

Borrack Square Footpath Improvement

Community Engagement Report



Executive summary

Council undertook community engagement on the proposed Borrack Square Footpath and Amenity Improvements between 12 June and 11 July 2026, seeking feedback on proposed footpath upgrades and the installation of new bin enclosures. A total of 28 submissions were received from both residents and traders, providing valuable insights into community views on the proposed improvements.

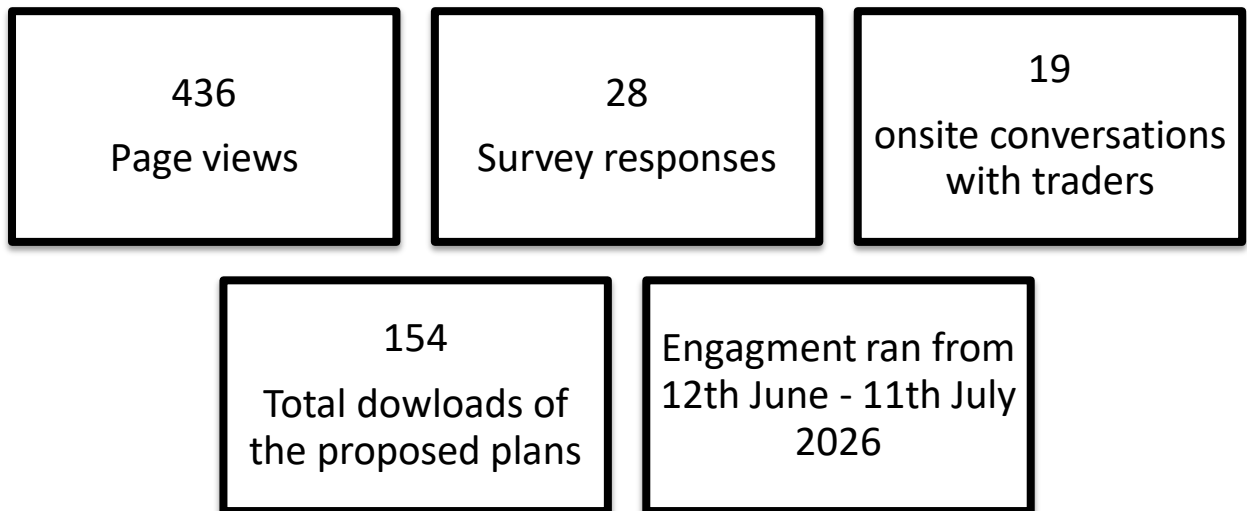
Overall, respondents were supportive of the proposed bin enclosure locations, with 25 participants supporting the proposal and only 2 participants opposing it. Feedback indicated that residents generally recognised the benefits of improved waste management and public amenity. The primary concern raised by those opposed related to the proximity of the bin enclosure to nearby homes and potential impacts from early morning waste collection.

Concerns regarding the loss of parking spaces resulting from the proposed works were mixed. While 18 respondents indicated parking loss was not a concern, 10 respondents expressed concern, highlighting existing parking pressures around the library and local businesses and the potential impact on customer access and visitation.

