

# LINCOLN SQUARE CONCEPT PLAN



## PHASE ONE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

April - May 2017



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CITY OF MELBOURNE

# INTRODUCTION

This document has been compiled following the conclusion of Phase One community engagement on Lincoln Square (April - May 2017).

The engagement follows the completion of recent site works on Lincoln Square including the installation of a new flood mitigation and stormwater tank and the revamping of the plaza in 2016.

The objective of this phase of community engagement was to revisit the outcomes of the 2014 Lincoln Square 'Design In' and gain insights and feedback to inform the development of a draft Concept Plan for Lincoln Square. Further details on the engagement approach and project context can be found in Part B of this document.

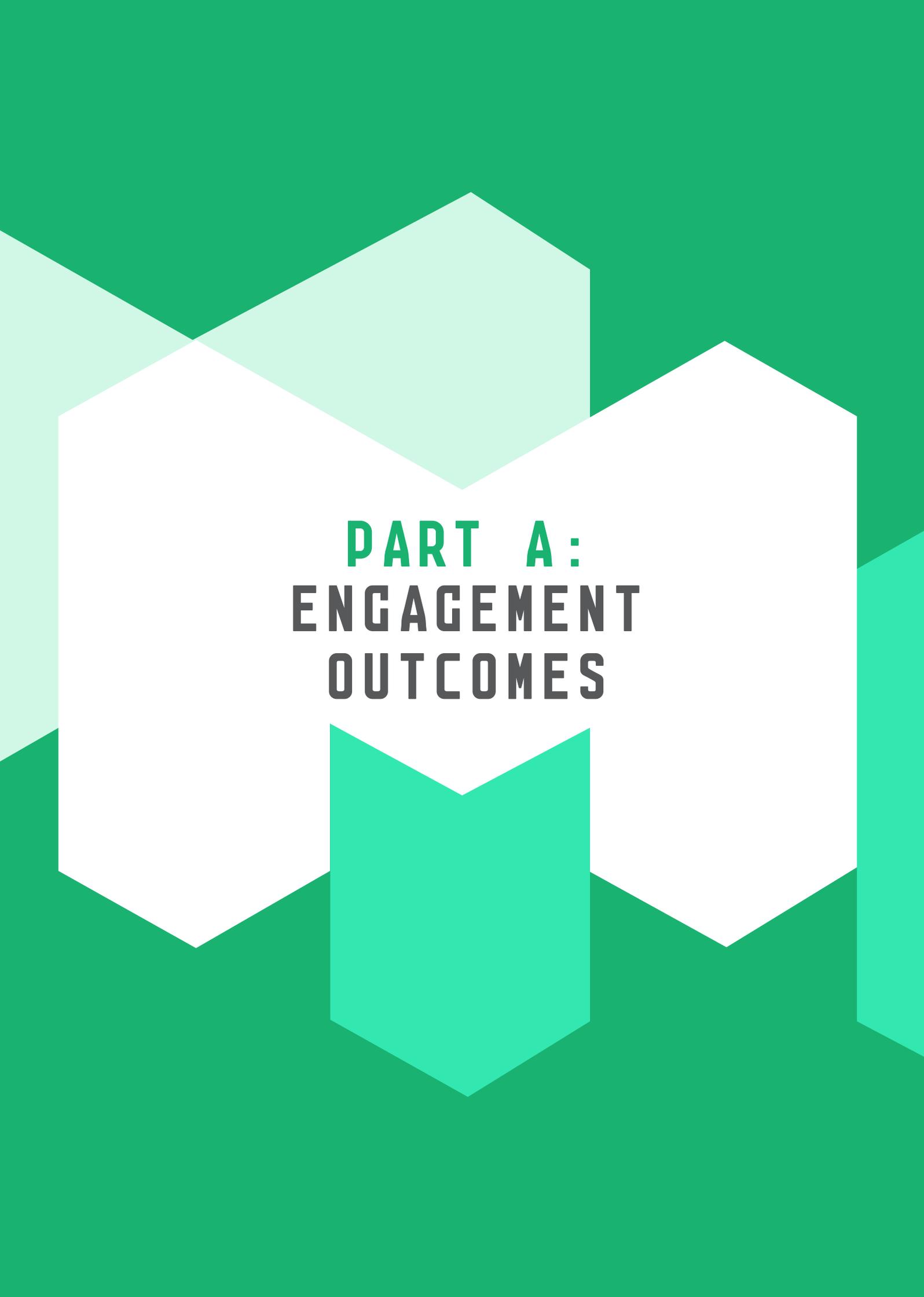
A total of 199 participants took part in the engagement. They have contributed their feedback in the form of completed surveys accessed through the City of Melbourne's digital engagement website: Participate Melbourne.

Participants were asked for feedback on six questions - four relating to their vision, experience and recommendations for Lincoln Square, and two relating to outcomes raised in the 2014 'Design In.' Participant feedback can be reviewed in Part C of this document. A copy of the survey can be viewed in Appendix A.

This engagement summary has been commissioned by The City of Melbourne and completed by The Space Agency - an independent consultancy specialising in stakeholder engagement and placemaking.

The Space Agency was engaged, as an impartial, external consultant, to review and categorise engagement data in order to identify key themes and recommendations. Every effort has been made by the authors of this document to represent accurately participant feedback and insights.

