**DRAFT** 

# TRANSFORMING SOUTHBANK BOULEVARD

PHASE THREE: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

JULY - AUGUST 2017





















This engagement summary has been commissioned by the City of Melbourne and complete by The Space Agency - an independent consultancy that specialises in placemaking and community consultation. Every effort has been made to accurately represent participant feedback and insights within this document. For recommendations or questions, Please contact: urbanlandscapes@melbourne.vic.gov.au





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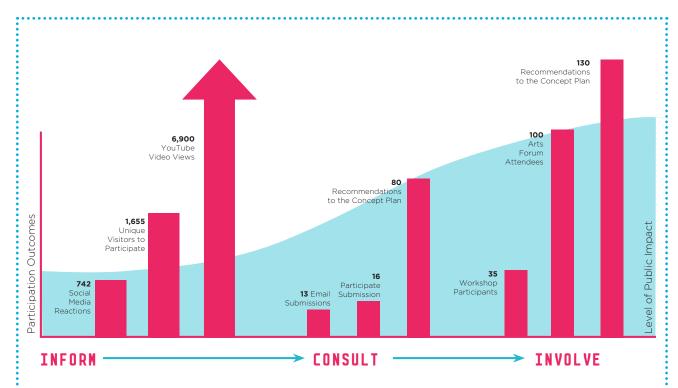
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# PART A: ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

### PHASE THREE OVERVIEW

- This document has been compiled following the conclusion of Phase Three community engagement on Southbank Boulevard.
- This was the third and final phase of community engagement implemented by the City of Melbourne to support the design of new public space along Southbank Boulevard.
- The consultation ran from **19 July to 25 August 2017** The first phase of consultation took place at the end of 2015, and the second phase was conducted between August and September 2016.
- The purpose of this consultation was for community members and local stakeholders to review and provide feedback on a draft concept plan. This was the final stage of community engagement prior to finalising the plan.
- The consultation attracted **64 participants**. These participants contributed **210 recommendations** towards the concept plan.
- Overall, participants were happy with the concept plan. Recommendations were generally minor and related to physical improvements for making the space more green, accessible and suitable for diverse uses and functions.
- Participant recommendations were independently reviewed and subsequently informed six key themes including:
  - **Project Delivery** (20% of responses). This theme related to the community engagement process, overall support levels of the project as well as opportunities for the future.
  - **Traffic and Movement** (20% of responses). This theme included considerations and recommendations to improve vehicular movement and public transport.
  - **Landscape Design** (19% of responses). This theme covered recommendations for planting and greenery, choice of surfaces and materials as well as sustainability features.
  - **Placemaking** (19% of responses). This theme related to infrastructure and amenity that would make the space more comfortable and inviting for people, as well as events and activities that could be hosted in the space to make it a more exciting destination.
  - **Safety and Accessibility** (14% of responses). This theme related to making the space more accessible for people living with a disability or who poor mobility.
  - **Cycle Friendly Design** (8% of responses). This theme included feedback on the design of cycle paths as well as considerations on how to improved the experience of cyclists and pedestrians

### ENGAGEMENT SNAPSHOT



The above diagram demonstrates the impact of community participation in the engagement process. The three phases of Infrom - Consult - Involve respond to the international standard for public participation established by IAP2.

### **INFORM**

Participate Melbourne is the digital engagement hub for all City of Melbourne consultations. On this platform, participants have access to all relevant project documentation. Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 1,655 unique page views.

### **CONSULT**

Through Participate Melbourne and email, participants were invited to provide recommendations on the relevant project precincts or design principles. A total of 48 recommendations were lodged by 16 participants on Participate Melbourne. There were an additional 13 submissions via email which included 32 recommendations.

### INVOLVE

Stakeholder were invited to attend an afternoon workshop sessions. A total of 35 participants took part in the workshops and contributed 130 recommendations. A further 100 people attended a forum on Public Art.

### KEY THEMES

The following six key themes have been interpreted following a detailed review of participant comments and recommendations. Overall, participant feedback strongly supported the concept plan.

### PROJECT DELIVERY

- 43 Participant Recommendations
- 20% of Total Recommendations

20% of recommendations related to the delivery of the new public space. 30 participants commented on the community engagement process, expressed their general views on the project, and inquired about next steps. Of this group, 16 participants expressed their support for the project. A further 13 participants commented on the community engagement process, many saying they were very happy with how the City of Melbourne has approached this initiative.

### TRAFFIC AND MOVEMENT

- 41 Participant Recommendations
- 20% of Total Recommendations

20% of recommendations related to traffic management and public transport. Within this theme, 30 participants were concerned about the impact the project will have on local area traffic and parking. Within this group, many suggested alternative proposals for traffic lights, turning lanes and other interventions to reduce congestion. 11 participants discussed the tram super stop, with most participants expressing their support for this addition.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN

- 40 Participant Recommendations
- 19% of Recommendations

19% of participants provided comments relating to landscape design. This theme includes recommendations on planting and greenery, the use of surface materials (such as compacted gravel), as well as features that might contribute to enhanced environmental sustainability.

### **PLACEMAKING**

- 39 Participant Recommendations
- 19% of Recommendations

19% of recommendations related to the use of the new public space and ways that it might be enhanced through placemaking. Half of this group suggested adding features that would make the place more comfortable and practical for users. A further 12 participants recommended enhancing the identity and character of the new public space with public art and a greater connection with the neighbouring cultural institutions. A group of participants also recommended activating the space with events and educational programs.

### SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

- 30 Participant Recommendations
- 14% of Total Recommendations

30 participants strongly supported making the space more safe, inviting and welcoming. Within this theme, 18 participants recommended improvements that might make the proposed public space more accessible so that it could be used by everyone. 8 participants were concerned about pedestrian safety and 4 participants recommended improvements to make the place safer at night.

### CYCLE FRIENDLY DESIGN

- 17 Participant Recommendations
- 8% of Total Recommendations

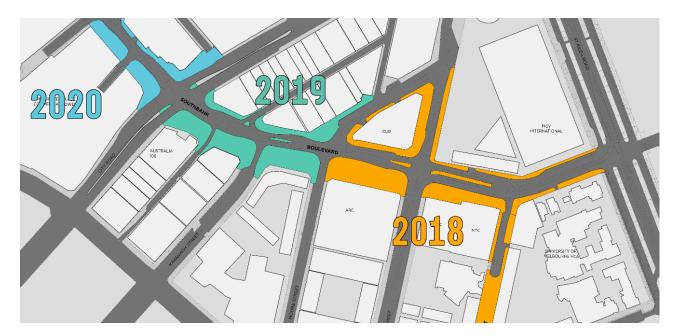
Participants strongly supported the cycling friendly design. As one participant noted, the concept plan fully incorporated the insights gained from the previous two phases of community engagement. Within the cycle friendly theme, 12 participants recommended design improvements. A further 5 participants commented on shared space issues.