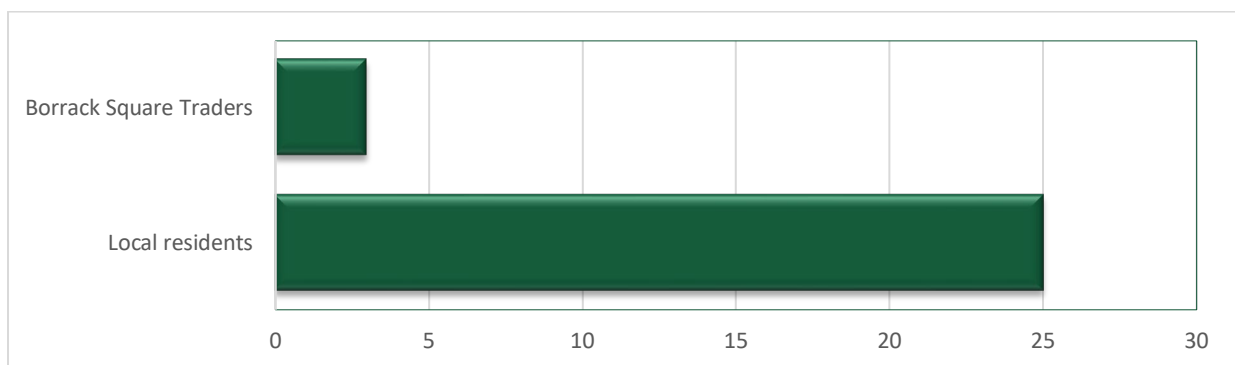
While feedback on the specific improvement works was generally positive, many respondents used the opportunity to raise broader concerns about the future of Borrack Square. Common themes included community safety, vacant shopfronts, business mix, maintenance, cleanliness, lighting, and the overall attractiveness of the precinct. Several participants identified safety as a significant issue, citing concerns about antisocial behaviour and a desire for increased security measures such as CCTV and improved lighting. Others suggested additional initiatives, including public seating, bicycle parking, public art, community events, improved landscaping, and attracting a broader range of retail and food offerings to revitalise the centre.

The engagement demonstrates community support for the proposed footpath and amenity improvements, while also highlighting a strong desire for broader investment and long-term revitalisation of Borrack Square.

