



# WERE STREET UPGRADE

A Vision for Were Street  
DRAFT

AUGUST 2020

## **Message for our community**

We know our residents, workers and visitors are focused on social distancing and health and well-being, and many are experiencing economic stress.

During this time our parks and streetscapes continue to play an important role in supporting social connection and engagement. As the community begins to recover from COVID-19, revitalising our community spaces and places will be an important part of our social and economic response.

We have had to change our community engagement plans – but we will still aim to reach as many of you as possible in different ways. There are several platforms from traditional mail to online webinars that will connect us to you. If nothing else, the recent experience has shown how adaptable we all are.

We hope this project will provide something positive for the community to look forward to.

We also want to give this project every opportunity to pursue available Victorian and Federal stimulus funding – which would deliver even more value for our community. Securing funding will be dependent upon us being able to deliver the project by mid-2022, which is why progress continues to be even more important.

We look forward to hearing from you in response to this Vision.

Please reach out to us if you need more information or assistance. We recognise these are different times.



# BACKGROUND

This section introduces the key elements of what makes a good place and the findings of the community engagement undertaken in February 2020. It reveals that your ideas are very aligned to good placemaking principles.

# PROJECT SNAPSHOT

## What are we doing?

We are preparing a vision to deliver a revitalised streetscape for Were Street. The purpose for doing this is to:

- prioritise people by creating a streetscape that is attractive, comfortable, safe, greener and encourages social connection.
- encourage walking and cycling
- encourage people to visit more often, stay longer and support our local businesses

This document now sets out a vision for Were Street based on what you have told us you would like to see.

## What we have done so far?

To kick start this project in February 2020, we asked you for your views, thoughts and ideas for Were Street and you gave us four clear directions for the project. These were:



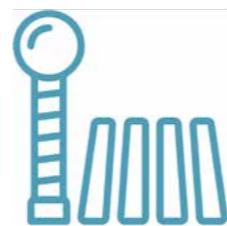
Keep the village feel



Safer access for walking and cycling



More greenery and better public spaces



Better traffic flow

**“We would love more pedestrian-friendly features”**

Community feedback

**“Keep the village feel”**

## What does this look like for Were Street?

Using the four directions that you identified, the key opportunities identified in the vision for Were Street to unlock its potential include:

### Move to a one-way street

Giving more space to people rather than cars and making it a more simple and safer place to access for everyone. It unlocks so much potential.



### New village square

Flowing from the Were Street Reserve, the creation of a new raised crossing that will become a village square during festivals and events. It will be framed by planting and seating. Together with the reserve – it is the heart of Monty.



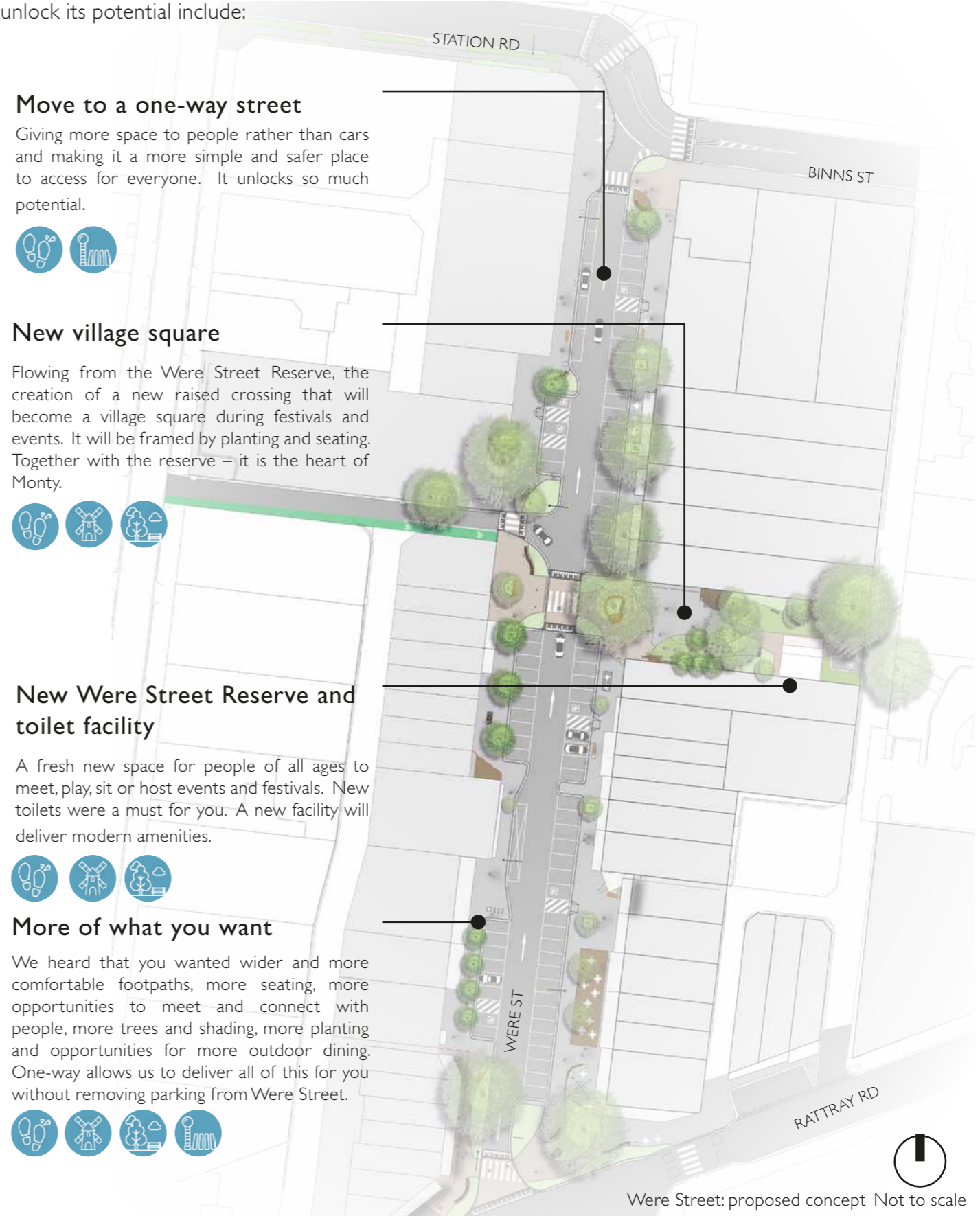
### New Were Street Reserve and toilet facility