# PART B: ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

### PROJECT CONTEXT

Southbank is the most densely populated suburb of greater metropolitan Melbourne with over 92% of residents living in high-rise apartments. The Southbank Structure Plan (2010) and the City of Melbourne Open Space Strategy (2011) are two primary documents that seek to ensure that Southbank meets the challenges of one of the fastest growing suburbs in the City.

These documents identify the lack of public open space in Southbank as a key concern. The average recommended provision, per-person, of open space in Melbourne is 22 square meters. In Southbank, there is currently 3 square meters per person. At the same time, the population and density of people in Southbank is increasing rapidly while traffic volumes are decreasing.



In 2015, Council conducted a series of tests and microsimulations in order to understand the feasibility of creating new public space along Southbank Boulevard. It considered existing and future traffic projections, solar access, connectivity and service locations in order to produce a draft functional layout plan to illustrate how the road can be changed to create new public realm.

This plan proposed that up to 2.5 hectares of new public realm can be created in a linear chain extending from the Domain Parklands through to the Yarra River. Beginning in late 2015, a four phase community engagement strategy was initiated by Council to gain community perspectives and insights in order to inform the design and functionality of this new public space.

### PROJECT TIMELINE



### ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

Community engagement seeks to inform, consult and involve stakeholders. This ensures that decision making is transparent, owned by the public, and inclusive of diverse perspectives.

In late 2015, the first phase of community consultations sought to introduce the project and encourage and direct people to provide their comments, feedback in the form of a vision for the space. The Phase One engagements received over 700 submissions from City of Melbourne residents, workers, students and visitors. Over the first six months of 2016, the insights and feedback from this first round of consultation were develop into a series of Design Principles and an Ideas Plan intended to support future decision making.

Following the creation of this framework, Phase Two engagement was initiated and ran from August 22 to September 19 2016. This round of consultation sought to present back to stakeholder a set of Design Principles and an Ideas Plan informed by Phase 1 consultations and to gain feedback on specific 'zones' along Southbank Boulevard.

Phase Three is the final phase of community engagement. It ran from 19 July to 25 August 2017. During these five weeks, participants were invited to review and provide feedback on a draft concept plan. The concept plan is a blueprint for creating new public open space. It outlines 10 actions that form the basis of the community's vision for Southbank. These actions are listed along the right hand side of this page.

### PHASE THREE ACTION AREAS



1. Creating New Open Space



2. Living Link



3. The Melbourne Experience



4. A Shared Journey



5. Public Art in Southbank



6. Arts Gateway - St. Kilda Road to Sturt Street



7. Dodds Street



8. A Civic Square for Southbank



9. Neighbourhood Park



10. Connecting the River

### ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

Participants contributed recommendations through three engagement channels: a community workshop, Participate Melbourne (participate.melbourne.vic.gov. au) and email submission. In addition, a public art and city community discussion was held upon the announcement of Vaari Claffey's appointment as the new Public Art Strategist for Southbank.

ENGAGEMENT	Participants		Recommendations	
CHANNELS	#	%	#	%
Community Workshop	35	21%	130	62%
Participate Melbourne	16	10%	48	23%
Email	13	8%	32	15%
Arts Forum	100	61%	0	0%
Total	164	100%	210	100%

Table 1: Participation Channles and Recommendations

### **COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

The community workshop was held on August 19th with 35 participants. This engagement channel held the highest participation rate, with 35 attendees and 130 recommendations. These included 32 recommendations on landscape design, 29 on placemaking opportunities, and 23 on safety and accessibility.

### PARTICIPATION MELBOURNE

Participation Melbourne is the online engagement platform managed by the City of Melbourne. It allows for direct concept plan feedback. Over the 5 week engagement period, 2,164 users visited Participate Melbourne to view the online engagement. Of this group, only 16 participants chose to provide additional feedback and recommendations. These participants put forward 48 recommendations including: 14 on landscape design, 12 on traffic and movement concerns, and 10 on placemaking.

### **ARTS FORUM**

"Public Art and the City" was a panel-led community discussion on public art within the Draft Concept Plan. The event was held at the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA) on August 19, 2017, with 100 attendees. The

discussion enabled the newly appointed Public Art Strategist for Southbank, Vaari Claffey, the City of Melbourne and community interest groups to discuss public art and the Southbank draft concept plan. The discussion revolved around the role public art can play in a community, how it can showcase a history, play a role in the future and contribute to the draft concept plan as a whole.

### **EMAIL SUBMISSIONS**

13 people wrote directly to the project team at the City Design Office offering 32 recommendations via email. These submissions provided valuable insight into the perspective of groups and individuals who have keenly followed the Transforming Southbank Boulevard Initiative.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

In addition, a total of 742 total reactions were recorded through social media. Participants commented on, shared and reacted to the draft concept plan through Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. These reactions were overwhelmingly supportive with most people 'like-ing' 'heart-ing' or expressing 'wow.' On July 18, 2017 a video was released by the City of Melbourne showcasing a visual fly—through of the project. The video was viewed 6,900 times.





# PART C: INSIGHTS

### DATA INTERPRETATION

The phase three community engagement was a qualitative research exercise. It asked people to provide high-level thinking on what they would like to see included, changed or removed. In order to strengthen these individual recommendations, the writers of this report have looked to link common ideas into themes.

Every effort has been made to represent accurately participant feedback. As such, themes offer a wide range of opinions - some of which may be conflicting. Where relevant, the writers of this report have sought to highlight conflicting views and different perspectives in order to reflect best how people expressed themselves in the engagement as well as the different levels of support they might have for the project.

### **DEMOGRAPHICS**

Only participants who submitted responses *via* Participate Melbourne were asked to provide details relating to their Age, Gender and Relationship to the City (i.e. whether they are a Resident, Worker, Student, Visitor, Business Owner or Other). Unfortunately, this group is statistically too small to inform a demographic profile of the whole cohort. As such, this report does not provide a breakdown of participant age, gender, or relationship to the city. The City of Melbourne is committed to providing inclusive and accessible community engagement. While every effort is made to ensure a broad cross-section of the community is consulted, it is not always possible to reflect this within written reports.