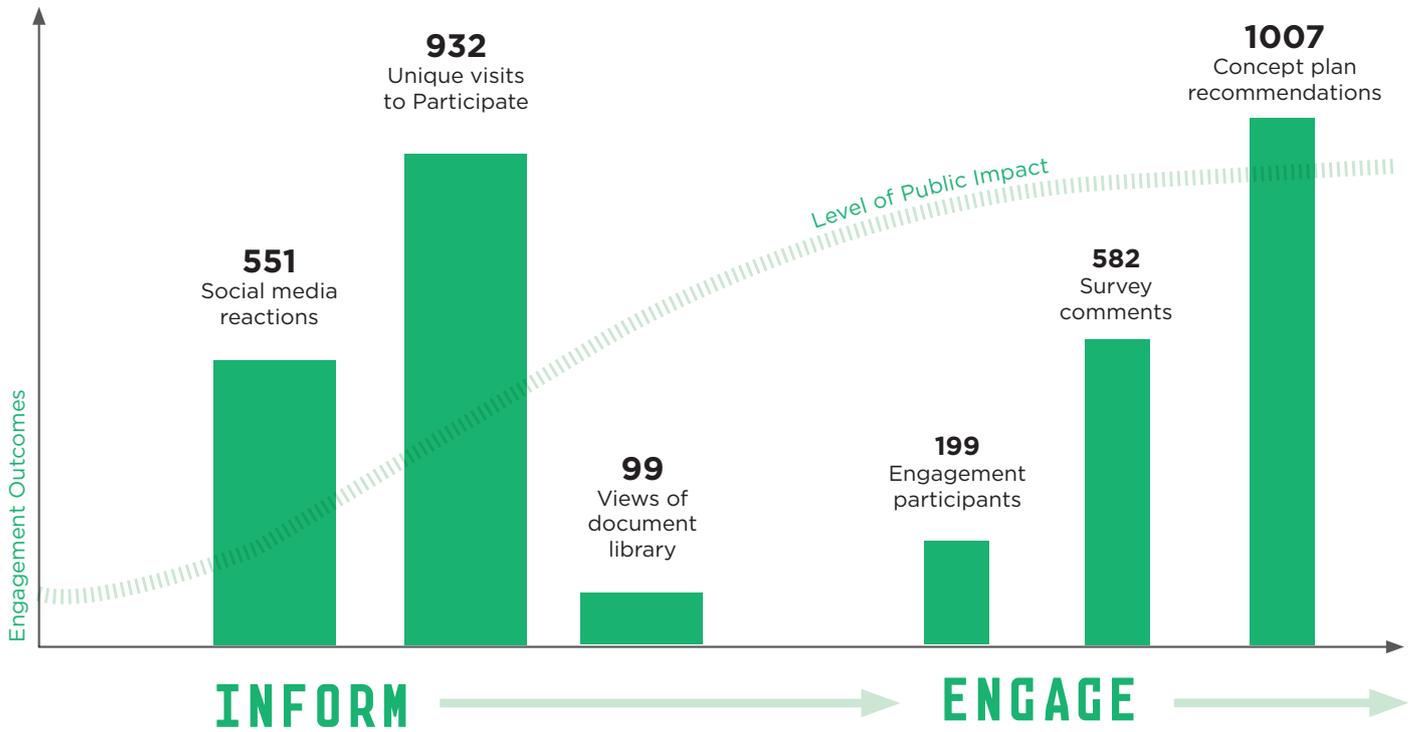
***For recommendations or questions, Please contact: [steve.perumal@melbourne.vic.gov.au](mailto:steve.perumal@melbourne.vic.gov.au)***



**PART A:**  
**ENGAGEMENT**  
**OUTCOMES**

# ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT

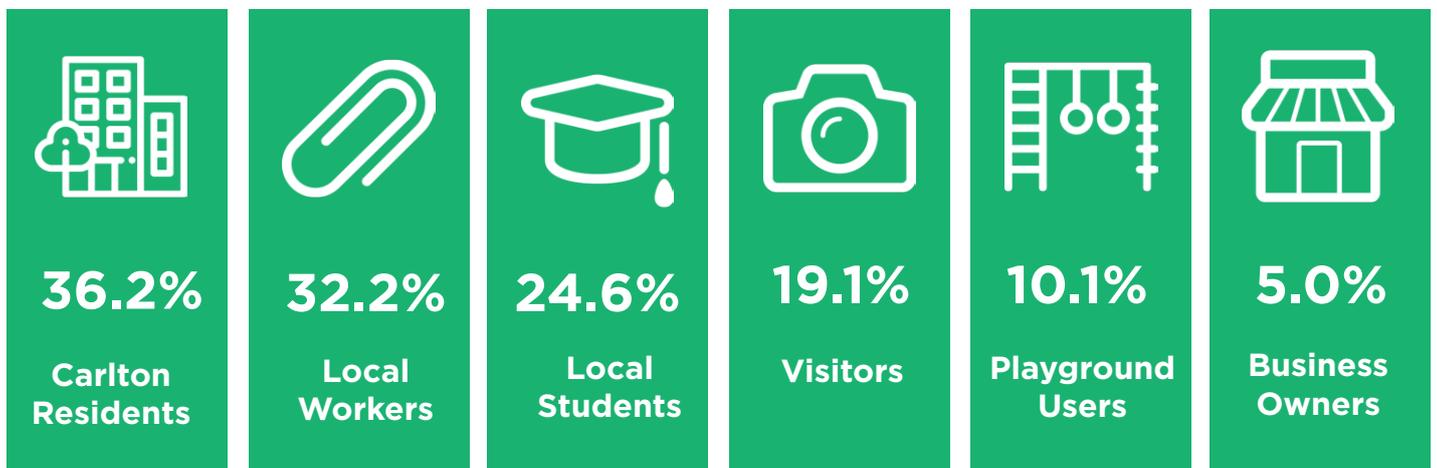
## PHASE 1 PARTICIPATION OUTCOMES:



Participate Melbourne is the digital hub for all City of Melbourne engagements. Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 932 unique visitors. In addition, the Lincoln Square Design-In Consultation Report (2014) received 99 views.

Through Participate Melbourne, participants were able to leave complete the Phase 1 Survey. A total of 188 submission were logged through Participate and a further 11 physical surveys were received following a pop up engagement at Lincoln Square.

## WHO PARTICIPATED:



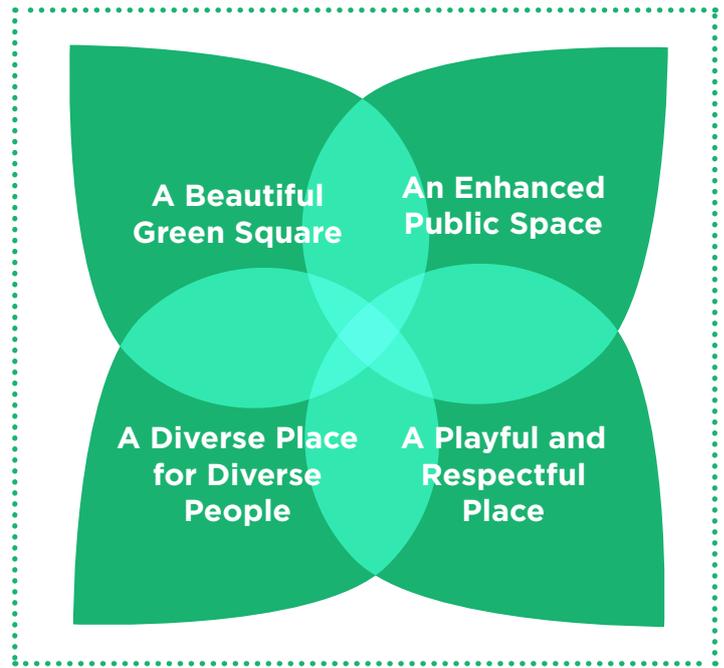


# KEY THEMES

The following key themes have been interpreted following a detailed review of participant comments and recommendations.