A fresh new space for people of all ages to meet, play, sit or host events and festivals. New toilets were a must for you. A new facility will deliver modern amenities.



### More of what you want

We heard that you wanted wider and more comfortable footpaths, more seating, more opportunities to meet and connect with people, more trees and shading, more planting and opportunities for more outdoor dining. One-way allows us to deliver all of this for you without removing parking from Were Street.



Were Street: proposed concept Not to scale

Please read on. We will take you through the background and the vision in more detail on the following pages.

# WHAT MAKES A GREAT PLACE?

At the beginning, we took a step back to consider what makes a great place. The Project for Public Spaces has captured this well and suggests that great places...

“...generally share the following four qualities: they are **accessible**; people are **engaged** in activities there; the space is **comfortable** and has a good image; and finally, it is a **sociable** place: one where people meet each other and take people when they come to visit.”

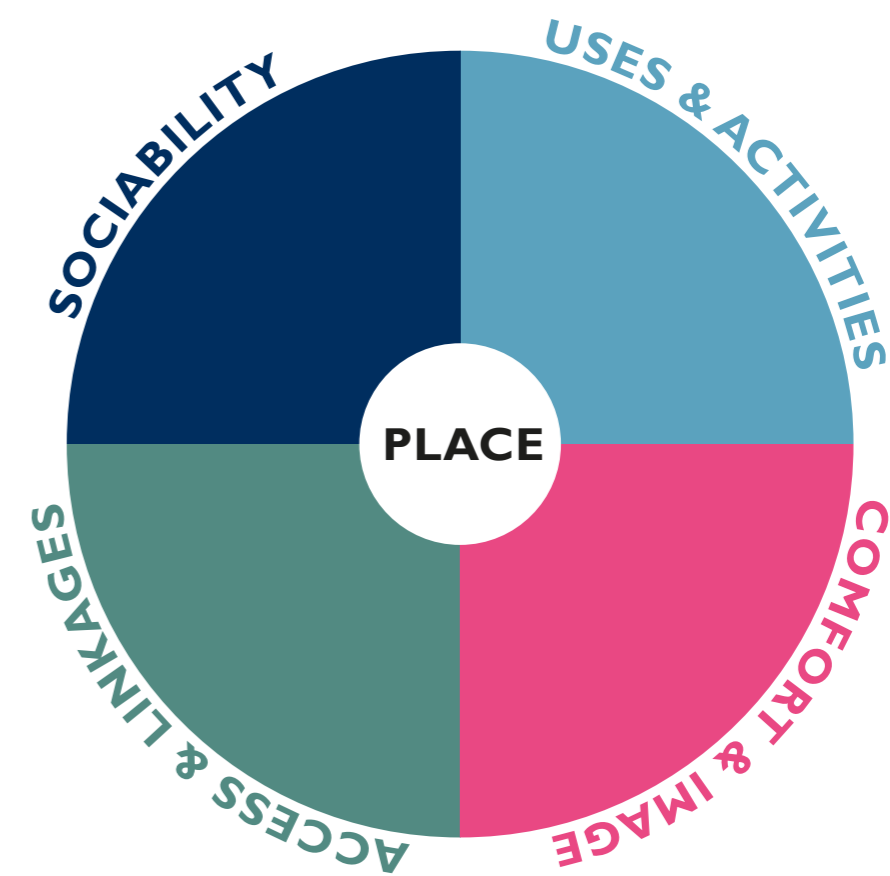
[www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org)

For all of us, our experience of a great place is based upon how we interact with it from a human perspective. Good places are about us, the people that visit and use it, and how the place makes us feel when we stand in it. A great experience keeps us coming back.