### **ACTION AREAS**

On Participate Melbourne, participants were invited to review an interactive map of the Southbank Boulevard and provide feedback on 10 key action areas. These action areas can be reviewed on page 14 of this document. As a result of the low level of comments received *via* Participate Melbourne compared with other engagement channels, it has not been possible to organise participant comments into all 10 action areas. Working with the themes established in this report, Part D of this document provides recommendations specific to 5 action areas including: the Arts Gateway, Dodds Street, Civic Square, Neighbourhood Park and Connecting the River.

### THEMES OVERVIEW

Overall, participant comments provided in this final phase of the community engagement focused on the physical design of the new public space. Along with recommendations on landscaping, participants wanted to know how the community could interact and better utilise the space in the future. They highlighted the opportunity of hosting events, additional placemaking to make the space more comfortable and inviting, as well as a mix of active and passive spaces that could be used for reflection or recreation. Participant comments have been categorised into the following six themes and 17 sub-themes.

THEME / SUB-THEME	#	%
Project Delivery	43	20%
Engagement Process	16	8%
Project Support	13	6%
Future Directions	9	4%
Project Management	5	2%
Traffic and Movement	41	20%
Traffic Management and Parking	30	14%
Public Transport	11	5%
Landscape Design	40	19%
Planting and Greenery	17	8%
Surfaces and Materials	14	7%
Environmental Sustainability	9	4%
Placemaking	39	19%
Comfort and Amenity	20	10%
Identity and Character	12	6%
Events and Activation	7	3%
Safety and Accessibility	30	14%
Creating a Place for Everyone	18	9%
Pedestrian Safety	8	4%
Safety and Lighting	4	2%
Cycle-Friendly Design	17	8%
Cyclist-Friendly Design	12	6%
Shared Space	5	2%
TOTAL RECOMMENDATIONS	210	100%

Table 2: Key themes and Sub Themes

### PROJECT DELIVERY

# **43 Participant Recommendations 20% of Recommendations**

20% of recommendations related to the delivery of the new public space. 30 participants commented on the community engagement process, expressed their general views on the project, and inquired about next steps. Of this group, 16 participants expressed their support for the project. A further 13 participants commented on the community engagement process, many saying they were very happy with how the City of Melbourne has approached this initiative.

THEME	SUB THEMES	#	%
Implementation	Project Support	16	37%
	Engagement Process	13	30%
	Future Directions	9	21%
	Project Management	5	12%
	Total	43	100%

Table 3: Project Delivery

### PROJECT SUPPORT

# 16 Recommendations37% of Landscape Design Recommendations

• Overall participants were very supportive of the proposal. Within the general comments, they listed their support levels for various aspects of the concept plan. Comments included "I like that it's actually happening" and "Open spaces are a very positive move." As one resident stated: "As an owner of an apartment in Sturt Street Southbank and frequent visitor to the arts amenities I am very interested and excited about the proposed developments in Southbank."

### **ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

# 12 Recommendations 30% of Total Recommendations

- 12 participants spoke about the community engagement process. 5 participants strongly supported the engagement process.
- 2 participants thought the engagement process could have been better stating: "The session was very informative but sense that everything has been decided." Another noted: "I wish there was wider promotion of the event. I am disappointed to be the only person attending from my 68-unit complex."

### **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

# 9 Recommendations 30% of Total Recommendations.

- 9 participants explored additional opportunities that might be wrapped into the proposal in the future.
- 2 participants recommended including the Foster's site in the draft concept plan. One participant commented: "How will the Foster's building sale impact this project?"
- A further 2 participants recommended intentional integration with future developments. One participant commented: "How will we include shading and impact of new developments."
- 1 participant recommended coordination with the 2018 Melbourne Arts Festival.

### PROJECT MANAGEMENT

### 5 Recommendations 17% of Total Recommendations

- 5 participants commented on the delivery of the project, asking questions on the proposed timeliness and cost of the project.
- 2 participants wished for speed and smooth delivery of the project.

### TRAFFIC AND MOVEMENT

# 41 Participant Recommendations 20% of Recommendations

20% of recommendations related to traffic management and public transport. Within this theme, 30 participants were concerned about the impact the project will have on local area traffic and parking. Within this group, many suggested alternative proposals for traffic lights, turning lanes and other interventions to reduce congestion. 11 participants discussed the tram super stop, with most participants expressing their support for this addition.

THEME	SUB THEMES	#	%
Traffic and	Traffic Management	30	43%
Movement	Public Transport	11	27%
	Total	41	100%

Table 4: Traffic and Management

### TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

### 26 Recommendations 63% of Traffic and Movement Recommendations

- 13 participants voiced specific concerns about the traffic management plan as well as a perceived lack of information around traffic management. Comments included: "I would like to understand the plan for traffic intersections how will it flow and how will it impact at peak hour."
- 5 participants voiced concerns over Moore Street. One participant noted: "What plans exist to ease congestion in Moore St. and other adjacent streets off Southbank Boulevard?"
- 4 participants recommended improvements to the Kavanagh Street traffic plan. One participant commented: "As the most direct route to the West Gate Bridge (along Power St), residents of Southbank Boulevard and Kavanagh Street are constantly exposed to traffic jams, noise and pollution. Has any consideration been paid to this? How is this problem going to be resolved?"
- 6 participants listed the intersection of Southbank Boulevard and City Road as pain points. One participant commented: "Traffic along City Road to Power St (into Westgate Freeway) is terrible during 5pm-7pm. Are you sure Southbank Boulevard could not be used to divert the traffic a little bit?"
- 4 participants strongly disapprove of the lack of parking options. One participant noted: "The sheer lack of parking available for visitors of residents whether they be family, friends or anyone else visiting residents. Is it possible to make a handful of spots available for Residents only?

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

# 11 Recommendations 27% of Traffic and Movement Recommendations

- 4 of participants strongly supported the green tram tracks. One participant commented: "Green tram tracks Love them!" Alternatively, one participant commented that they could be burdensome to maintain.
- 2 participants asked if the team stops could be covered, stating: "Will the tram stop offer cover for passengers from rain above and road spray?"
- 1 participant did not want the bus services to be consolidated.

### LANDSCAPE DESIGN

### 53 Participant Recommendations 19% of Total Recommendations

19% of participants provided comments relating to landscape design. This theme includes recommendations on planting and greenery, the use of surface materials (such as compacted gravel), as well as features that might contribute to enhanced environmental sustainability.