Overall, participant feedback focused on maintaining and enhancing the current green space, updating the public space to include better landscaping and placemaking, ensuring that the park was a flexible place where diverse people could congregate and no one group monopolised the space, and ensuring that it was a place where all ages could come and play while being respectful of other park users.

These themes are consistent and complementary to the 'Guiding Principles' developed in the 2014 'Design In' community engagement. These can be noted on p.14 of this report.



## A Beautiful Green Square

**It was made clear in participant feedback that Lincoln Square is a much loved green space where its trees and lawns make it a haven for people and wildlife.**

Participants said that the green lawns, trees and connection to nature was what made the square a special place for them. Of this large group, 48 respondents specifically stated how much they loved the **grass and greenery**, describing it as a 'green refuge' and an 'oasis in the middle of high-density living.'

A further 47 respondents said they loved the trees in the park, highlighting the **Moreton Bay Figs** and other large trees as being important to the character of the park. Participants said that the mature **native trees** were 'unusual for an inner Melbourne park,' and 'one of Melbourne's greatest treasures.' Participants loved the shade these trees provided and the dappled sunlight that came through their canopy.

Participants wanted to see the park enhanced with **further planting**. This included adding more flowering plants to bring colour to the

square; more shrubs, grasses and bushes to soften the edges – particularly around the memorial fountain; and more trees including more native varieties, as well as deciduous trees that let light in winter and change colours with the seasons.

5 participants said that they particularly liked the **gentle slope** of the landscape noting that this made it a pleasant place to 'sit and relax.' A further group of five participants exclaimed their love of the park's **wildlife**, noting that the bats and birds that live in the park are an important feature of the square.

A further 3 participants commented that they would like to see a **buffer of vegetation** created along the Swanston Street edge of the path to mask the street from the park similar to what is in place at Edinburgh Gardens along St. George's Road or at Boyd Community Hub.

# An Enhanced Public Space

## Participants wanted to see changes to the landscaping and placemaking of the square in order to create a more functional, aesthetic and engaging public space.

When asked if they supported Council's proposal to options for **expanding the park** by reducing and reconfiguring the perimeter car parking, 61.8% of participants were in favour of the initiative.

Of this group, many recognised the initiative as an important opportunity to include additional spaces and amenity to enhance to public space.

Participants provided a wide range of comments describing what they would like to see changed in the park. Referring to recent upgrades to the park, a high number of participants did not like the **uneven cobble stones** which they said made it difficult to walk on or push a pram. One participant commented: 'The textured and uneven pavement is hard to walk on for elderly people and impossible for people in wheelchairs.' Others commented that the **upgrade was 'dull'** and that the park has now 'lost its appeal to young people.'

13 participants commented on the use of **placemaking** in the park, saying that there was a lack of seating, places to eat their lunch, and public restrooms.

10 participants did not like the current connection between the square and Swanston Street. Many within the group described the poor design of the ledge that separates the footpath from the grass next to the tram stop and how this is a prohibitive barrier that obliged users to walk around in order to gain access to the park. One participant described their dislike of how the square is exposed to the 'noisy and unattractive streetscape of Swanston Street.'

5 participants wanted to see the park become **more active and used for more public events**. One participant commented: '[Lincoln Square] is underutilised and could be the site of an outdoor cinema in summer.' Another noted that 'It would be awesome to see it turned

it to an active space, something community orientated, for public events.' A further 3 participants suggested adding a café to the park.

5 participants thought the **Bali Memorial** could be improved stating that it 'lacks purpose and character.' Others described it as harsh and that it made the park feel more like a cemetery. One participant described a perceived disconnection between the memorial and the needs of park users.

4 participants commented that **lighting** was poor, saying that it was 'a bit dark in the evenings' and a further 4 participants said the general cleanliness of the park needed to be improved.

4 participants wanted to see the **paths and walkways** improved. One participant noted that the paths can be slippery when they are wet and covered with leaves. Another suggested adding a ramp from the paved area to the lower part of the park for quickest access. Two participants recommended adding a path at the northern end of the park where there is currently a desire line.

2 participants recommended adding an **educational element** to the park. One commented: 'since so much work has been done over the past year or so to install a giant underground tank, why not include some information about it right above where it is. Many people would now be unaware of what it is and why it's important.' Another suggested a small museum or information centre to support the memorial fountain.

Two participants suggested acknowledging the **Aboriginal history** of the square. One participant commented: 'the Wurundjeri Council could be co-opted to provide, in conjunction with Council, an appropriate descriptive sign describing the historical aboriginal heritage in the inner Melbourne area.'

# A Diverse Place for Diverse People

**Lincoln Square is used by diverse people who seek different things from the park. While some look to the square as a place to relax, many also see it as a place for activity. The diversity of uses and users is a special feature of the park that should be facilitated through good landscape design.**

23 participants expressed how they would like to see the park become a place that **everyone can enjoy**. This was summed up in the following vision submitted by one participant: 'My vision is to [create] a space where everyone is welcomed- young children on the playground, tweens in the skateboarding areas, students on the grass, local workers on their lunchbreaks...'

In their comments, participants highlighted how it should be a place where residents, workers, students and visitors can all **come together** and enjoy what is there. As one participant puts it: '[I] want it to be a space that is inviting and engaging to all members of the public. Areas where there is both **public and private social spaces**. Places for the community, students, children to engage with the environment around them.'

17 participants said that the park's location made it an important feature of the **neighbourhood** and a place for the whole area to come together.

A group of 13 participants highlighted how the diverse functions of the park made it an interesting and active place for the whole community stating that 'It is a place of real crossover and contact between a whole range of people - residents, university students, visitors, young people, older people, grungy hipster sorts and well-heeled professional sorts.'

Many wanted to see the park included both **active and passive space** where people could relax, eat their lunch, but also have fun, play and socialise. As one participant commented: 'there should be a better mix of active space with leisure space.' Another commented: 'It would be good to ensure that as many people as possible can get the most out of the space.'

5 participants noted that they felt the park currently lacks a **sense of culture and community** as well as a perceived lack of vibrancy that comes with diverse activities taking place.

A number of participants wanted to see more **infrastructure and placemaking** for young people including places where they could skate. One participant commented: 'Make the space more appealing for the young, especially since it is a memorial for the young people that were killed in the terrible Bali bombings.'

In addition, 7 participants recommended including a **community garden**. A community garden was seen as a good way to activate some of the under-utilised parts of the park and 'provide a medium for locals (International and Australian students and other Carlton residents) to connect and make friendships, thus creating a sense of community.'

