports) growth, what does this mean?



WSUD (water sensitive urban design) - urban design impact.

Livability is key.

Funding of infrastructure.

What is the role of the Mixed Use Zone?

SP to explore positive impacts e.g. king st building.

Amenities - parking.

What is the role of the SP in delivering growth in ways that protect amenity?

Might SP address demographic change?

How will wider community engagement processes be embedded to ensure diverse community is heard?

How can we maintain/enhance valued assets when density increases?

How effective/influential will SP be where decisions are made by others?

Limited sports amenities and access for locals.

How will water sensitive urban design streetscape improvements and bike paths be captured?

How does SP protect livability and genuine mixed use?

How can SP help to control change and take advantage of new opportunities and ideas?

How will parking be addressed?

Address change, diversity of demographics.

CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities to be represented in SP process.

A process in CE for CALD.

Things working well, maintain and do more.

Structure plan "grunt" - SP address heights.

Influence of SP in complex environment.

What elements can't the structure plan cover? eg. schools.

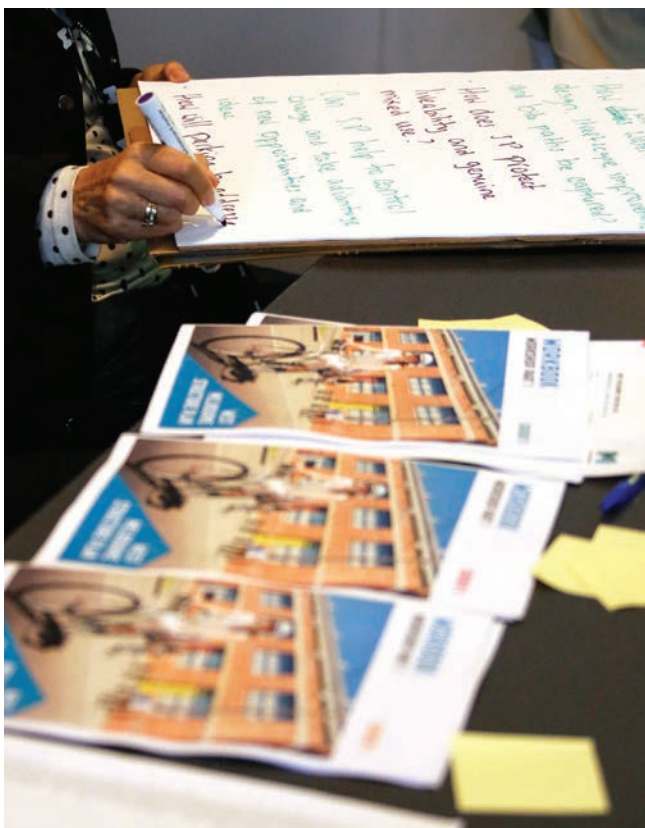
What is the City of Melbourne's vision for West Melbourne?

What are we dealing with now?

Public transport access in the area.

Process - collective input & ownership.

Work together as community.



PART TWO

OUR FEEDBACK

INDIVIDUAL FEEDBACK

We took some time out from our discussion to take a short tour and hear from Council officers about key aspects a structure plan can address. On returning to our gathering we provided a range of individual and group feedback as follows.



Amenity of streets. Planning focused on keeping a community which is diverse. Recreational space.

Safety daytime/night-time from traffic. Amenities for young and old. Facilities for young children. Better parking. Insight schools. Less big developments. Give other values to children other than money.

Height restrictions meant to be adhered to, enable aesthetic streetscapes lights etc. Design of built form at street level is important for setting the feel and appeal of the street. Design of buildings needs as much attention and regulating as the other candidates. Open Flagstaff station at weekends and improve public transport in area.

Harmony, respect among the diverse residents and workers/community group members leading to happy productive people. Greater understanding and communication among diverse groups' concerns. Hearing from renters in the area and other groups e.g. Islamic council and folks who come pray at the mosque in Jeffcot St. Can a structure plan or the built environment support greater understanding and help people reach their potential.

Quality of buildings not enough that they just confirm to height reqs too many are mediocre at best and fail to take account of sustainability of energy use and other environmental factors. Facilities as well as people. Cannot gain from increasing population without infrastructure and facilities. Diversity of residential accommodation - avoid having all small apartments.