THEME	SUB THEMES	#	%
Landscape Design	Planting and Greenery	17	42%
	Surfaces and Materials	14	35%
	Sustainability	9	23%
	Total	40	100%

Table 5: Landscape Design

### PLANTING AND GREENERY

# 17 Recommendations42% of Landscape Design Recommendations

- 17 participants made recommendations on the choices of planting and greenery.
- 4 participants strongly supported the draft concept plan's emphasis on greenery. One participant noted: "I like the vision for the native landscape." Others suggested adding more greenery, and rethinking the choices of planting.
- Participants emphasised their desire for trees that allow shade in the summer, and sun during the winter months (such as deciduous trees). One participant commented: "This is a very hot, glaring area for walkers. We really rely on the trees for shade. Can we have some temporary shade structures while waiting for the new trees to grow?"
- 2 participants said they loved the native garden. A further 2 participants recommended having more native plants and trees in the design.
- One participant noted a desire to see the current trees some of which are to be removed as part of the plan taken to a new homes.

### SURFACES AND MATERIALS

# 14 Recommendations35% of Landscape Design Recommendations

- 14 participants made recommendations on the choice of hard surfaces used in the design.
- 3 participants did not support gravel as a ground cover material. One participant recommended: "No salt / gravel please, not stable, horrid in rain too."
- 3 participants requested more green ground cover and less hard surfaces. One participant commented: "Rather than an occasionally used and fenced-in basketball area, a multi-purpose grassy section with benches would be more practical." Another stated: "I am disappointed that there isn't more green groundcover. The gravel/sand areas are not conducive to using this space for R&R. Note the desolate space that exists outside ACCA."
- Other suggestions included a more consistent paving, or the use of a bluestone paving.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

# 9 Recommendations23% of Landscape Design Recommendations

- 9 participants considered how the project might include more environmental sustainability features.
- 3 participants wondered how the project could include more green infrastructure, roofing and innovation. One participant recommended: "I would like to see more green roofing."
- 2 participants recommended installing composting and green waste options for residents.

### **PLACEMAKING**

# 39 Participant Recommendations 19% of Recommendations

19% of recommendations related to the use of the new public space and ways that it might be enhanced through placemaking. Half of this group suggested adding features that would make the place more comfortable and practical for users. A further 12 participants recommended enhancing the identity and character of the new public space with public art and a greater connection with the neighbouring cultural institutions. A group of participants also recommended activating the space with events and educational programs.

THEME	SUB THEMES	#	%
Placemaking	Comfort and Amenity	20	51%
	Identity and Character	12	31%
	Events and Activation	7	18%
	Total	39	100%

Table 6: Placemaking

### **COMFORT AND AMENITY**

### 20 Recommendations 51% of Placemaking Recommendations

- 10 participants supported adding community barbecues to the space. One participant stated: "To attract people, please put in some BBQ pits (same as those along Yarra River), so people would have a good reason to get out from their little apartment in Southbank and spend substantial time in the park."
- 4 participants strongly disagreed with noise pollution from the Victorian College of the Arts. One participant said: "I'm a local resident, and I'm quite concerned about potential noise from the area in front of the ABC building. Will there be time and noise limits on any events happening there?"
- 3 of participants requested a large amount and variety of seating. One participant commented: "I would like to see lots of benches and picnic tables."
- 2 participants requested picnic tables and more seating options.
- One participant requested widespread access to wi-fi.

### **IDENTITY AND CHARACTER**

### 12 Recommendations 31% of Placemaking Recommendations

- 8 participants strongly supported the inclusion of public art. One participant commented: "Would like to see more public art weather value windmill, flying birds, big mobile, like outside Auckland art gallery."
- 1 participant recommended showcasing the indigenous history of the area through art: "Bring in the indigenous story of this area through art."
- 1 participant listed a concern that the public art installations may be "awful"

### **EVENTS AND ACTIVATION**

### 7 Recommendations 18% of Placemaking Recommendations

- 4 participants recommended further opportunities to activate the space and bring in more people. One participant commented: "We wonder how many programs / education could be tied in to encouraging people to use these new spaces? Linking the community."
- 2 participants said they would like to see weekend activity and events, that are both free and ticketed.
- 1 participants suggested having more cafes and ground floor retail to activate the space.

### SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

# 30 PARTICIPANT RECOMMENDATIONS 14% OF RECOMMENDATIONS

30 participants strongly supported making the space more safe, inviting and welcoming. Within this theme, 18 participants recommended improvements that might make the proposed public space more accessible so that it could be used by everyone. 8 participants were concerned about pedestrian safety and 4 participants recommended improvements to make the place safer at night.

The City of Melbourne would like to thank Mars Petcare Australia and Vision Australia for submitting extensive recommendations in support of this theme. Council officers will review these recommendations separately.

THEME	SUB THEMES	#	%
Safety and Accessibility	Creating a Place for Everyone	18	60%
	Pedestrian Safety	8	27%
	Night Time Safety	4	13%
	Total	30	100%

Table 7: Safety and Accessibility

### CREATING A PLACE FOR EVERYONE

# 18 Recommendations 60% of Total Recommendations

- 6 participants did not think the concept plan went far enough to make spaces accessible for people with poor mobility. One participant commented: "General disregard of wheels of the disabled."
- 8 participants strongly supported a children focused design. Within this group, 1 participant recommended a safety barrier between the playground and City Road.
- 4 participants supported the inclusion of pet friendly spaces and wondered if doggie bags and a dog friendly water fountain had been considered/

### PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

# 8 Recommendations 27% of Total Recommendations

- 3 participants did not support the City Road pedestrian crossings. One participant commented: "We wish there was better crossing at city road over or underpass for pedestrians and cyclists."
- 6 participants recommended improving pedestrian safety with improved road crossings. Of this group, two participants recommended improvements in spaces where cyclists and pedestrians cross over.

### NIGHT-TIME SAFETY

# 4 Recommendations 13% of Total Recommendations

• 4 participants recommended proper lighting and way finding signage to increase safety. One participant commented: "How will lighting and safety be addressed? Particularly with reduced traffic flow through the area."

### CYCLE FRIENDLY DESIGN

# 17 PARTICIPANT RECOMMENDATIONS 8% OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Participants strongly supported the cycling friendly design. As one participant noted, the concept plan fully incorporated the insights gained from the previous two phases of community engagement. Within the cycle friendly theme, 12 of participant recommended design improvements. A further 5 participants commented on shared space issues.

A comprehensive review of the proposed cycling plan was submitted by the Melbourne Bicycle Users Group and the Port Phillip Bicycle Users Group. The recommendations of this report are extensive and detailed. Council officers will review these recommendations separately but wish to acknowledge the Melbourne Bicycle Users Group for completing this submission.