# A Playful and Respectful Space

**As the home of Melbourne's first public playground, the Bali Memorial as well an historic location for the skateboarding community, Lincoln Square is many things to many different groups. For the park to be a successful space it needs to be a respectful place.**

Lincoln Square is a highly frequented public space that is used for a number of different purposes. 58% of participants said they used it for leisure, 57% said they used it as a throughfare, 22% said they used it as a place to exercise, and a further 22% said they use it as a place to meet friends.

In addition, 25% participants stressed that the space has been a traditional **meeting place of Melbourne's skate community.**

The recent addition of anti-skate measures into the design of the park produced a rousing discussion among participants with a large number stating that these changes had negatively affected a significant group of park users as well as the overall character of the square.

Participants stated that they missed the skateboarders and the sense of liveliness they brought to the square. One participant commented: 'I truly did enjoy it more when it was used by the skaters. I do not skate myself, however many of my friends did and after uni it was **an enjoyable place for us to spend time.**'

Some participants also noted that since the re-surfacing of the square and subsequent decline in skateboarding activity, there has been a noticeable drop in the areas vibrancy. One participant commented that 'Lincoln Square at the moment is very empty without the skaters.'

A number of participant said that they wanted 'Council to **relax their anti skateboarding measures**' and cooperate with the skateboarding community to 'make Lincoln Square a skate-friendly place that remains respectful of other uses by the wider community.'

As one participant described the outcome: 'I didn't mind the skateboarders and felt that they were entertaining. However, as time went on and numbers grew, they began to litter and ... around the Bali Memorial area. Residents on the East side of Swanston St opposite Lincoln Square were annoyed by the noise levels, particularly continuing late into the night. It is a shame for them, but in the end, they didn't respect other people's needs.'

Overall, a smaller number of participants were happy with the displacement of the skateboarders from the memorial and recommended further changes to prevent continuing activity in other parts of the park. Others were mindful that they should have a space that does not infringe on others quiet use of the park. As one participant puts it: 'sometimes it can get a bit noisy with skateboarders but it's important for them to have a space too.'

Across the engagement, participants highlighted the need to **create spaces for young people to play** - including play spaces for infants through to teenagers. As one participant stressed, 'young people who skate have few place to congregate safely near public transport.'

19 participants recommended that as part of the proposal to investigate expanding the park by removing and reconfiguring perimeter parking, Council should also look to include a new place for skaters.

When asked if it was a priority for Council to improve the playground in Lincoln Square, many participants recognised the need to create **play spaces for all ages** and include skateboarders. As one participant commented: 'if the playground was upgraded in conjunction with a 'skatable' space (potentially a bowl?) I could see a diverse range of people being able to enjoy the space more.'

# PARTICIPANT PROFILE

The engagement attracted 199 participants. The following pages help to paint a picture of who these participants were, their relationship to the city as well as their relationship with Lincoln Square.

Relationship to the City	N	%
I am a resident of Carlton	72	36.2%
I work in the area	64	32.2%
I own / operate a business in the area	10	5%
I study in Carlton	49	24.6%
I use the playground	20	10.1%
I am a visitor	38	19.1%
Other	17	8.5%

Participants were mostly residents of Carlton, local workers and people who study in Carlton. Included in the 'Other' category were participants who lived nearby (CBD, North Melbourne), as well as people who passed Lincoln Square regularly and one participant who owned a property in proximity to Lincoln Square. Participants identifying as Visitors made up nearly 20% of all respondents. This group was diverse in age however most (50%) were aged from under-18 to 24 years.

Age Group	N	%
Under 18	15	7.5%
18-24	38	18.8%
25-29	23	11.4%
30-39	47	23.3%
40-49	33	16.3%
50-59	18	9.0%
60-69	21	10.6%
70-79	4	2.0%
80 and over	1	0.5%
Prefer not to answer	2	1.0%

Overall, participants were most likely to be between the ages of 18 and 39 with 53.5% of the total falling between these years. In addition, participants were more likely to identify as male (54.7%). Women made up 36.2% of participants, intersex/indeterminate/unspecified made up 2.5% of the group, and 6.5% of participants preferred not to disclose their gender.

<b>How participants use Lincoln Square</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
For exercise (running, walking, cycling)	43	21.6%
For leisure (relaxing, picnicking, reading)	116	58.3%
As a thoroughfare (getting from one place to another)	115	57.8%
To meet with friends	43	21.6%
To work or study in	27	13.6%
Use the playground	27	13.6%
To spend time with family	17	8.5%
To walk my dog	14	7%
Other	39	19.6%

Participants used Lincoln Square for a variety of activities. Most participants said that they used the park as a place for leisure (58.3%) as well as a thoroughfare (57.8%). This question registered a high number of participants choosing to highlight 'Other' uses for the park. 22 participants said they used it to skateboard, while others said they used it to eat lunch, play games, or that they passed it on the tram.



**PART B:**  
**APPROACH**

# PROJECT CONTEXT

Lincoln Square is one of Melbourne's oldest parks and the site of the first public playground in the city, the Bali Memorial, as well as a diverse planting of remarkable 19th century trees.

The square is bounded by Bouverie Street, Lincoln Square North, Lincoln Square South and Swanston Street. Its location in the heart of Carlton and Melbourne's education precinct make it a popular destination for a diverse range of park users.

In 2014, Council conducted community workshops at Lincoln Square specifically to seek a solution to skate related issues. These engagement produced the Lincoln Square 'Design In' Summary Report - a engagement outcomes document that highlighted the critical issues of Lincoln Square. These included:

- How best to accommodate diverse park users,
- How to engender respect and responsibility among park users,
- How to address noise, amenity and safety,
- How to improve facilities
- A broader conversation on the Bali Memorial, the activation of the public space, the children's playground, and future upgrades to the park.

Participant in the 'Design In' produces a series of guiding principles to inform the future upgrade of the park. These included:

- Broadly maintain the current layout and feel of the Square,
- Enhance the Square to be a greener, safer, more inviting and inclusive space,
- Acknowledge that skaters are actual users of the space - local law or not,
- Reflect an inclusive design so that no single group or activity monopolizes the square,
- Avoid design solutions that lead to exclusion,
- Engender a sense of mutual respect for current and future users,
- Be a community led process.

In 2016, Lincoln Square underwent construction works to upgrade the park. Changes included the installation of a two-million litre flood mitigation and stormwater tank, as well as a re-paving and design of the plaza.

The changes sought to highlight the need to integrate the park with other open spaces in Carlton as well as major infrastructure projects such as the Metro Rail Tunnel.