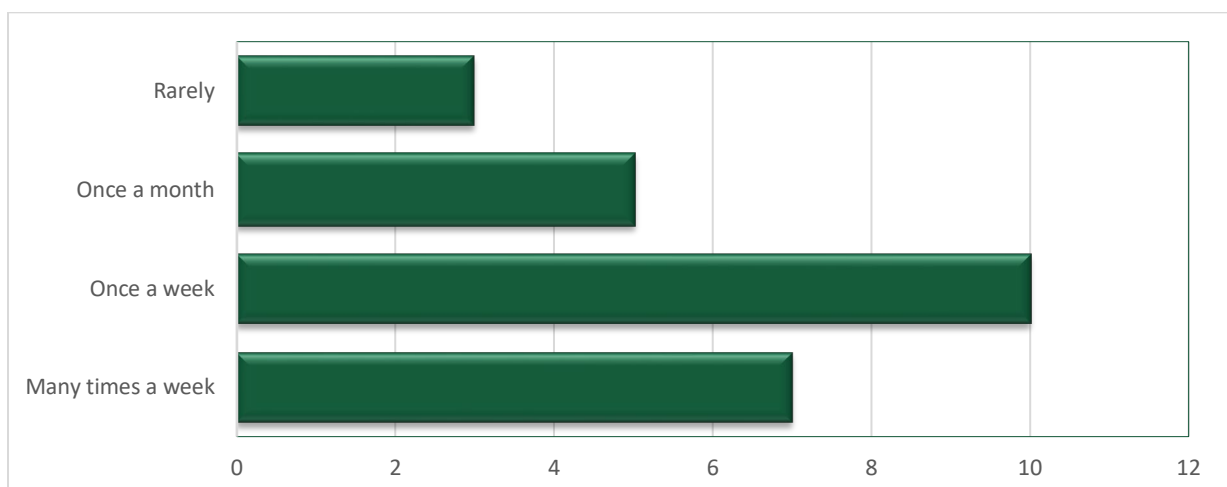
Engagement summary



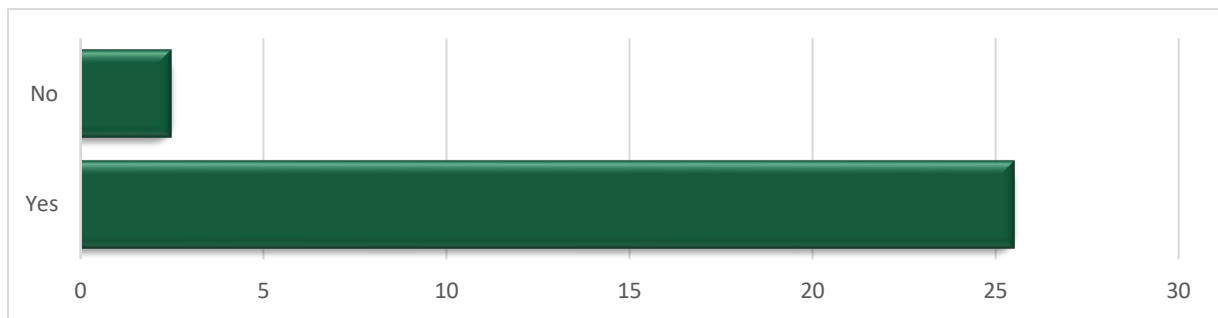
Who did we hear from



How often do you visit Borrack Square?



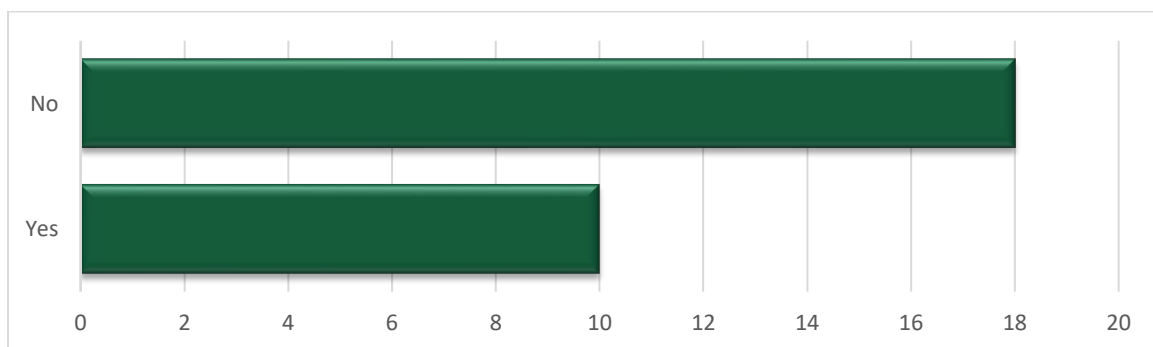
Do you support the location of proposed bin enclosures ?



Please explain why you don't support the location of proposed bin enclosures.

Only one of the two respondents who didn't support the proposed location of the bin enclosures supplied a response. They stated that "Too close to houses the bins are collected sometimes at 4.30 am. And the tree is too close. Can it be down the other end?"

Proposed footpath enhancement and new bin enclosures will result in a loss of parking spaces. Is the loss of parking a concern for you?



Please explain why the loss of parking is a concern for you.

Respondents highlighted concerns that parking within Borrack Square is already limited and that the loss of additional parking spaces could make access more difficult for visitors, potentially impacting local businesses and reducing visitation to the centre. Parking availability near the library was identified as a particular concern, with some participants noting that existing parking is already insufficient to meet demand.

Several respondents also linked parking concerns to broader issues affecting the precinct, including overflowing bins, vacant shopfronts and a lack of ongoing maintenance. While parking was

important to many participants, others emphasised that improvements should focus on creating a safer, more accessible and welcoming environment through upgraded footpaths, additional seating and enhanced presentation of the public realm.

Suggestions included converting Duke Street Reserve into additional parking, while another respondent noted that the primary issue facing Borrack Square is not parking or waste management, but addressing community safety and improving perceptions of the precinct overall.

Other comments about the improvements in Borrack Square.