THEME	SUB THEMES	#	%
Cycle Friendly	Cycle Friendly Design	12	71%
Design	Shared Space	5	29%
	Total	17	100%

Table 8: Cycle Friendly

### CYCLE FRIENDLY DESIGN

# 12 Recommendations 71% of Total Recommendations

- 4 participants strongly supported the inclusion of protected, separated bike lanes and raised treatments. One participant commented: "Great to see proper, fully separated bicycle lanes."
- A further 4 participants provided recommendations for improving the cycling experience and cyclist safety.
- 3 participants supported the draft concept plan's emphasis on pedestrian and cyclist safety. One participant noted: "There are countless examples of minor details in this design that are far superior to the previous. E.g. the pedestrian safety on Fawkner Street has been vastly improved. It really shows that you were listening to all of the consultation sessions."

### **SHARED SPACE**

### 5 Recommendations 29% of Total Recommendations

- 3 participants supported large buffer distances between cars, public transportation and cyclists. One participant noted: "There seems to be some different choices made at different intersections about how far cyclists are to stop ahead of cars. On the corner of Kavanagh Street it's 2m but on Moore it's 1m."
- 2 participants recommended an emphasis on pedestrian and cyclist shared space, specifically along the Yarra River. One participant noted: "We only need one pedestrian to be knocked over by a commuter cyclist in a hurry, in such a manner that they hit their head and die, to create a change in policy. As an older person, often with grand children, I am often frightened by the determined onslaught of the Lycra brigade. Currently there can be no restful, relaxing, walk by the Yarra."

# PART D: RECOMMENDATIONS

### AREA SUMMARY

This section has organised participant comments from across the engagement channels into the 5 special precincts that have been designated in the concept plan. A total of 140 comments (67%) related to these 5 precincts. For consistency, recommendations for these precincts have been categorised into the six themes developed by this report.

ACTION AREA	# of Recommendations	% of Total Recommendations
Arts Gateway (6)	36	17%
Dodds Street (7)	10	5%
Civic Square (8)	27	13%
Neighbourhood Park (9)	33	16%
Connecting the River (10)	34	16%
General Comments	70	33%
Total:	210	100%

Table 9: Area Summary



Map 1: Locations of Action Areas on Southbank Boulevard. Source: Particiapte Melbourne

### ARTS GATEWAY

### **QUICK FACTS**

- 17% of recommendations related to the Arts Gateway area (36 participants).
- Within the Arts Gateway area, 53% commented on traffic and movement.
- 31% participants commented on placemaking opportunities.





SOURCE: PARTICIPATE MELBOURNE, ARTIST IMPRESSION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8 participants expressed their desire to see more public art. One participant commented: "Is there any way that the NGV wall and arts centre car park walls can be activated? With this being the arts precinct it would be a great idea for artists to find a way of bringing this expanse of boring wall space alive!" Other comments included: "We wish there were more walls for public art. "Another suggested opportunities for collaboration: "Finding a common theme to draw people through the new parkland is an exciting opportunity. Would be a great community project to engage the local students from the VCA with."
- Several participants wondered how the arts precinct would be integrated. One participant suggested: "Bring in the indigenous story of this area out through art."
- 4 participants strongly supported the super tram stop. One participant said: "In regards to the super-tram stop and lawn style greening of the tram tracks, Great idea!" Another participant strongly disagreed and commented that it would be burdensome to maintain and "added no value."

ARTS GATEWAY	#	%
Traffic and Movement	19	53%
Placemaking	11	31%
Landscape Design	3	8%
Safety and Accessibility	2	6%
Cycle-Friendly Design	1	3%
Total	36	100%

Table 10: Arts Gateway

- 3 participants noted concerns around the noise management of the tram stop and whether it would be protected from the elements. One participant asked, "Will the tram stop offer cover for passengers from rain above and road spray?"
- 2 participants disagreed with the proposed double traffic light adjacent to the tram stop. One participant noted: "I am concerned that having 2 traffic lights in front and back of proposed super tram stop will impede traffic flow."

### DODDS STREET

### **QUICK FACTS**

- With only 5% of the total recommendations, the Dodds street area revamp had the lowest engagement of any precinct (10 participants).
- Within the Dodds Street recommendations, 60% of participants explored placemaking opportunities. A further 20% of participants recommended landscape improvement opportunities.





SOURCE: PARTICIPATE MELBOURNE, ARTIST IMPRESSION

### SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3 participants strongly supported a diverse array of activation options. Participants asked for a range of free and ticketed events, activity on the weekend and intentional activation to connect the space. One participant noted: "The Dodd Street connection is probably the hardest part of this project to visualise when complete. I think the main problem with this area is how do you activate it better? At the moment when I walk down here it doesn't feel like a good connected space. And certainly at night time it feels uninviting and less secure than nearby streets."
- 2 participants thought that having a public space so close to the Victorian College of the Arts would generate high levels of noise pollution. One participant commented: "I would like to see sound addressed with the new open space at VCA through to Sturt St."

DODDS STREET	#	%
Placemaking	6	60%
Landscape Design	2	20%
Cycle-Friendly Design	1	10%
Project Delivery	1	10%
Total:	10	100%

Table 11: Dodds Street

• 3 of participants supported more placemaking. Recommendations included way finding signage, public toilets and night-time safety activation. As one participant commented: "I would like to see signage and way finding, and what's on! How do people know?"

### CIVIC SQUARE

### **QUICK FACTS**

- The Civic Square portion of the draft master plan garnered 13% of total recommendations (27 participants).
- Within the Civic Square recommendations, 33% of participants explored landscape design. 19% of participants commented on placemaking opportunities and 2% recommended improvements for cycle friendly design.



SOURCE: PARTICIPATE MELBOURNE, ARTIST IMPRESSION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6 participants thought the choices of plants and trees could be improved. One participant noted: "The use of evergreen green trees is a very poor choice (many of which do not appear to be indigenous to this part of Victoria anyway) Southbank Boulevard is already heavily overshadowed by buildings in winter evergreen trees will make this significantly worse."
- 3 participants requested more native plants used in the landscaping: "I would like to see native greenery rather than grass at ground level."
- 4 participants strongly disagreed with gravel as a pedestrian surface material. One participant commented: "Don't like the idea of loose sand and gravel as a pedestrian surface slippery, scratchy, hurts kids."