So, we asked you what you thought about Were Street as the first thing we did in February of this year. You told us that you love the village character of Monty.

What was telling is that the opportunities you identified to improve Were Street are well aligned to the four attributes of what makes a great place.

You had a real focus on people and improving amenity, comfort and social interaction to make Monty an even better place. This is summarised in the following pages.



# UNDERSTANDING WERE STREET

## What you told us

During February, we asked you to share your thoughts and ideas about Were Street. 494 people participated and provided valued input to help inform the development of a vision for Were Street. We got a great picture of how cherished Were Street is to the local community. We learned why you visit, how often, where you travel from and how you get there. We also asked what things you would like to see change along with the things you would like to keep. The next two pages provide a quick summary of the community engagement findings that we shared with you earlier this year and the opportunities you identified for Were Street.

If you would like to review the findings of community engagement this can be found under the document library on [shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Were Street](https://shaping.banyule.vic.gov.au/Were-Street).

### Were Street is a place to



CONNECT WITH OTHERS



SHOP LOCAL



MEET WITH FRIENDS

### Why you visit

SHOPPING

94%



DINING

89%



EVENTS

53%

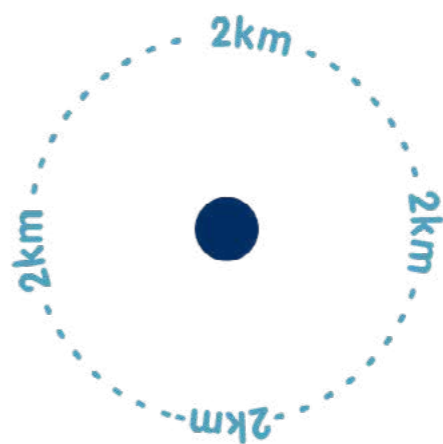


SERVICES

49%



### How far you travel



More than 80% of you travel 2km or less to Were St

### What you love

VILLAGE CHARACTER & COMMUNITY FEEL

INVITING AND FRIENDLY

OUTDOOR DINING

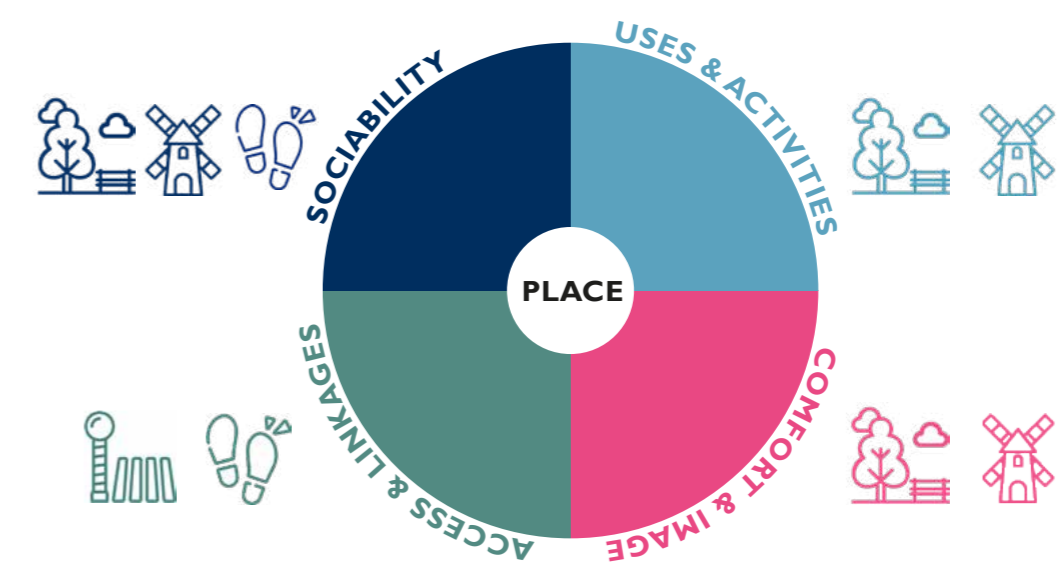
TRAINS AND BUSES NEARBY

SOCIAL EVENTS

# UNDERSTANDING WERE STREET

## Your ideas for improving Were Street


The community engagement findings gave us a great picture of the opportunities to make Were Street even better. We were able to group these into four areas – which we have used to inform the development of this vision and **key directions**. Your ideas align very closely to the four qualities that make great places and provided a strong basis to develop a vision that would help to improve upon what you already love about Monty.