Some/ improved tram services along La Trobe St in evenings and weekends, reinstate recently removed tram stops. Improved tram services along Spencer St all the way not turning off along Bourke, Collins. Multiple off leash dog parks walking distance from main residential areas, older retired people have dogs in apartments and can't walk miles with them. Better facilities for rubbish bins rather than lining the whole street, see photo on page of workbook.

One way street (Howard Street) to have safety cameras. Too many cars driving wrong way, some who I have spoken to thought it was a joke going the wrong way neighbours had some near misses. Parking: lots of apartments little parking. New private school! What about a new public/state school. Extend free tram zone to Errol st (or at least Howard/William St). Think about types of trees planted. London plain trees leaves are dangerous. The new trees outside St Marys star of the sea have small ball like pods. Easy for people to fall on, alot of elderly attend the church.

We need demographic projections for the next meeting.

Introduce all walk for all intersections with traffic lights. More open space at the King Street West Melbourne Baptist site. Planner and councillors to live in the area.

Maintaining the liveability of the area. Limiting how many really high buildings can be built. More parks to be created if possible. Residents concerns to be heard as much as developers.

A priority William street. Dangerous spot cars from the school. This area should divide to Rosslyn and turn right. My family have lived in the area since 1927 been active in the schools.

Liveability. Case of movement traffic flow - public transport. Community mix. Light space - building structure height blocking which is not viable for solar heating panels. Structure building height limit. Public transport. Parking - buildings permit which have been approved without on site parking. Already Dryburgh st near North Melbourne station on football game days is full from people driving into the area.

Maintaining the sense of the area as a community this evolves from the physical style of the area aligned with North Melbourne. To maintain the height restriction for building as density increases. To increase green space including requirement's of building developers to provide a % of green spaces e.g. roof gardens. Improve public transport connections.

Supporting increased population density but doing this in ways that respect existing Victorian architecture/built forms lay limiting heights to 4 and not more than 6 levels. Develop opportunities to increase open specs for passive and active recreation. Improve amenity for pedestrians and cyclists (non motorised vehicle traffic) Rain gardens in the wide streets, could help decrease flooding in Dudley St. Making stretch between Adderley st railway place local traffic only and making these areas/streets greener and sympathetic to pedestrians including people from outside the community going to events at docklands stadium festival hall etc.

Mandatory maximum building height not discretionary. Ensure new buildings are of high quality and apartments are of decent size and standard. Be mindful of heritage importance of existing buildings. Maintain community feel of West Melbourne. Keep all parkland as all different and love them all. Maintain heritage of Queen Victoria Market and its surroundings. West Melbourne is not Docklands and we don't want to end up looking like that. Full of high rise apartment towers, we chose to live in West Melbourne rather than those areas as we like the low rise community feel in a quiet but close neighbourhood.

Greener streetscapes. Water sensitive urban design. Safer streets. Active street fronts. More mixed use. Density increase but limit heights and size to suit the area. More mixed residence types. Community facilities. More bike lanes. Better public transport, flagstaff shouldn't shut. Protect heritage and feel of suburb. Street art, street furniture. Graffiti to some of the lands. Not many people actually know there's a suburb called West Melbourne.

More public sporting facilities, including basketball. Make off-street parking mandatory for new residential buildings and make more on street parking available for residents of pre-existing buildings.

Current amenities are maintained at their current utility. Remains a viable location to raise a family. Walking remains the dominant mode of transport for residents. Any kind of additional plant life in the streetscape will be very welcome.

To make it a special part of the city which retains its Victorian era and later individual and group street front houses. Filling West Melbourne with high-rise building would just extend the City of Melbourne without any character, look at New York. We should look at more small green areas - example lawn/ garden areas at the end of dead end streets by the railway lines.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE IN WEST MELBOURNE?

Strength of community.

Strongly integrated with N. Melbourne, particularly the residential area around Errol Victoria streets.

Closeness to C.B.D but it is not the CBD.

Live in a low rise aesthetic precinct that has historic interest.

Livability = proximity to CBD, mixed use, wide roads, scale of development, heritage streetscapes.

More parks and outdoor spaces.

Meeting places.

Diversity of facilities.

Sporting ,family, friendly.

Preserve the integrity of the community.

Rigid enforcement of parking provisions for development.

Educating the community about what works in other cities.

Open Flagstaff station on weekends.

Tax for cars entering city - like London.



Genuine sense of community.

Cannot comment much because we are not sure of how future changes are going to be?

Sense of community and peaceful living.

Easy to get around to work and to get into CBD.

Village in the city.