The City of Melbourne is now preparing a concept plan for Lincoln Square in order to respond to these developments. The decision to prepare a Concept Plan was triggered by a number of factors including the need to:

- Guide the future use of the park.
- Respond to differing demands placed on public open space in fulfilling the requirements of a 21st century park.
- Rejuvenate Lincoln Square to address a wide range of challenges and opportunities to meet the needs of a changing Carlton. This includes a rapid increase in population and density as well as a changing demographic.
- Implement the Open Space and Urban Forest Strategy recommendations to increase open space and expand the urban forest to mitigate increasing urban heat island effect, climate change and improve the community's liveability.

The Concept Plan will be informed through a three phased community engagement process which began in May 2017. The engagement approach and goals are outlined on the following page.

# ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The Lincoln Square Concept Plan will be informed through a three-phased community engagement process. The key objectives of each phase are outlined below.

## Phase 1 – May 2017

- Revisit the 2014 Lincoln Square ‘Design In’ community engagement report,
- Outline the strategic goals and vision of the Open Space Strategy in the context of Carlton and Lincolns Square,
- Understand what park users like and don’t like about Lincoln Square.
- Invite park users to share their vision for the Square,
- Invite the public to speak directly with a project manager,
- Gather feedback, insights and recommendations to help shape a Draft Concept Plan.

## Phase 2 – July 2017 (expected)

- Report back to the community with a summary of Phase 1 engagement outcomes,
- Present a Draft Concept Plan for community review,
- Invite the community to comment on the Draft Concept Plan and provide feedback,
- Provide opportunities for the community to meet face-to-face with the project team to gain further insights and stimulate discussion.

## Phase 3 - Dates TBC

- Display final Concept Plan for community review

# MEDIA SNAPSHOT

The Phase 1 engagement was launched following the publication of the Melbourne Magazine April / May Edition. The Magazine was released at the start of April.

## HELP SHAPE LINCOLN SQUARE

**Months of construction to install Australia's first combined stormwater harvesting and flood mitigation tank at Lincoln Square in Carlton is now complete.**

Now that the fences are gone, the City of Melbourne is seeking ideas from the community to guide a new landscape concept plan for the square.

Deputy Lord Mayor Arron Wood said the new, two megalitre tank has smart technology that allows water to be purged or recycled based on weather conditions and will help reduce flood risk in the central city.

'The water will be harvested to keep Carlton's iconic heritage squares lush and green during Melbourne's long hot summers,' Cr Wood said.

'We manage 480 hectares of parkland across the city, so it's important that we use water wisely. Projects like this will help

us reach our target of sourcing 50 per cent of our water from non-drinking sources.'

Lincoln Square is one of three London-style garden squares established along Pelham Street in the 1850s. This green corridor, which culminates at the Carlton Gardens, is a recreation hub and main source of public open space for local residents.

'The water will be harvested to keep Carlton's iconic heritage squares lush and green during Melbourne's long hot summers.'

'We now have an exciting opportunity to prepare a plan for the future of the Lincoln Square, including a playground, lighting and other features that are important to the community,' Cr Wood said.

Have your say on the future of Lincoln Square online.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au)**



*Lincoln Square during construction of the two megalitre water tank*

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The engagement was promoted through the City of Melbourne social media channels, including 4 Facebook posts, 3 Twitter posts and 1 Instagram post. These actions generated 551 social media reactions.

**City of Melbourne**

23 hrs · 🌐

After installing a new flood mitigation and stormwater tank and revamping the plaza, we want to hear from you about your vision for Lincoln Square. Share your ideas and help shape the Lincoln Square concept plan at <http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/lincoln-square>



👍 Like
💬 Comment
➦ Share

👤 You, Natalie Siragusa and 71 others
Top Comments ▾

**City of Melbourne** @cityofmelbourne · May 7

Do you know the site of Melbourne's first playground? Help us shape the future of Lincoln Square [participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/lincoln-square](http://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/lincoln-square)  
Image @Library\_Vic



👤 1
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❤️ 7



**PART C:**  
**RECOMMENDATIONS**

# WHAT ARE LINCOLN SQUARE'S SPECIAL FEATURES AND CHARACTER?

*Participants were asked if Lincoln Square had a special feature, aspect or character that is important to them. In total, participants put forward 237 endorsements that have been categorised into 5 key aspects. These include: the green space (43.9% of responses), skateboarding (24.9% of responses), people and activity (13.8% of participants), the memorial fountain (7.6% of responses), and the connection of the square with the neighbourhood (7.1% of responses).*

## Green Space

104 participants (43.9%) said that the green lawns, trees and connection to nature was what made the square a special place for them. Of this group, 20% specifically stated how much they loved the green lawns and greenery, describing it as a 'green refuge' and an 'oasis in the middle of high-density living;' A further 20% of this group said they loved the trees in the park, highlighting the Moreton Bay Figs and other large trees as being important to the character of the park. Participants said that the mature native trees were 'unusual for an inner Melbourne park,' and 'one of Melbourne's greatest treasures.' Participants loved the shade these trees provided and the dappled sunlight that came through their canopy.

Five participants said that they particularly liked the gentle slope of the landscape noting that this made it a pleasant place to 'sit and relax.' A further group of five participants exclaimed their love of the park's wildlife, noting that the bats and birds that live in the park are an important feature of the square.

## Skateboarding

59 participants (24.9%) said that the parks' historical use as a street-skating location was what made it special. Within the comments, participants highlighted

how the square has been traditionally used as a meeting place for the skate community and how this character has gone following recent landscaping changes. Participants commented: 'the skaters made it a vibrant and pleasant space to be around' and 'I don't skate but loved having skaters there, it created a really lively atmosphere.' Many within this group wanted to preserve skateboarding in the park, noting that 'I'm impressed that it is/was the most famous and popular skateboarding site in the country. I feel it is important to preserve that, as a cultural landmark.'

## Diverse Activities & People

31 participants (13.8%) identified a range of activities that they liked to perform in the square including 9 participants who said it was a special place to relax, 7 participants who said that it was important place for young families to access the playground, and 2 participants who said they enjoyed it as a place for walking and keeping fit. A group of 13 participants highlighted how the diverse functions of the park made it an interesting and active place for the whole community stating that 'It is a place of real crossover and contact between a whole range of people -- residents, university students, visitors, young people, older people, grungy hipster sorts and well-heeled professional sorts.'

## The Bali Memorial / Fountain

18 participants (7.6%) described the memorial fountain as a special feature of Lincoln Square, stating that 'the sound of the water relaxes me.' Of this group, most participants did not refer to it as the Bali Memorial but as a water fountain or water feature. Some participants described it as a reflective space as well as a quiet space where they can contemplate.