CIVIC SQUARE	#	%
Landscape Design	9	33%
Placemaking	5	19%
Traffic and Movement	5	19%
Placemaking	5	19%
Project Delivery	3	11%
Cycle-Friendly Design	2	7%
Total:	27	100%

Table 12: Civic Square

- 3 participants recommended more inclusive and accessible design features to support the elderly and people living with disabilities. One participant said: "What happened to ramp to Stuart St. top to back arts centre original concept? Make area more accessible."
- 4 participants recommended traffic and movement improvements. One participant commented: "We wish the 2 lanes exit from Moore St. Connection with the city to be strengthened." While another said: "Concerned about left turn Southbank into Sturt. Car lane merges in and out of tram lane. Risk of car / tram collision?"

## NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK

### **QUICK FACTS**

- 16% of recommendations related to the Neighbourhood Park action area (33 participants).
- Of this group, 33% commented on safety and accessibility.
- 27% of participants recommended placemaking improvements.
- 18% discussed landscape design.



SOURCE: PARTICIPATE MELBOURNE, ARTIST IMPRESSION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6 participants supported a focus on children. One participant noted a safety concern with the proximity to the road: "With this area set to attract kids, also consider some native plantings near the roadway as a natural barrier to prevent kids running out onto the street."
- 5 participants noted concern with flow of traffic. Kavanagh Street was of particular concern. One participant commented: "Traffic congestion in the peak hour on Kavanagh St is a concern." Another noted: "I was wondering whether anyone has considered the volume of traffic west-bound along Kavanagh Street? Too many vehicles are turning into Kavanagh Street (from Southbank Blvd) and in particular those north-bound (from St Kilda Rd) at the peak, PM hours. As the most direct route to the West Gate Bridge (along Power St), residents of Southbank Blvd and Kavanagh Street are constantly exposed to traffic jams, noise and pollution."

NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK	#	%
Safety and Accessibility	11	33%
Landscape Design	6	18%
Placemaking	9	27%
Traffic and Movement	5	15%
Cycle-Friendly Design	1	3%
Project Delivery	1	3%
Total:	33	100%

Table 13: Neighbourhood Park

- 3 participants supported making the area pet friendly. One participant commented: "We wonder if the spaces will be pet friendly drinking bowls, bags, grass?" A further 3 participants strongly supported installation of public barbeques. One participant said: "To attract people, please put in some BBQ pits (same as those along Yarra River), so people would have a good reason to get out from their little apartment in Southbank and spend substantial time in the park."
- A group of 3 participants recommended more seats and access to picnic tables, and an additional 3 strongly supported the greenery plan for the area. One participant remarked: "Excellent planting concept great that the plane trees will go!"

## CONNECTING THE RIVER

### **QUICK FACTS**

- 16% of all recommendations related to the Connecting the River action area (34 participants).
- Of this group, 24% expressed concern over safety and accessibility.
- 21% of participants commented on landscape design.



SOURCE: PARTICIPATE MELBOURNE, ARTIST IMPRESSION

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6 participants voiced strong concerns over pedestrian safety around City Road. One participant commented: "We wonder if crossing City Road is safe for pedestrians." Another recommended: "I would like to see more time allowances for pedestrian crossing at traffic lights. I find I only just have enough time to cross road."
- 4 participants commented on pedestrian and cyclist interactions, particularly around City Road crossing. One participant noted: "We wish there was a bridge for pedestrians and bikes over city road to create a continuous path of public space."
- 3 participants voiced concerns over cyclist and pedestrian interactions along the Yarra River. One participant recommended the following: "I travel along Yarra Promenade and Southbank Promenade through to the rowing sheds twice daily. Usually by bicycle. Your current design concept doesn't seem like a better alternative than the current process of weaving through pedestrians

(CONNECTING THE RIVER	#	%
Safety and Accessibility	8	24%
Landscape Design	7	21%
Cycle-Friendly	5	15%
Project Delivery	5	15%
Traffic and Movement	5	15%
Placemaking	4	12%
Total:	34	100%

Table 14: Connecting the River

on the promenades. An elevated bike path, or a bike path tunnel through here would be better alternative."

- 2 participants strongly disagreed with the Red Stage and wished to see it lowered or removed.
- A further 2 participants supported the basketball courts. One participant said: "Yes love the Basketball court! Indeed we need more sport facilities in Southbank please! An indoor one (which can be used in Winter & night time) would be even better!" Alternatively, 9% of participants did not support the basketball court. One participant noted: "Instead of basketball court (noisy, large space) consider park land with exercise stations e.g. bars, rings etc."

## **APPENDICES**

### APPENDIX A:

# WORKSHOP OUTCOMES REPORT

## **ACTIONS COMMENTS**

Participants spent time visiting 4 display areas where City of Melbourne officers provided an overview of the concept plans for 5 of the 10 key actions. A range of reactions were provided by participants in response to the plans:

## **ACTION 6 - ARTS GATEWAY** Good move to shift tram stop! Green tracks - Love them! SURPRISED BY ... I am concerned that the commercial cafes / restaurants integrate well into the public space i.e. that they are allowed to operate successfully, but that they do not 'take over' the public space. How do we limit the pedestrian through access outside the Recital Centre / MTC cafes not stretching and taking new pathways. Considered the park linking Dodds and Shirt St. on south side of new conservatorium building? If "pigface" etc. planting doesn't work, why not use synthetic turf on tram tracks? Tram stop offers cover for passengers from rain above and road spray? Will tram stops be covered? Mitigation of tram noise should be investigated. How will we manage people on the tram tracks? ANYTHING ELSE... Drop off for MTC / MRC. Cars do so legally and illegally (attracts older patrons now). Needs good lighting. Concerned that having 2 traffic lights in front and back of proposed super tram stop will impede traffic flow. Concerned as to why there are 2 sets of traffic lights within 33 metres of each other. If going to exist, can both sets of lights be co-ordinated to allow vehicle traffic flow? With lots of parking in parts of Southbank Boulevard, what plans exist to ease congestion in Moore St. and other adjacent streets off Southbank Boulevard?

## **ACTION 7 - DOBBS STREET**



Consideration of bike flow and parking.





This is a very hot, glaring area for walkers. We really rely on the trees for shade. Can we have some temporary shade structures while waiting for the new trees to grow?

FRUSTRATED BY...

**ANYTHING ELSE...** 

Melbourne Arts Festival 2018 - coordination, timing.

Activity on the weekend.

Balance of free / ticketed events.

Signage and way finding, and what's on! How do people know?

What's on Melbourne website needs revamp. Hard to use.

Sound with new open space at VCA through to Sturt St.

Public toilets near Dodds St. for festivals, events.



### **ACTION 8 - CIVIC SQUARE**



Tree as meeting place in public square.



Low shrubs replacing lawn that never grows properly in shade.