Its home, its unique dynamic village that is on the verge of dramatic change.

Feel like its an opportunity to be a part of and guide that change.

Sense of community close to the advantages of the CBD.

A community which is low rise and friendly and mixed demographically.

Close to public transport, trams and trains.

Close to medical and universities.

More consistency/ agreement in approach from Melbourne city council and VCAT and state government. There are planning schemes but consistently these are great - turned or exemptions granted local communities are integrated pavilions.

Very quiet at night.

Close to market.

No one knows where it is.

Mostly excellent public transport.

Close to amenities without it being CBD.

Enjoy heritage.

Close to the city.

Feeling part of a major city/enjoy the busyness of the environment.

Also N/W still has a village atmosphere.

Higher density - greater activity.



Developments and existing buildings that are a mix of residential and business uses.

Fantastic place to live, a lot more families than there even used to be convenient - close to CBD.

Location and offering.

Close to beach city, really like the laneways esp. store laneways.

West Melbourne is the unknown suburb.

Risk that its identity gets developed through areas.

Bounding at dudly St. south dudly is not CBD.

Good community in the area.

What is community?

Living and working property others commuters.

Enjoy a culturally diverse community.

Range of young & older people.

Diversity of land use.

Having access to strong community.



Changing between mix and between.

Lifestyle.

Not owning a car.

Close to CBD amenities.

Use of public transport.

Car share.

Walk to work/city.

Accessibility.

Sense of community and village.

People don't really know we are here.

Convenient/easy access to CBD.

Heritage streetscapes.

Lifestyle.

Easy access to city, work, park, restaurants, mcc, docklands, public transport arts, everything is close by and accessible.



HOW COULD FUTURE CHANGE IN WEST MELBOURNE IMPACT YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

Could have potential to destroy our amenity.

Sun light access.

Parking access

Increased noise.

Destruction of heritage.

Loss of a sense of place.

Future change should not be without the agreement of residents and landowners of the area.

The locals views should be heard - listened to and good reasons given by local councils for different entrances.

Not residents and owners.

Loss of irreplaceable heritage buildings.

Inappropriate additions to heritage buildings.

Excessive height and density on sites adversely impacts street scapes.

Overloading of infrastructure.

Height levels that do not complement the neighbourhood.

Planning requirements are mandatory.

Height limits sunlight access to other buildings and spaces.

More parking needed for residents and visitors.

Streets need greening, money invested in landscaping.



Hard to get in and out of West Melbourne when there are traffic jams.

More mix use could mean more jobs in our area instead of having to leave all that.

Limit new developments in historic residential streets in height restrictions.

More emphasis needs to be places on foot traffic as opposed to cycle and car.

Walking is the dominant mode.

Less safety as there isn't anyone looking out for each other.

Without an acquisition policy how can the City of Melbourne do anything without the development out bidding every time?

How does E-gate affect the future of Melbourne.

Depends on the kind/scope/scale of change.

Needs to be positive, focus on improvement of the area while maintaining and responding to the realities of increased population density.

If its done badly it is a wasted opportunity.

Future planning considers past/current and future stakeholders.

Poor decisions could destroy its uniqueness.

A change to height restrictions will negatively impact the amenity of the area.

Parking, environments e.g. lights, sunshine to the street etc., access to Wi-Fi.

Parking for Docklands.

Demographic needs a range of people age, ethnicity, family size, small apartment prohibitions.

Traffic management.

Uncontrolled development.

Failure to provide infrastructure or parking.



Traffic demographics/
tramline extensions.

Over development.

Lack of arranging.

Spencer and Roden
streets could be really
mix the industrial area.

Area has not received
as much interest as
other areas.

This area has potential.

Don't mess up what we
have.

Southbank Docklands. -
don't make a mess.

Not to develop.

Should be appropriate
development.

School and childcare is
struggling already.

Infrastructure does not
keep up with population.

Those who live/work
here won't have much
say.

Is change more equal to
more people living here.



Unsustainable
population growth.

Air pollution?

Structure plan needs to
include.

Built form, streetscape.

Use of materials,
consistency, diversity
of use.

Creating community,
fostering, engagement.
Mixed use, greater
amenities.

Car park +
developments +
provisions.

Question what are
the demographics
of West Melbourne?
Age, transient?
Community?

Increase the transit
population - more
apartments that cater
to students.

Lack of community
connection.

Ensure these
developments are
interlaced with broad
stock.