**Keep the Village Feel**

- retain the small town feel, uniqueness and charm
- use materials and finishes that add to the village feel and atmosphere
- increase garden bed areas
- public art opportunities
- improve the cafe culture and interactive outdoor dining
- retain space for events
- keep the spaces relaxed and informal



**Safer access for walking & cycling**

- safer pedestrian streetscape
- improve access and linkages across the precinct
- wider footpaths, more pedestrian space and gathering areas
- reduce traffic and vehicle movement
- safer cyclist movement (introduce contra-flow lane)
- more bike parking
- better lighting
- increase accessible parking bays



**More Greenery & Better Public Spaces**

- plant more canopy trees and shade for a green streetscape
- new public toilet facilities
- create open grass areas
- increase gardens and natural elements
- create a functional public space / village square
- improve outdoor dining opportunities
- increase public seating, bins, bike parking and dog posts
- introduce more water sensitive urban design (WSUD)



**Better Traffic Flow**

- make changes to traffic movement to benefit users
- remove double white lines
- improve car parking
- increase accessible parking spaces
- introduce key pedestrian crossings and shared zones
- increase walkability of the streetscape





**WERE STREET VISION**

# The Vision for Were Street

The following vision statement has been developed to best capture the intent of the project based on your feedback.

“Were Street will offer a unique village feel where people are given priority. It will provide comfortable, safe, vibrant and engaging spaces and more places for social engagement and connection for people of all ages and abilities”

We have developed the landscape concept, shown on the right, to capture the things that you most wanted to see in a new Were Street. It is built on the four key directions – which were summarised in the previous section.

Please take the time to consider the detail on the concept. The following pages then explore the key details more closely.



# PLACES FOR PEOPLE

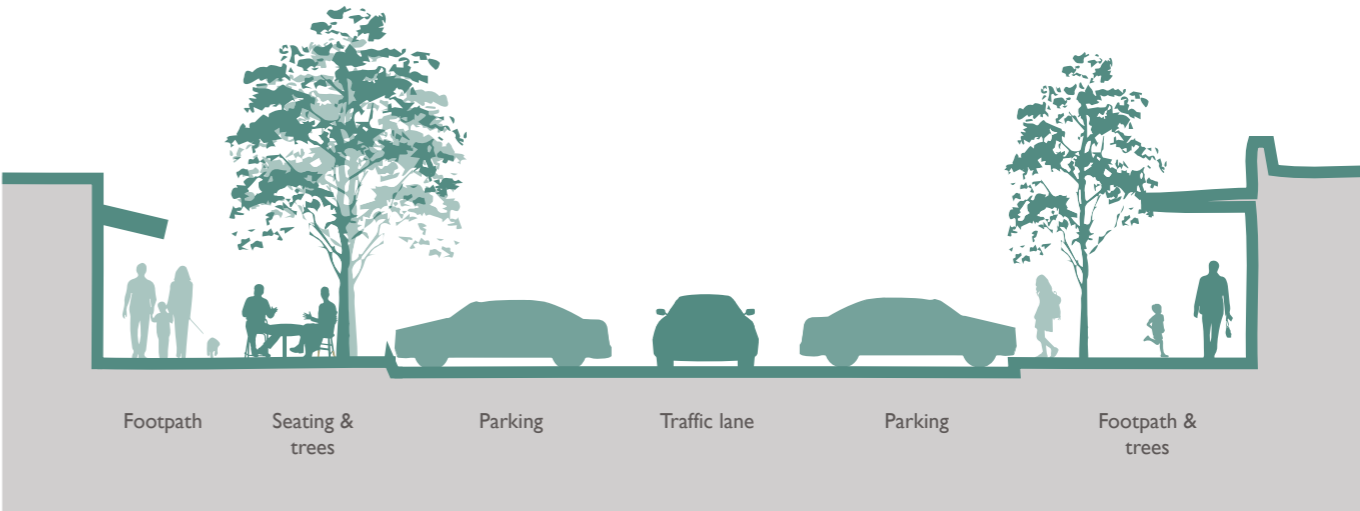
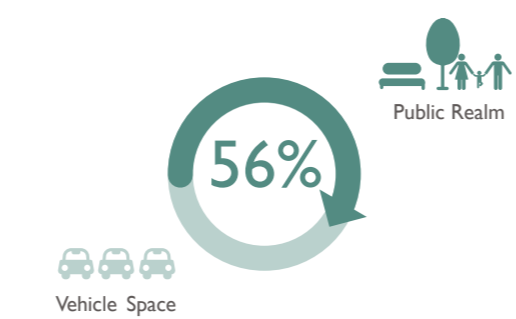
## Creating more public realm

The first step we propose is to reclaim the available public space in favour of pedestrians rather than the car – yet still maintain good access and parking. This is achieved by moving to a one-way system along Were Street.