Native greenery rather than grass at ground level.

Lots of benches and picnic tables.

Greenery.

Prospect of sunny outdoor green space. No shade from Fosters in the future.



Exit from Moore St. with only one lane to turn left or right - residents take longer to get out at peaks and compete with ABC, businesses.

General disregard of weeds of the disabled.

Many commercial vehicles double park for NGV dock.

Don't like the idea of loose sand and gravel as a pedestrian surface - slippery, scratchy, hurts kids.

Concerned about left turn Southbank into Sturt St. Car lane merges in and out of tram lane. Risk of car / tram collision?



Public art - weathervane - windmill, flying birds, big mobile, like outside Auckland art gallery.

Retaining 15 minute parking outside MTC.



What happened to ramp to Stuart St. top to back arts centre - original concept? Make area more accessible.

What about bridges as a way to cross the roads - funky / arty. Tree tops - walking. Continuous walking cycling.

Able / disabled drinking fountains.

Wi-Fi - for public as well as artists using public square.

Be careful with gravel in civic space.

### **ACTION 9 - NEIGHBOURHOOD PARK**



Fern boardwalk - looks like botanical gardens, lovely.

Excited by trampoline and slide. Love the treehouse.

SURPRISED BY...

Focus on kids activity.



Excellent planting concept - great that the plane trees will go!

BBQs to have picnics.

COMEORTED BY

Well done on getting rid of the Lincoln Park idea.

Quiet / passive spaces near Kavanagh St.



Moore St. exit by one lane only for right or left, would seem to take longer at peak times.

Dark deep slides. Spider web please.

Climbing frames for kids.

Please consider the disabled.



Please widen pedestrian crossing to cater for number of people.

Place for the Cliff Meadmore sculpture now hidden on Southbank promenade (as in 2005 proposal).

Compost bins for residents to contribute to gardens / waste.

Lots of seats please.



### **ACTION 10 - CONNECTING THE RIVER**



Looks awesome!

**SURPRISED BY...** 



Amount of careful planning that is going on. Thank you!

Attention to making space usable.



Keep time allowances for pedestrian crossing at traffic lights. I find I only just have enough time to cross road.

MosaicLab-CoM-

The way in SouthbankBoulevard\_190817\_web-v2.pdf the junction / meeting of Freshwater Place to Southbank Boulevard. And, as it relates to goods - loading trucks.



Anxious that the public art installations might be awful / laughable.

Instead of basketball court (noisy, large space) consider park land with exercise stations e.g. bars, rings etc.

Waterfall lane traffic sightline so bicycle lane not blocked.

It's great!

No salt / gravel please, not stable, horrid in rain too.



## LIKE WISH WONDER

Participants spent time in small group conversations towards the end of the workshop to offer some final group reflections to the City of Melbourne.



That it's actually happening! More park, less road and that a wide range of community desires have been catered for.

At last action within 3 years! Wow. Green park space - diversity of plantings. This proposal links up with other development proposals.

The vision for the native landscape.

The whole concept and plan. Well done!

Building spaces that make people want to spend time in and exploring the suburb.

Greenery - native! Consistent paving. Tram stop plan is great. A considered liveable space. Bike paths! Great job!

Open spaces are very positive move. Variety in design - well considered. Will attract more people to area. Public art. Lighting provision. Off leash dog park.

Playground.

Happy so far. Complex blending of interests. Concentration of the staging of the build.



### **WE WISH**

There was a better way of integrating the spaces i.e. the major crossroads are not (cannot be) addressed in this proposal.

2 lanes exit from Moore St. Connection with the city to be strengthened.

There was more use of all surfaces of the urban fabric.

There are swings.

To make it adequately disabled friendly, wheeled walkers and pushers. Motorbikes not parking on footpaths. We could have a fountain.

They would not consolidate bus services. There were more walls for public art. There was a place to put green waste for visitors and residents.

Better crossing at city road - over or underpass for pedestrians and cyclists.

There were a bridge for pedestrians and bikes over city road to create a continuous path of public space (maybe in the next phase).

Once it starts that there are no hold ups and proceeds smoothly. That it's effectively maintained - can it create jobs?





### **WE WONDER**

Will there be a noise concern from VCA music? What will happen to the Fosters site?

If there is a spider web and seats.

If drainage will be sufficient. If there will be enough bins. If the spaces will be pet friendly - drinking bowls, bags, grass?

How many programs / education could be tied in to encouraging people to use these new spaces? Linking the community.

Will the current trees find new homes? Crossing city road is safe for pedestrians. Do community BBQs work?

If seed funding for the next stages of this project (next 10-20+ years), and the larger integration with other projects i.e. long-term certainty of infrastructure projects.

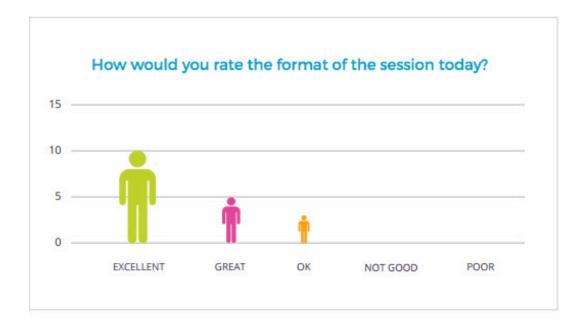
Relationship between cyclists and pedestrians - respectful usage. Left turn from Southbank Boulevard into Stuart St. - is it smooth enough? Pedestrians dashing across the street to tram stop?

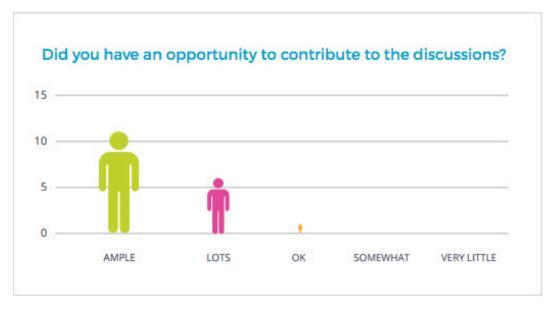
How they can capture the unique identity of Melbourne. Is there a place for Cliff Meadmore?



## **FEEDBACK**

Participants offered some feedback on how useful they found the workshop format.





### APPENDIX B:

## PHASE TWO ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

### **KEY THEMES**

### **Design and Placemaking**

(75 Recommendations)

A Beautiful Place: Participants wanted a place of great beauty - an iconic addition to the city. Participants recommended using sustainable materials, public art and installations, quiet and loud zones (with places to relax or to host performances), all connected through a functional layout that encouraged diverse public use.