Acknowledge that
services are used by
city visitors.



How do we improve
connections with
new high-rise
communities with the
established and close
local community.

Access to public loos.

Over saturation.

Parking + access.

Underground parking.

More apartments
results in more cars.

Genuine mixed use
on every site e.g. café
business residence.

Infrastructure lag.

Potential impact on
heritage buildings.

More trees/greenery.

Community feel.

Community growth.

Property values.



HOW COULD FUTURE CHANGE IN WEST MELBOURNE STRENGTHEN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY?

More people - more community.

More certainty in planning e.g. building height.

More public transport bike lanes to and from North Melbourne shops along adeny to service.

Respect existing built form.

Avoid through traffic in the area.

Remove free on street parking for events at stadium.

More green spaces.

Revise existing architecture.

Adapt industrial for residents.

Community environment

Agree that change is inevitable but it needs to be controlled, sustainable and suit the environment.

Facilitated to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

Easy access to Victoria market.

The Flagstaff garden, enchanting!

5 of the family we've been in queen Victoria hospital William street.

Being treated as the Marseilles end of Collins street.

More of the tree canopy project i.e. more trees, parks.



More markets or events like Spring Fling or a designer craft market.

Errol and Hawke.

Bring services shapes back to West Melbourne.

Need new office spaces to increase mix uses.

Safer bike riding.

More dog parks.

Dubious Establishments wants.

Unsafe/poor lighting.

If its done well it can become a yardstick that informs future planning across the city.

Additional open spaces and improved streetscapes will bring people out into the open space to come together.

Bike paths/routes.

Extended tram services, pedestrian crossings needed e.g. on King street.

Might biking some of the following.

Need for more free sports park areas.

Dog park.

Primary school.

Library.

Master plan in child care, open space.

More greening of streets.

Encouragement of solar in development.

Allow mixed use to apply to buildings as well.

Strengthen requirement for buildings to move some quality in their design.

Enforce parking requirements for new buildings.

% of people living in area that looks outside this area and there by car.

Build a sense of community if a lot of local residents look outside of this area.

Encourage development to add amenities to the building.

Encourage people to hang around and use/ enjoy the amenities.

Infrastructure to support existing community.



If infrastructure supports population these opportunities may flow, how to harness this eq develops contribute for parks etc.

Attractive for local community and tourists.

Having a focal point similar to Errol street.

Use Flagstaff gardens and enhance it to foster and build community.

Festivals + markets.

More amenities and mixed use.

Infrastructure priorities pedestrian movement and walking (traffic lights).

Addressing shortfalls in community services.

A sense of community and certainty.

Improve livability.

Paroxysm to health services.

On site parking for future development.



Bikes - we need to encourage more and more cycle infrastructure.

Provision for bikes.

Libraries/community spaces. Men's sheds?

More people = more business = more jobs.

More facilities for residents to use.

Would more apartments = more rates.

Do the rates contribute to local facilities.

Property values.

Livability.

Level of services.

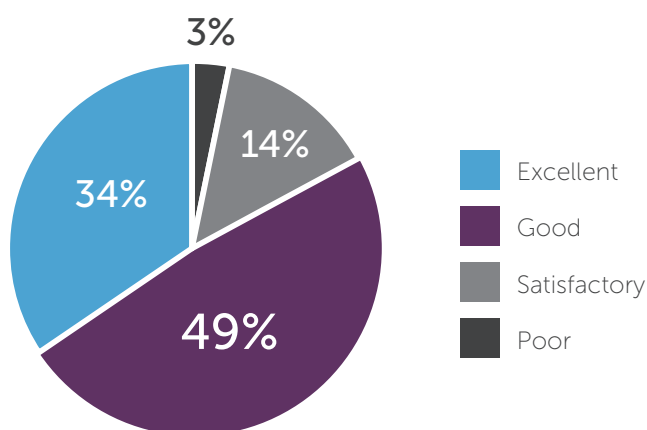
Save time.