## Connecting the Neighbourhood

17 participants (7.1%) said that the park's location made it an important feature of the neighbourhood and a place for the whole area to come together. 6 participants said that its proximity to the university made it a special place for students to meet and relax. Others described it as a lovely park to walk through on their way to other destinations. One participant noted: 'Lincoln Square's proximity to the national headquarters of the Australian Red Cross, and its hosting of the Bali memorial, means that it should also commemorate wider respect for the most vulnerable people in Australia's communities.'

## Other

4 participants (1.7%) said that the square did not have a special character or feature.

# WHAT DON'T PARTICIPANTS LIKE ABOUT LINCOLN SQUARE?

*When asked what they didn't like about Lincoln Square, participants made 175 comments that have been categorised into five themes including: Landscaping and Placemaking (42.9% of responses), Removal of Skateboarding (24% of responses), Skateboarders (8.6% of responses), Connection with Swanston Street (4.6% of responses) and General comments (13.1% of responses).*

## Landscaping and Placemaking

72 participants (41.6%) commented on the landscaping and placemaking, highlighting aspects that they did not like. With regards to recent works to upgrade the park, a high number of participants did not like the uneven surface which made it difficult to walk on or push a pram. One participant commented: 'The textured and uneven pavement is hard to walk on for elderly people and impossible for people in wheelchairs.' Others commented that the upgrade was 'dull' and that the park has now 'lost its appeal to young people.' Participants recommended adding more planting to soften the side of the park closest to Swanston Street that they described as being too dominated by concrete and paving.

13 participants commented on the use of placemaking in the park, saying that there was a lack of seating, picnic tables, public restrooms. 5 participants thought the memorial could be improved stating that it 'lacks purpose and character.' Others described it as harsh and that it made the park feel more like a cemetery. One participant said there was a disconnection between the memorial and the needs of park users.

4 participants commented that lighting was poor, saying that it was 'a bit dark in the evenings' and a further 2 participants said that the play equipment needed to be improved.

## Removal of Skateboarding

44 participants (25.1%) commented on how the recent re-paving of the surface around the memorial has adversely effected the community of skaters that have traditionally used the square as a meeting and recreational space. Respondents were unhappy with how skaters had been displaced from a location that is described by participants as having a special significance for their community.

Some participants also noted that since the re-surfacing of the square and subsequent decline in skateboarding activity, there has been a noticeable drop in the areas vibrancy. One participant commented that 'Lincoln Square at the moment is very empty without the skaters.' Others noted that there is now a 'lack of activity with removal of skate.'

A number of participants highlighted how they enjoyed the energy and sense of community that came with the skaters. One participant wrote: 'Since the renovation of the park there is less of a sense of community - I don't skate and never have but there was something about how the skaters had a presence which allowed people to come to watch other people trying something.'

## Continued use by Skateboarders

16 participants (9.1%) said that they did not like the behaviour of skateboarders in the square. Participants described their anti-social behaviour as well as a lack of respect towards the Bali memorial which is skated on. As one participant describes 'some skaters were not respectful to other users and seemed to be unwilling to share the park, especially with the those passing through the park to and from the tram stop.'

While some participants recommended further action to prevent skateboarding and enforce the ban on skating, others were mindful that they should have a space that does not infringe on others quiet use of the park. As one participant puts it: 'sometimes it can get a bit noisy with skateboarders but it's important for them to have a space too.'

## Connection with Swanston Street

10 participants (5.7%) did not like the current connection between the square and Swanston Street. Many within this group described the poor design of the ledge that separates the footpath from the grass next to the tram stop and how this is a prohibitive barrier that obliged users to walk around in order to gain access to the park. One participant described their dislike of how the square is exposed to the 'noisy and unattractive streetscape of Swanston Street.'

## General Comments

20 participants (11.4%) left comments that fell into a number of different categories and have been included here as 'General Comments.' Within this group, 5 participants described the lack of culture and community in the park as well as a perceived lack of vibrancy that comes with diverse activities taking place. In addition, 4 participants disliked the cleanliness of the park saying there was too much litter and not enough maintenance; 3 participants described a variety of anti-social and undesirable behaviour in the park as features they dislike and one participant.

## Nothing Wrong

10 participants (5.7%) said that there was nothing wrong with the park as it is.

# HOW MIGHT LINCOLN SQUARE BE IMPROVED?

*Participants were asked if there were any specific ways in which they would like to see Lincoln Square changed, as well as their vision for Lincoln Square. A total of 189 suggestions were submitted that have been broken down into the following categories: Landscaping and Placemaking (40.2% of responses), Places for Skaters (28.6% of responses), A Place for Everyone (12.2% responses), and Removal of Skateboarding (3.2%).*

## Landscaping and Placemaking

78 participants (41.3%) said they would like to see changes to the landscaping and placemaking of the square. Of this group, 27 participants wanted to see the park enhanced with further planting. This included adding more flowering plants to bring colour to the square; more shrubs, grasses and bushes to soften the edges – particularly around the memorial fountain; and more trees including more native varieties, as well as deciduous trees that let light in winter and change colours with the seasons. A further 3 participants commented that they would like to see a buffer of vegetation created along the Swanston Street edge of the path to mask the street from the park similar to what is in place at Edinburgh Gardens along St. George’s Road or at Boyd Community Hub.

In addition, 7 participants recommended including a community garden or edible planting within the park. A community garden was seen as a good way to activate some of the under-utilised parts of the park. One participant commented: ‘it would provide a medium for locals (International and Australian students and other Carlton residents) to connect and make friendships, thus creating a sense of community.’ Others recommended planting herbs and fruit trees that people could pick and eat.

Within the broader group, 7 participants said the park needed more seating and public facilities. These included benches and areas where park users could come and eat their lunch, as well as seating for those who don’t like to sit on the grass, BBQ facilities and a public bathroom.

6 participants wanted to see more infrastructure and placemaking for young people. One participant commented: ‘Make the space more appealing for the young, especially since it is a memorial for the young people that were killed in the terrible Bali bombings.’ Participants wanted to see the space made more kid friendly with the addition of new play equipment and spaces for young people to play. This theme is continued in the category Places for Skaters.

5 participants wanted to see the park become more active and used for more public events. One participant commented: ‘[Lincoln Square] is underutilised and could be the site of an outdoor cinema in summer.’ Another noted that ‘It would be awesome to see it turned into an active space, something community orientated, for public events.’ A further 3 participants suggested adding a café to the park.

