

EASTWOOD AND RANKINS ROAD RESERVE PARK EXPANSION

Project Overview

The City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy identifies the need to improve open space provision in Kensington. On 3 December 2013 the Future Melbourne Committee resolved to undertake community consultation on a proposal to expand and improve a small park at the intersection of Eastwood Street and Rankins Road.

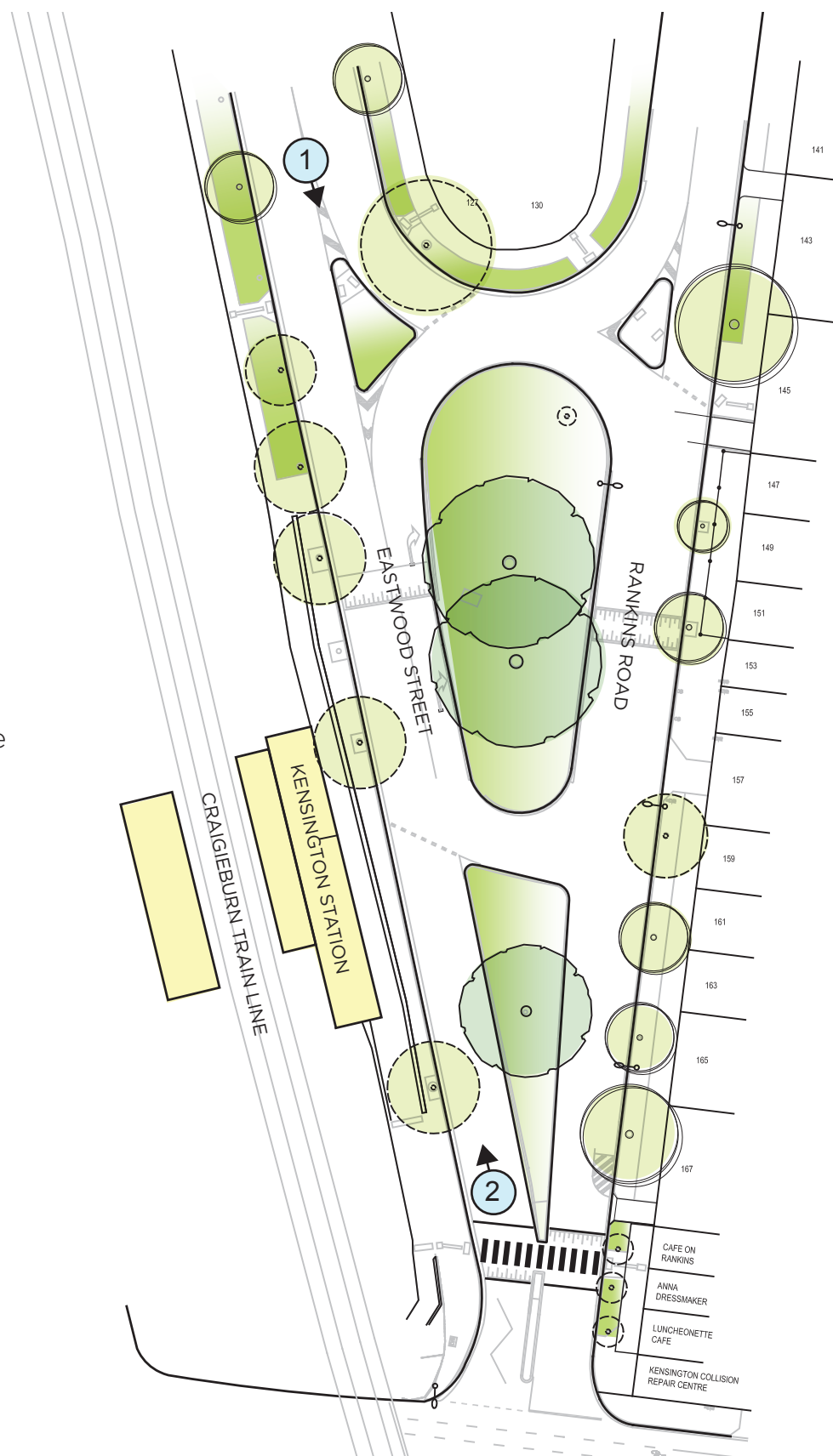
Eastwood and Rankins Road Reserve is a small 680m² park in Kensington. It contains a grassed area, a park seat and two mature River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). The park currently functions as a roundabout and has limited pedestrian accessibility. The park size has decreased overtime and in 1945 it was a larger triangular park of about 1,000 m² with established trees.

The concept plan proposes expanding the existing park to incorporate abutting road space and other landscaped road treatments to create a much larger park of 2250m² in size.