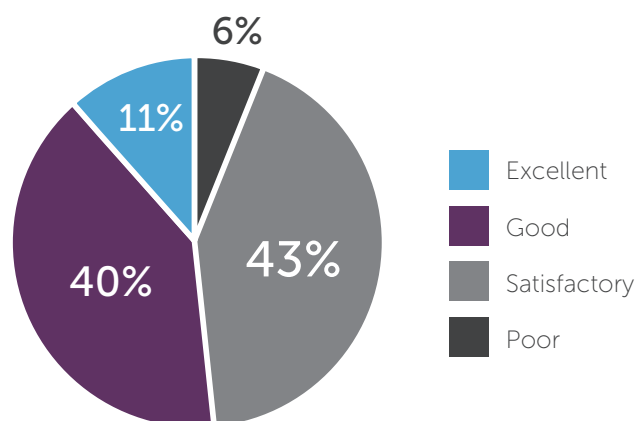
AND FINALLY... HOW USEFUL DID WE FIND THE WORKSHOP?



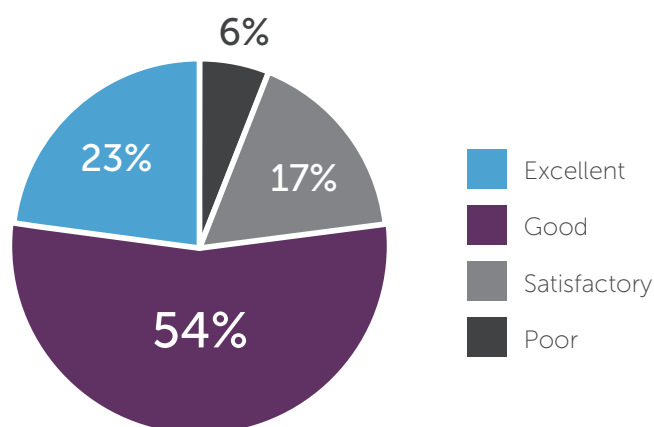
OVERALL HOW EASY
TO UNDERSTAND WAS
THE INFORMATION WE
PROVIDED (WRITTEN,
PRESENTATION,
VERBAL)?



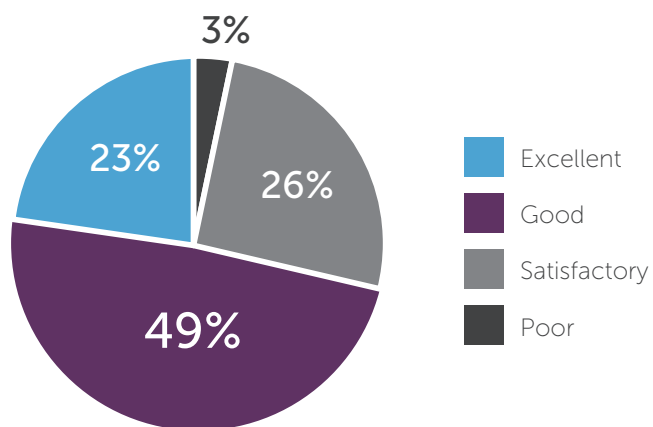
TO WHAT EXTENT
DID THE ACTIVITIES
MEET YOUR LEARNING
NEEDS?



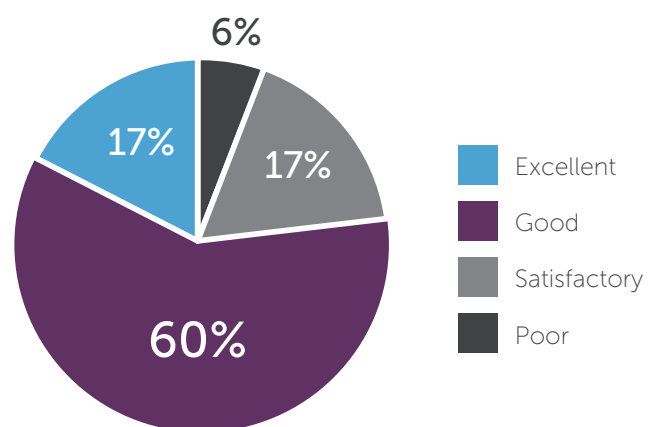
TO WHAT EXTENT
DID YOU FEEL YOU
HAD SUFFICIENT
OPPORTUNITIES TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE
SESSION?



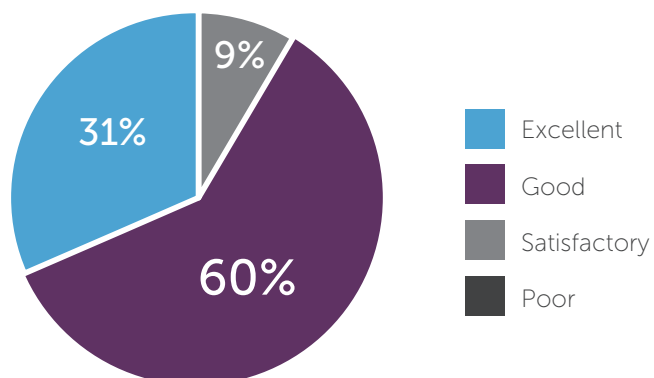
TO WHAT EXTENT DID YOU FEEL OTHERS HAD SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSION?