4 participants wanted to see the paths and walkways improved. One participant noted that the paths can be slippery

when they are wet and covered with leaves. Another suggested adding a ramp from the paved area to the lower part of the park for quickest access. Two participants recommended adding a path at the northern end of the park where there is currently a desire line. A further 4 participants recommended improving the lighting along the paths.

Two participants recommended adding an educational element to the park. One commented: 'since so much work has been done over the past year or so to install a giant underground tank, why not include some information about it right above where it is. Many people would now be unaware of what it is and why it's important.' Another suggested a small museum or information centre to support the memorial fountain.

Two participants suggested acknowledging the aboriginal history of the square. One participant commented: 'the Wurundjeri Council could be co-opted to provide, in conjunction with Council, an appropriate descriptive sign describing the historical aboriginal heritage in the inner Melbourne area.' Another suggested: 'the city could take the opportunity to incorporate more local Indigenous design features by working with local Indigenous groups to incorporate markers that indicate the history before settlement. There are a lot of international/locals and visitors that use this park so this would be a great way to share more about local Indigenous culture which is largely missing in the CBD.'

One participant put forward the idea of creating a green corridor that connected Lincoln Square with other parks in the neighbourhood such as University Square and Argyle Square.

## Places for Skaters

54 participants (28.6%) said they would like a space created for skateboarders. This group was mixed between some who wanted to see anti-skate landscaping (including the paving) removed from the Swanston Street side of Lincoln Square; and others who wanted to create a space that was dedicated to skateboarding but might be in a different part of the park away from the memorial.

A number of participant said that they wanted 'Council to relax their anti skateboarding measures' and cooperate with the skateboarding community to 'make Lincoln Square a skate-friendly place that remains respectful of other uses by the wider community.' As one participant stressed, 'young people who skate have few place to congregate safely near public transport.'

A number of participants said they missed the skateboarders and the sense of liveliness they brought to the square. One participant commented: 'I truly did enjoy it more when it was used by the skaters. I do not skate myself, however many of my friends did and after uni it was an enjoyable place for us to spend time.'

Continuing with the theme of places for young people from Landscaping and Placemaking, participants here also highlighted the need to create spaces for all ages to play including teens and young adults. Participants highlighted how skateboarding was an important social and recreational activity for young people. One participant told the story of how their 14 year old made friends with other locals through skateboarding in the square.

## A Place for Everyone

23 participants (12.2%) expressed how they would like to see the park become a place for everyone. This was summed up in the following vision submitted by one participant: 'My vision is to restore a space where everyone is welcomed- young children on the playground, tweens in the skateboarding areas, students on the grass, local workers on their lunchbreaks...' In their comments, participants highlighted how it should be a place where residents, workers, students and visitors can all come together and enjoy what is there. As one participant puts it: '[I] want it to be a space that is inviting and engaging to all members of the public. Areas where there is both public and private social spaces. Places for the community, students, children to engage with the environment around them.'

Participants wanted to see a greater variety of specific spaces for visitors, including active spaces and placemaking features that would serve the diversity of residents/students/workers in the area.

Of this group, many wanted to see the park included both active and passive space where people could relax, eat their lunch, but also have fun, play and socialise. As one participant commented: 'there should be a better mix of active space with leisure space.' Another commented: 'It would be good to ensure that as many people as possible can get the most out of the space.'

## Removal of Skate

6 participants (3.2%) wanted to see skateboarding removed from the park. Participants suggested further changes to make the park completely un-skatable. As one participant commented: 'change the concrete so there is ZERO CHANCE of skateboarders coming to skate. Since the upgrades happened, the park was reclaimed for the public instead of a skateboarding zone. Occasionally I still see skateboarders there and even on the northbound lane of Swanston St and Lincoln Square tram stop doing tricks, being a nuisance in the area for traffic and walkers.'

## Back to Original / Nothing to Change

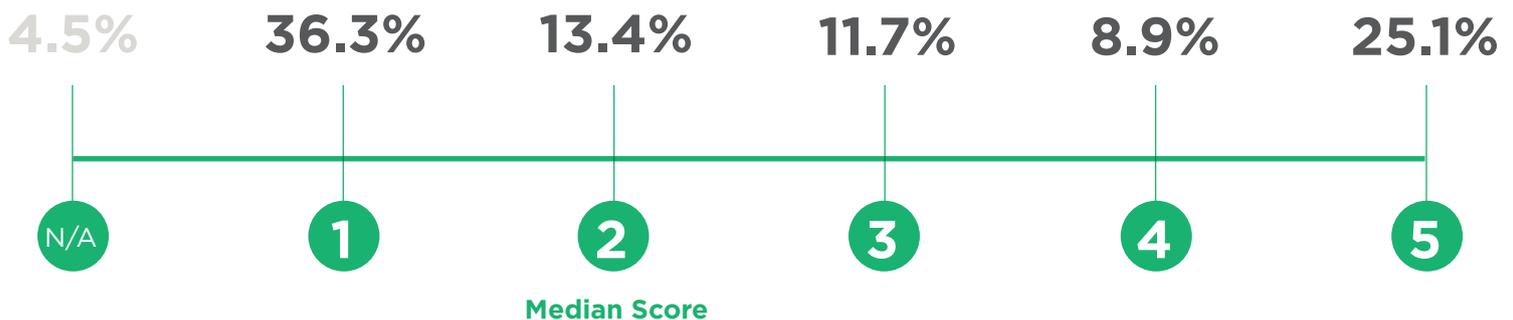
Lastly, 11 participants (5.8%) had nothing to add or simply recommended to keep the space as it is while 8 participants (4.2%) asked to have the park reverted to how it used to be before recent landscaping works.

# IMPROVING THE PLAYGROUND

In reference to a public meeting held in 2014, participants were asked if the proposed improvement of the playground at Lincoln Square was a priority for them. A total of 179 participants answered this question, expressing different levels of support. In order to better understand and apply community feedback their comments have been interpreted along a scale of 1-5 where 1 represents 'No, not a priority at all' and 5 represents 'Yes, this is a priority.'

Using this metric, **49.7% of participants did not see the playground as a priority** whereas 34.1% of participants did see it as a priority. 11.7% of participants were on the fence and 4.5% did not address the question.

While the question specifically asked participants about the playground improvement, 22 participants (12.2%) commented that it was important to think more broadly about play and to create 'play spaces' for all ages. Participants also recommended creating more natural play environments that blended with the park.



## 1 - No, not a priority

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- No
- No. I think it's fine how it is.
- No not at all they should of used the money on something more important

## 2 - No, not really

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- Not really
- No, not particularly but it would be a nice addition.
- No, even though it sounds nice I rarely see the playground fully utilised

## 3 - On the fence

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- Not for me, but I can see why others might feel it important and agree with them.
- Not a priority, but worth doing.
- The playground is a little tired, not a priority for me but probably other people.