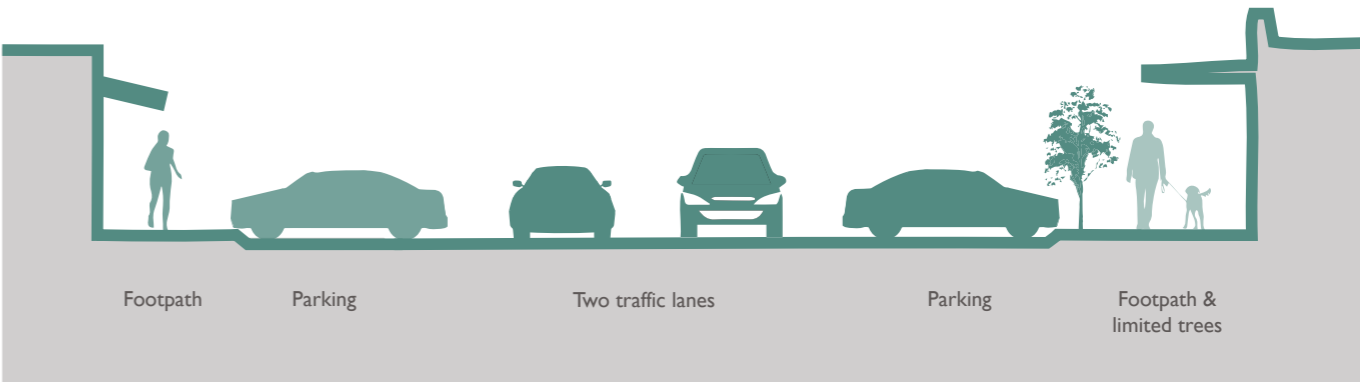
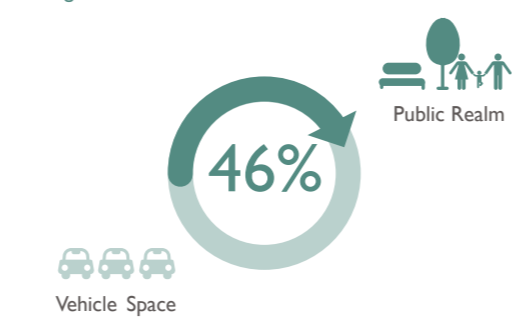
Simpler, safer and more predictable for everyone – this unlocks the potential for Were Street to become a more intimate, accessible and engaging space for people to move around in.

Cars will be slowed and drivers will have less distractions and soon become familiar with the new conditions.