The design aims to increase open space provision in Kensington, create an accessible new park and improve pedestrian safety in the area. Proposed features include an increased lawn area, garden bed and paths. Additional and more diverse tree species are proposed to improve biodiversity, provide shade in summer and local area cooling. Additional design features and character development of the park are also possible.

To achieve this, a portion of Eastwood Street road surface would be removed and replaced with landscaping. Some car parking spaces would be removed and a portion of Rankins Road that is currently one-way would become a two-way street. There may also be opportunities for further traffic calming measures in the area.

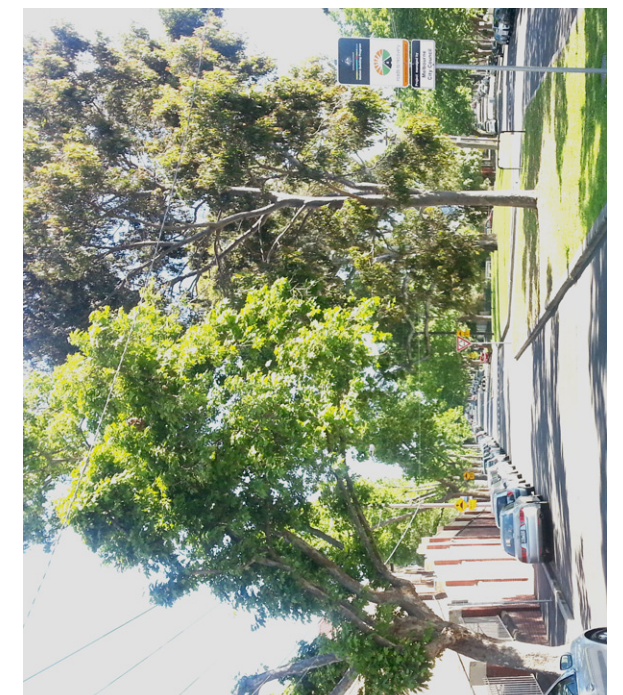
The proposed design is consistent with key directions of the City of Melbourne's Open Space Strategy and Urban Forest Strategy.



Existing Site Plan



View 1. Looking south along Eastwood Street showing existing 'leafy green' landscape character.



View 2. Looking north along Eastwood Street showing a London Plane in poor condition due to power line pruning and the section of Eastwood Street to be converted to park space.



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Landscape Plan

The landscape design proposes to:

- Increase provision of and improve the function of local parkland.
- Improve local area cooling by reducing unnecessary road surfaces.
- Increase tree canopy cover for shade.
- Strengthen landscape character.
- Enhance the relationship between the open space and Kensington Station.
- Provide adequate car parking.
- Improve pedestrian safety and accessibility.
- Capture and reuse stormwater where possible.
- Manage the removal of trees in poor health and provide a net increase of trees.
- Improve the biodiversity and sustainability of the landscape through diverse plant species selection.

Existing tree canopy* cover	39%
Proposed tree canopy cover at maturity	54%
Existing m ² green spaces (lawn, garden bed)	1400
Proposed m ² green spaces (lawn, garden bed and permeable paving)	2250
Reduction in car parking spaces	0*

*Canopy cover has been calculated as a percentage of cover for the area of land within extent of works - not including any privately owned land. The percentage is measured as an estimated value for predicted tree size at full maturity.

*Car park numbers can be maintained with the conversion of angle parking along Eastwood Street



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Tree Species

The existing mature River Red Gums are a valuable asset to Eastwood and Rankins Road Reserve, as are the London Plane trees that create the leafy green landscape character of Eastwood Street and Rankins Road. Unfortunately some of the trees within the project site are nearing the end of their life due to poor health.

Proposed trees

Our design shows any new or infill planting along Rankins Road will be planted with matching London Planes to strengthen the existing 'leafy green' landscape character. The Planes flagged for removal alongside the redundant section of Eastwood Street will not be replaced. Instead tree planting will become part of the broader park landscape - consisting of larger park trees such as the native *Eucalyptus melliodora* (see below).

The existing struggling Cherry trees at the intersection of Rankins and Macaulay Road will be replaced with two Red Maples (refer to plan enlargement).

Street tree large



Platanus x acerifolia /
London Plane

Street tree small



Acer rubrum /
Red Maple

Park tree



Eucalyptus melliodora /
Yellow Box

Plan Enlargement

Streetscape improvements to the intersection of Rankins/Macaulay Road aim to:

- Provide paved areas for cafe seating/spillout.
- Remove trees in poor health and replace with trees better suited to the site conditions.
- Provide two 10 minute car parks in the vicinity of Platform 1 station entrance and the corner retail stores. This parking area can also service train replacement buses as needed.