**Our 'Backyard'**: Participants wanted a place that could be used by residents, workers, students and workers. Participants wanted a place they could call their own a big backyard for Southbank.

An Integrated Streetscape: Participants wanted the space to integrate with the surrounding buildings, creating more connection with the street and the buildings above (similar to the CBDs laneways and arcades). Participants wanted to see Southbank Boulevard evolve as an extension of the artistic space in front of the NGV and Art Centre.

**Walkable:** Participants wanted the space to be easily walkable, with wide and flat footpaths that connected with buildings, signalised road crossings and new entries into the local cultural institutions.

**Wind and Sunlight:** Participants were concerned about wind and sunlight and how the design would take into consideration light, shade, and protection from the elements.

Placemaking: Participants recommended a diverse range of placemaking options including public BBQs, sunken exhibition and performance spaces, ample seating (for groups and individuals), places to eat lunch, places to relax and meditate, places where noise was kept to a minimum, and places where coffee carts and farmers markets might 'pop up.'

**Dogs:** Participants were keen to include infrastructure for dog owners - either as a dedicated off-leash dog park or by the provision of additional public waste bins and bag dispensers for dog owners.

**Red Steps:** A significant group of participants asked to relocate the Red Steps on Queensbridge Square. This sculpture could be better employed elsewhere and open up Southbank Boulevard to more pedestrians and cyclists.

### **Events and Programming**

(30 Recommendations)

**Quiet vs. Animated:** Participants recommended diverse activities that ranged from passive to animated. Central to these recommendations was a desire to balance or control the events and programming of the space in order to manage noise levels and maintain the areas livability.

A Village Heart: Participant recommendations drew from the idea of a European plaza or town square where activities would 'pop up' and pack down. Popular recommendations included a farmers market, buskers, performances, coffee carts and changing exhibitions.

### **Safety and Access**

(29 Recommendations)

**Pedestrian Friendly:** Participants were concerned about pedestrian safety and recommended: continuous footpaths, ample lighting at night, fencing or protection between pedestrian paths and roadways as well as wider footpaths and signalised crossings.

**Air Quality:** Participant were concerned about traffic and cars in close proximity to kids play areas. They wanted to ensure that the air quality would be safe. A group of participants recommended making the site smoke-free or ensuring smoking areas were well demarcated.

Accessibility: Participants recommended ways to improve the areas accessibility including: pick up and drop off points for taxis and hire cars, the extension of the Free Tram Zone to Sturt Street to encourage greater public transport use, removing the Red Stairs at Queensbridge Square to increase pedestrian and cycle traffic, access to the Art Centre car park, as well as access for emergency vehicles.

**Parking:** Participants were in two minds regarding parking. Some recommended removing additional parking in order to extend pedestrian and cycle paths. Others recommended increasing the provision of parking to increase the capacity of the site to host large events and attract visitors.

### Cycling and Cyclist Safety

(23 Recommendations)

**Improved Cycle Lanes:** Participants were very clear that cycle paths needed to be continuous, separated from the roadway, and wider in order to ensure the safety of cyclists and to encourage more cyclists to use Southbank Boulevard.

**Cyclist Confidence:** Participants flagged that only experienced and confident cyclists would be able to use Southbank Boulevard in its current format. They recommended more measures be put in place to make cycling a more popular option for residents and commuters.

**Bicycle Users Group:** A comprehensive review of the proposed cycling plan was submitted by the Melbourne Bicycle Users Group. The recommendations of this report are extensive and detailed. Council will review these recommendations separately but wish to acknowledge the Melbourne Bicycle Users Group for completing this submission.

### **Traffic Management**

(22 Recommendations)

Congestion and Travel Times: Participants were very concerned about traffic congestion during peak hours and the impact this will have on local travel times, access to parking garages and the effect that noise and pollution from parked cars will have on the proposed green spaces.

**Side Streets:** Participants were concerned that traffic would spill into neighbouring side streets and block access to residential car parks, increase noise and reduce the areas livability.

### Greenery

(12 Recommendations)

**Open Space:** Participants were eager to see the creation of open green space that could be used for multiple purposes. Participants were concerned that there was not sufficient provision of open green space away from traffic and roads.

**Planting:** Participants were keen to see more native plants used in the creation of green space. One participant flagged that they would like to see the London Plane Trees removed.

**Shade and Noise:** Participants flagged the need for trees and planting to provide shade in summer and sunlight in winter. Participants recommended dense planting to muffle the noise of the road and activity bellow.

### **Places for Kids**

(12 Recommendations)

A safe place to play: Several participants recommended barriers separating roads from play areas to ensure that children could play in safety.

**Accessibility:** Participants wanted a separate play space for kids that could be easily accessed by walking paths and signalised crossings.

**Kids of all Ages:** Participants flagged the need to consider kids of all ages and the effort needed to make the area safe and exciting for young people.

### Other

(17 Recommendations)

**Ongoing Management:** Participants wanted to know how the diverse places would be managed in order to ensure they will be well maintained, and continue to surprise and delight users.

**Homelessness:** Participants were concerned about the areas homeless population and what could be done to accommodate or deter them from camping in the new public space.

**Engagement Process:** Participants flagged their appreciation of the community engagement process and enthusiasm for the project.

**Long Term Picture:** Participants were interested in the longer term picture of the site: how buildings like the ABC and future tower developments will integrate with the site, how it will be feature in tourism campaigns and support businesses.

### ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

The consultation involved a number of elements with the digital engagement platform - Participate Melbourne - at its core. These elements were:

### Online Information Platform

Participate Melbourne is the digital engagement hub for all City of Melbourne consultations. On this platform, participants could find all relevant project documentation. Over the duration of the engagement, the platform attracted 3,931 unique page views, with the interactive map section received 7.028 views.

#### Online Comments Section

Participants were able to leave submissions in the form of comments directly on the relevant project section (e.g. Design Principles, Dodds Street, Sturt Street to Moore Street). A total of 58 comments were lodged by 43 participants.

### Community Workshop

Stakeholder were invited to attend an afternoon workshop hosted by Mosaic Lab. A total of 22 participants took part in the afternoon workshop. The insights from this session are included in Appendix C.

### YouTube Video

A purpose made video was integrated into the Participate Melbourne platform and shared online. **The video received 1202 views** over the engagement period.

#### Social Media

Social media posts by the City of Melbourne Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn accounts **attracted 1907 visitors to Participate Melbourne**.

### Direct Engagement

Council officers met with 30+ project stakeholder incuding the Southbank Residents Association and area's art institutions.