Enhance Public Realm



Existing Conditions

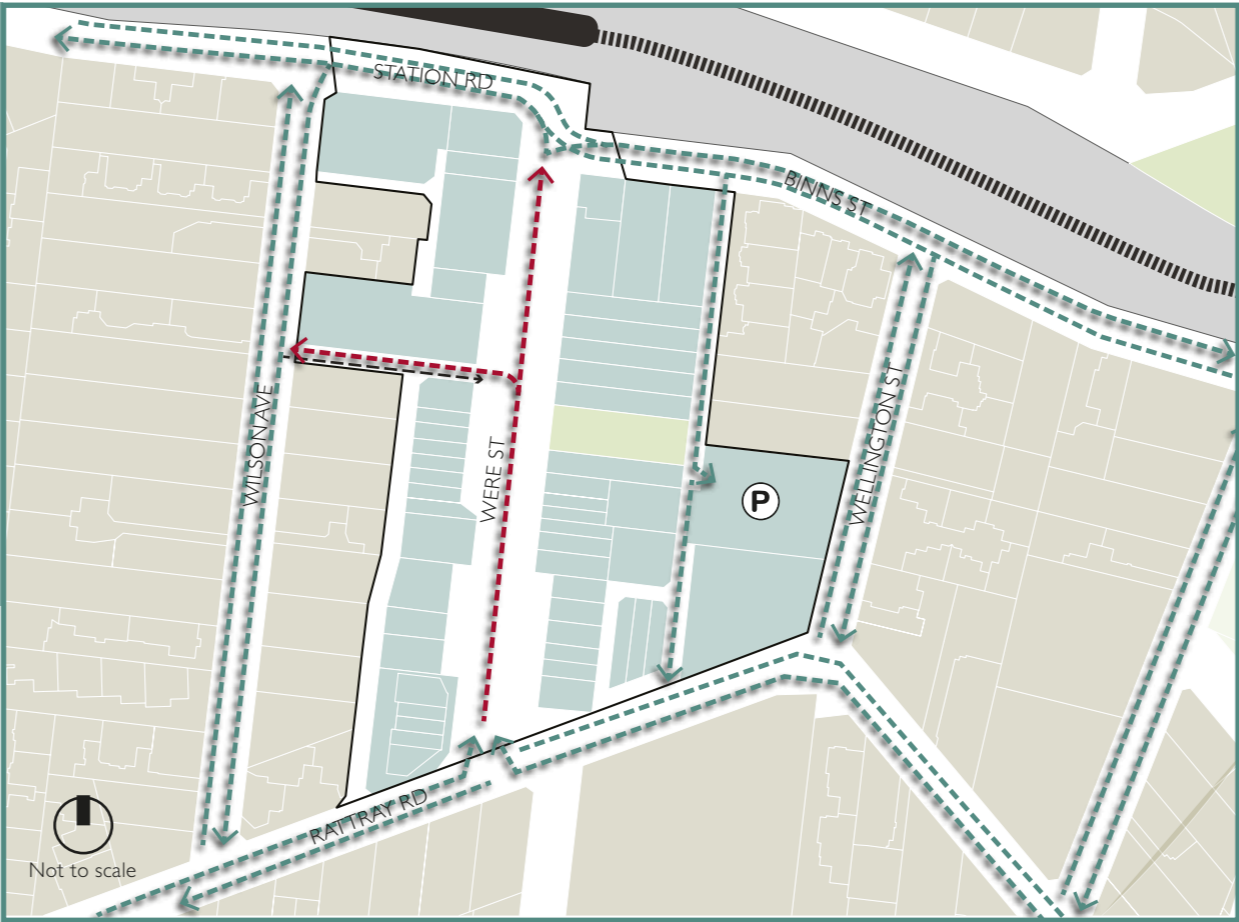


## Getting around

Our traffic analysis has shown that our road network can adjust quite easily to a one-way system on Were Street. We have taken time to understand how people visit and move about the area, including surrounding schools, parks, community facilities, the station and Were Street.

Familiarity with the new conditions will be a matter of adjusting our habits but should result in a more simplified and predictable experience for visitors to Were Street.

Beyond this project, we will continue to work with the community to consider important pedestrian and cycling connections and safer crossings to help us move between the places we use and visit.



## Parking

We want more people to walk and cycle to Monty and feel comfortable in the space. Parking and access is important and we are able to achieve good outcomes here to

EXISTING CONDITIONS



ENHANCE PUBLIC REALM



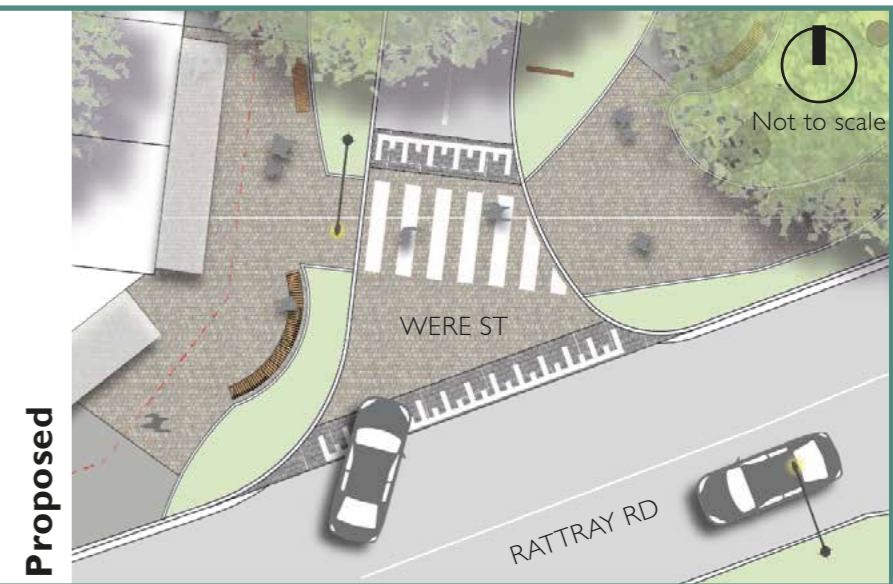
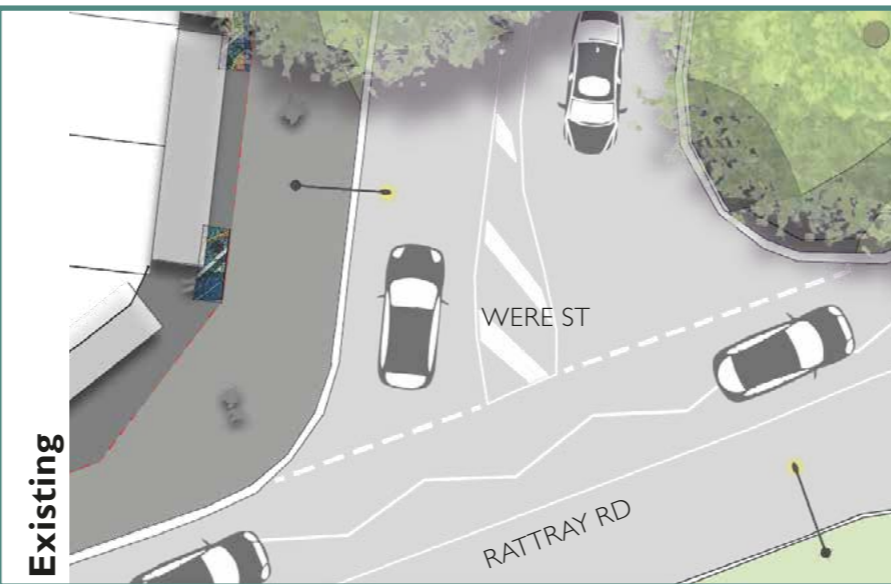
# Taking a closer look at key locations