## 4 - Somewhat in favour

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- Good idea
- Somewhat - the playground is good, maybe a minor upgrade
- I think that the playground looks very dirty and uninviting. If the playground was reconstructed, it would most likely boost popularity of the square.

## 5 - Yes, it's a priority

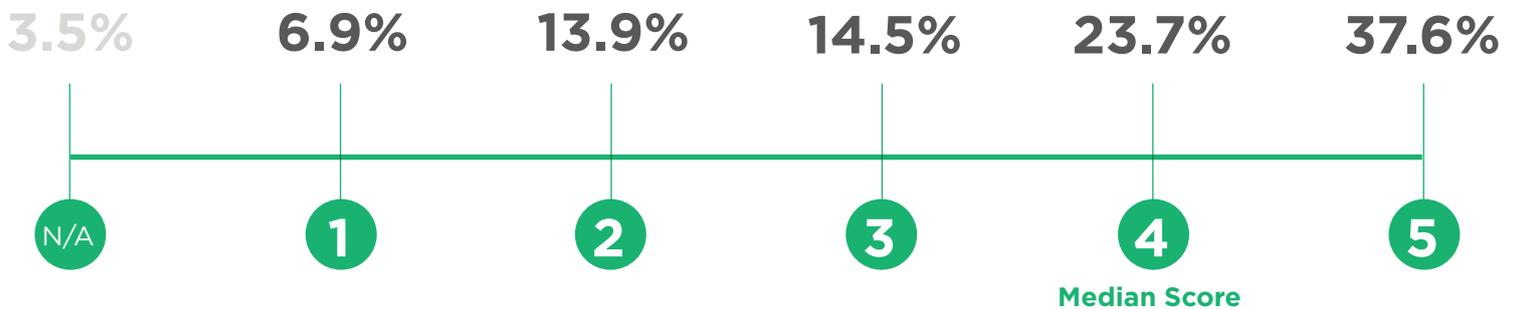
Typical comments included in this rating include:

- Yes
- Yes, as it was home to the city's first public playground, I think it is important to retain this historical connection
- Yes, especially there are many young families in this area

# MAKING LINCOLN SQUARE LARGER

Participants were invited to comment on whether Council should investigate making Lincoln Square larger in the future by reducing and reconfiguring park perimeter car parking. A total of 173 participants answered this question, expressing different levels of support. In order to better understand and apply community feedback, their comments have been interpreted along a scale of 1-5 where 1 represents 'No, Council should not explore this option' and 5 represents 'Yes, this should be investigated.'

Using this metric, **61.8% of participants thought that this was worth investigating** as an option whereas 20.8% said that Council should not take this action. 14.5% of participants were on the fence and 3.5% did not address the question.



Median Score

## 1 - No, Council should not explore this

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- No
- No. I do not support this proposal.
- Leave the park as it is.

## 2 - No, not really

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- Although I like the idea of more trees, I do not think it is wise to reduce car parking.
- Don't reduce parking.
- I don't think the parking impedes on the square it is already very large and not full

## 3 - On the fence

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- Not sure this is a great idea however open to study findings and not totally adverse to the idea.
- More parkland is always desirable but I'm unsure if this would really make such a difference.
- I think accommodating for the youth is a first priority. But it could be a good idea

## 4 - Somewhat in favour

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- Good idea
- Less parking is fine as the area is already well serviced by public transport. The additional space would be good.
- I think it's a good idea. However, many city-goers do use those car parks on the weekends, and I think they would be adversely affected by the reduction in parking space.

## 5 - Yes, this should be investigated

Typical comments included in this rating include:

- Yes
- Sounds great, make it bigger.
- I fully support this initiative as we need more green space
- I LOVE the idea of getting rid of car parks and replacing it with more trees.



# APPENDIX A



# LINCOLN SQUARE CONCEPT PLAN

What's your vision?

## **SURVEY**

To complete this survey online, please visit:

[participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/lincoln-square](https://participate.melbourne.vic.gov.au/lincoln-square)

## THINKING ABOUT LINCOLN SQUARE AT PRESENT:

1. **What is your main connection with Lincoln Square?** *Select all that apply.*

- I am a resident of Carlton
- I work in the area
- I own/ operate a business in the area
- I study in Carlton
- I use the playground
- I am a visitor
- Other

2. **How do you use Lincoln Square at the moment?** *Select all that apply.*

- Exercise (running, walking, cycling)
  - Leisure (relaxing, picnic, reading, connecting to nature)
  - Thoroughfare (getting from one place to another)
  - Meet with friends
  - Work or study in the park
  - Playground
  - Spend time with family
  - Walk my dog
  - Other (please specify)
- 
- 

3. **Does Lincoln Square have a special feature, aspect or character that is important to you?** *(This could be something unique about the setting or an activity that it provides.)*

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4. **Is there anything you don't like about Lincoln Square at the moment?**

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## THINKING ABOUT LINCOLN SQUARE IN THE FUTURE:

5. Are there any specific ways in which you would like to see Lincoln Square changed? What is your vision for Lincoln Square?

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6. At public meetings in 2014, we heard that improving the playground at Lincoln Square was important. Is this a priority for you?

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7. One concept we would like to investigate is making Lincoln Square larger in the future by reducing and or reconfiguring park perimeter car parking on Lincoln Square North and South. This would create more options for Lincoln Square such as new perimeter paths and tree planting. What do you think of this?

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8. Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Lincoln Square?

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## TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELF:

### 9. What is your age group?

- Under 18
- 18 to 24
- 25 – 29
- 30 – 39
- 40 – 49
- 50 – 59
- 60 – 69
- 70 – 79
- 80 or over
- Prefer not to answer

### 10. If you live in Carlton, what best describes your household? *Select the best option.*

- Single
- Couple with no children
- Group/ share house
- Family with children
  - Pre-school
  - Primary school
  - Secondary school
  - University
- Visiting
- Other (*please describe*) \_\_\_\_\_

### 11. What is your gender identity?

- Male
- Female
- Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified
- Prefer not to say



Please complete the survey  
and send us your response  
by Friday 19 May 2017

**PLEASE SEND YOUR  
RESPONSE TO:**

Steve Perumal  
City of Melbourne  
GPO Box 1603  
Melbourne VIC 3001

The information you will provide will be used to prepare a concept plan for Lincoln Square.  
We will present the concept plan in July 2017.

## STAY INVOLVED

If you wish to stay involved in this project, please tick 'yes' below and provide your contact details to receive project updates

YES, please send me updates

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_