Many respondents felt that the proposed footpath and amenity improvements, while positive, did not go far enough to address the broader challenges facing Borrack Square. Participants described the precinct as neglected, unattractive and in need of more comprehensive renewal, with several suggesting that the centre requires a broader revitalisation effort rather than isolated infrastructure upgrades.

Community safety emerged as the most prominent theme, with respondents raising concerns about crime, recent incidents, antisocial behaviour, loitering and perceptions of the area after dark. Suggestions to address these concerns included the installation of CCTV, improved lighting, increased security presence and more frequent police patrols. Respondents also expressed a desire for a stronger and more diverse tenancy mix, including the return of a supermarket or small grocery retailer such as IGA or Woolworths, while others commented on the concentration of similar businesses within the centre. Several participants referenced the Yarraville shopping precinct as an example of the type of vibrant, welcoming and family-friendly destination they would like Borrack Square to become.

Additional suggestions to improve amenity included more public seating, outdoor dining and food court-style spaces, improved signage, public art and murals, community events, markets and greater promotion of the precinct. Maintenance and cleanliness were also recurring concerns, with feedback highlighting issues such as unpleasant-smelling trees, leaf litter, inadequate waste facilities, a lack of recycling options and the need for more regular cleaning and upkeep. Other suggestions included additional bicycle parking, longer parking time limits, solar lighting and ensuring future improvements support local businesses without imposing additional costs.

On-site conversations with Borrack Square traders

Council officers met with traders at Borrack Square on Wednesday, 24 June, to review the plans and address any concerns.

Overall, traders expressed support for improvements that would make the area cleaner, safer, more attractive and easier to use, while also raising concerns about how changes may affect local businesses, deliveries and parking.

- Waste management: Some comments raised concerns about rubbish dumping, bin locations and the need for bin enclosures or screens. Some feedback supported enclosures to reduce dumping, while other feedback raised concerns about odour, location and impacts on nearby businesses.

- Lighting, safety and security: Improved lighting was a common theme, with feedback noting that the area can feel dark or unsafe. Some comments also requested security measures such as CCTV.
- Amenity and appearance: Feedback indicated that the square and surrounding area would benefit from improved presentation, cleanliness, aesthetics and wayfinding/signage. Some participants felt the current condition of the area may affect customer perceptions and business activity.
- Business access during works: A concern was the need to maintain customer access and clear communication during construction, including messaging that businesses remain open and limiting disruption to shop entries.
- Parking, loading and deliveries: Comments identified concerns about car parking, loading zone availability and delivery access, particularly on Duke Street and near local businesses.
- Seating and public facilities: Feedback included both support for proposed seating and concerns about existing public use of the square. A request was also made for consideration of public toilet access in the area.
- Traffic and pedestrian safety: Some feedback raised concerns about traffic conditions, narrow streets, visibility, sightlines and safety for children riding bikes to school.
- Footpath and drainage: Feedback included support for footpath replacement and noted existing drainage issues, including water pooling.

In summary, the feedback from traders generally supports upgrades that improve cleanliness, lighting, safety and overall amenity, provided that practical issues such as bin placement.

Next Steps

Council officers will review and assess feedback received from the community and local traders to help refine and inform any changes to the concept plans. While the proposed works are primarily focused on infrastructure renewal, they also present opportunities to enhance the area's vibrancy and strengthen social connections over the longer term. Insights gathered through the consultation process will help shape future improvements and support ongoing investment in the economic development and activation of Borrack Square.

The following timeline provides an overview of activities expected to commence (maybe subject to change):

<i>Project Activity</i>	<i>Estimate of timeframe</i>
Amended Concept plans and preparation of Tender Documentation	July – September 2026
Tender Advertisement (Quotation process) and awarding of Contract	September – December 2026
Construction Commencement Stage 1 - Footpath and Amenity Works	Late January 2027 – April 2027
Stage 2 – Car Park Renewal Works	April 2027 – June 2027

Notifications of the project will be provided to the public and traders accordingly.