The new vision proposes

## Top of Were St & Rattray Rd

- one way traffic into were street from Rattray road
- pedestrian crossing creating an easy connection for pedestrians
- more garden beds and softscaping
- new seating
- entry features such as signage and art

### A New Entry and Safe Crossing



## Were Street - Near Florist

- one way traffic in were street
- new disabled parking spaces
- kerbs moved to create more pedestrian space
- more trees planted into the streetscape
- retention of mosaic seat and footpath mosaics
- new seating

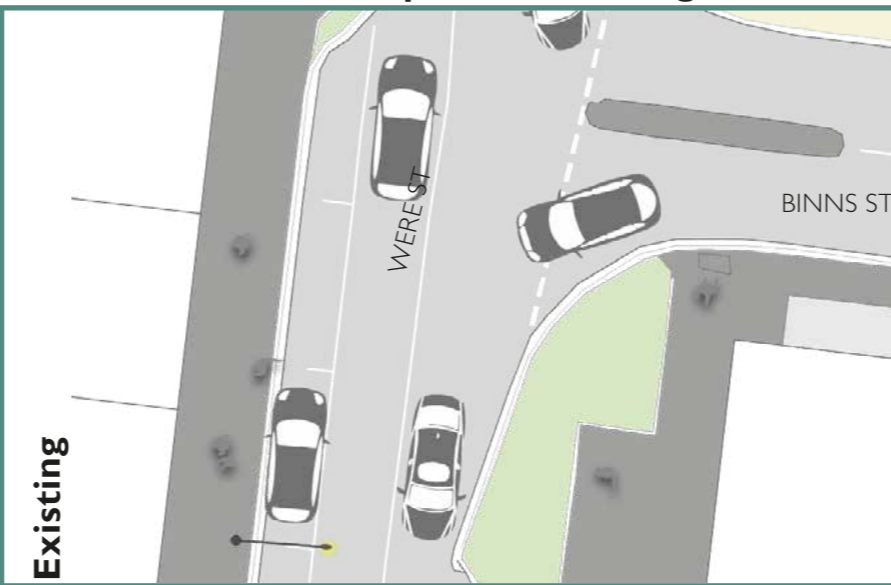
### Opportunity for More Trees



## Bottom of Were Street

- one way traffic out of Were Street onto Station Street
- new pedestrian crossings connecting Were Street to the station
- more pedestrian space and gathering areas
- more space for outdoor dining
- sections of new water sensitive design (WSUD)

### Increased Public Space and Dining



“...The “town square” space near the toilets is great, but I think we could have more or do this better...”