TO WHAT EXTENT WAS YOUR INVOLVEMENT A WORTHWHILE EXPERIENCE?



OVERALL HOW WELL WAS THE EVENT RUN?



WOULD YOU LIKE TO ELABORATE ON THE ANSWERS YOU PROVIDED ABOVE?

(GRAPHS ON PREVIOUS PAGE)

Not enough time

Verbal bad - could not hear different speakers. The acoustics and different voices - was difficult to hear

All good

I felt more detail on the maps would be useful - e.g. what are the grey areas

Focus on problems rather than solutions.

Good presentation

The session was well facilitated and raises hope for the community to be ... promoted ... developing the 'rules' and standards that govern planning. Key hopes were raised across the session - the ...

Good planning is not easy to understand or do

We need to also give ratepayers and opportunity

Excellent initiative

Event did not look to obtain ideas on recommendations. It was determined to explain the process

Comments from the floor were rephrased and many did not reflect the intent of the ...

Predominance of discussion around buildings and lack of discussion around people/ community

How to engage CALD people and tenants?

Re Q5 - time will tell

Last stage too rushed and instructions unclear

Having a break (walk) during the session was good, even if just to stretch legs

Understanding that planning & last work is with the State Minister

Thank you for taking the time to listen to us

Predominance on voices concerned about height restriction.

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED FOR FUTURE SESSIONS?

It would have been helpful to know that food was provided

More opportunity for democratic processes

Continue to include input from as many people as possible

Taking questions from the floor

More extensive walking - talk about recent issues/ could get feisty

Better time management

The venue was compromised to some extent but not so much to impact the overall event

Offer opportunity to contribute SOLUTIONS or describe our VISION for West Melb

Including young people from non-English speaking backgrounds...and the range of West Melbourne community members

Make the maps available in a hard copy handout

Acoustics the problem at this venue

More information on points being raised by residents at this meeting"

Definitely allow people to speak

Afternoon tea

More information to get better understanding

Providing people an opportunity to express their opinions was a learning experience

Show each speaker how to use the microphone (MY PROBLEM)

Cream cakes for afternoon tea/ less repetition/ less patter from the facilitator, poor acoustics

Longer session

Show genuine intent to hear and engage in the community

Better acoustics 'sound absorption'

Please make everyone's email available to all participants

Greater diversity of participants

Ask people what they would recommend numbers, sizes etc

More time is required for Q&A especially more technical questions related to the planning process

Ask the community how we want to engage and use this information to design engagement

WHAT WORKED WELL?

The walk around was a good way to actually name and ... recent developments - scary!

Leanne Hodyl is an asset to the City of Melb with her calm approach

Combination of talk and walk

The walks

Lunch

Structure and small groups = focused outcomes

The facilitator Keith was very good. Leanne was also very informative

Getting people together

Opportunities for people to highlight their answers

Framing of information at the beginning

Meeting other residents and having some idea of the process

Also allowing people to express their frustrations with the planning process

Sharing

Walking tours

Well organised to form on meaningful outcomes

I liked the walk

The walk along Bateman St and Flagstaff Gardens and the young man who spoke clearly - I could see answers to some problems

Flagstaff Gardens is an amazing asset to our community and should be a feature prominent with engaging and building community

Very well facilitated, good listening to questions and complaints, excellent participation

Issues/ visions

Lots of discussion and chance to meet people

The CoM staff all were very capable and professional

Like the walking tour

Small group discussion

Small group discussion excellent

Information and not just a whinge session for residents

The going out and looking and group work were both useful

Getting to know new people

Well moderated and good to have roaming talk for large group

Allowing people to air their views first and not be talked at

The break in the middle was great

Fine weather - walking tours

Hearing the concerns of other local residents



PLEASE NOTE

While every effort has been made to transcribe participants comments accurately a small number have not been included in this summary due to the legibility of the content. Please contact Keith Greaves at Keith@chit-chat.com.au for any suggested additions.

Summary report prepared for
City of Melbourne by



www.chit-chat.com.au