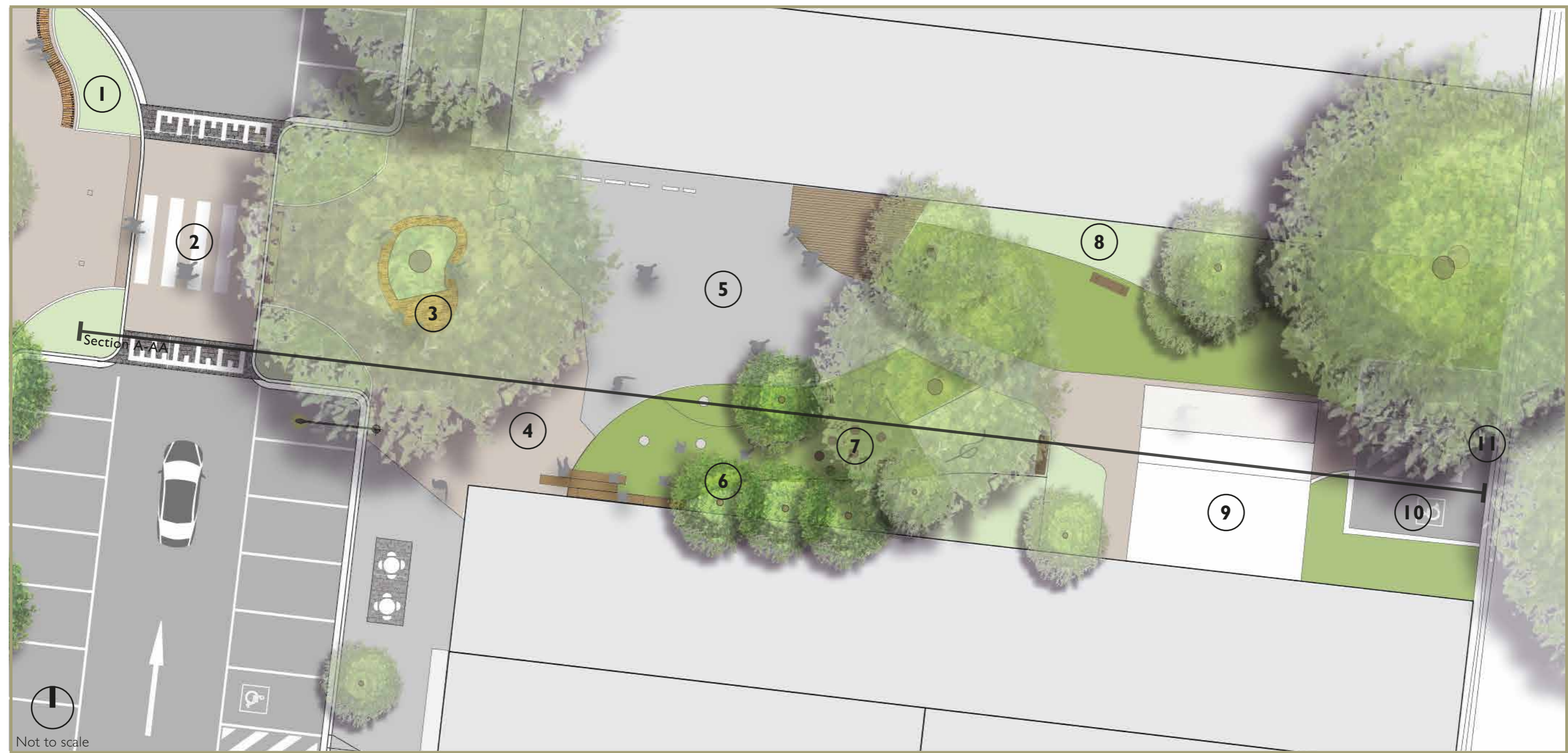
Community feedback



# WERE STREET RESERVE

# WERE ST RESERVE LANDSCAPE CONCEPT

Were Street Reserve is an opportunity to create a vibrant centrepiece at the heart of the new streetscape. It is a highly valued space and thoroughfare – if a little under-used currently. It can become a meeting place, a play space for all ages, a place to sit and watch the world go by and a space for events and festivals. Delivering a new toilet facility creates the opportunity to improve the overall functionality of the space.



- 1

Landscaped garden beds and seating
- 2

Raised pedestrian crossing connecting Were Street with the Reserve
- 3

New seating
- 4

Feature paving to visually connect east and west Were St
- 5

Village Square
- 6

New tree plantings
- 7

Open area with seating and nature play looking out across the Village Square and new performance area
- 8

Existing garden bed
- 9

New toilet facility
- 10

Accessible parking
- 11

Improved connection between Reserve and Wellington St carpark

# WERE STREET RESERVE

There is a real opportunity to create a more open and useable area opening out onto Were Street. In conjunction with a new plaza area, it will deliver a village square and more opportunities for social connection, gathering and activity. The following images are a sample look and feel of proposed new elements within the Reserve.



Artists impression of the new village square



Play elements



Performance area



Artist impression of new toilet facility



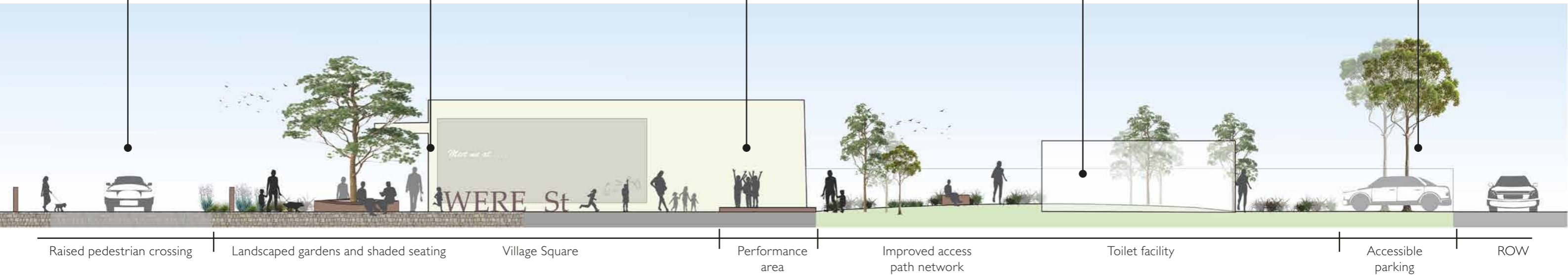
Raised pedestrian crossing bordered by landscaped garden beds to improve east-west pedestrian access and open up Were Street Reserve as a village square

Village square to include seating, shade, improved lighting and natural and informal play elements, artwork and drinking fountain

Dedicated performance area with shade / weather protection

New toilet facility to include accessible toilets and baby change facilities

Improved and safer connections between the park and Wellington St carpark by aligning pathway connections



**Section A-AA: Were Street, west through to ROW, east**

## NEXT STEPS

We would appreciate your time to share your views about the vision. Please visit [Shaping Banyule](#) and complete the feedback form.

The findings of this phase of community engagement will, once again, be made public.

Your feedback and ideas will then be used to inform the draft concept plan that Council will look to endorse toward the end of this year.

Victorian Government stimulus funding, if we are successful, is also likely to influence some of the finishes and features we can incorporate into the design.

We will continue to provide you with project updates over the next few months.