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GLEN EIRA CITY COUNCIL

BETTER STREETS, BETTER PLACES

2023-2033





ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

Glen Eira City Council acknowledges the Boonwurrung/ Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Owners and Custodians, and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to land and waterways. Council extends its respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Council honours the rich histories and cultures of First Nations peoples and recognises and values the important contribution of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in enriching our community. We support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and are committed to a Reconciliation Action Plan which is underpinned by the principles of self-determination. We work towards improved outcomes and long-term generational change, and to consolidate Glen Eira as a culturally safe place for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We are committed to achieving equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to live healthy and prosperous lives and to improve life outcomes for current and future generations.

Glen Eira resides on country that always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land.

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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

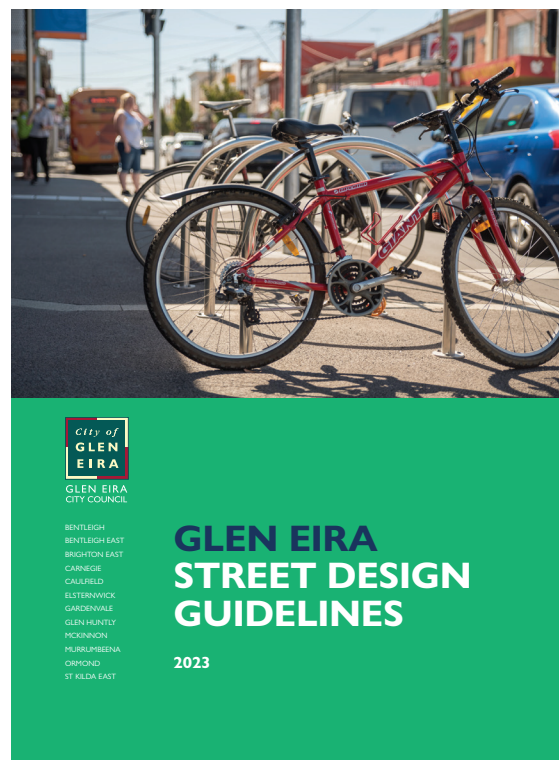
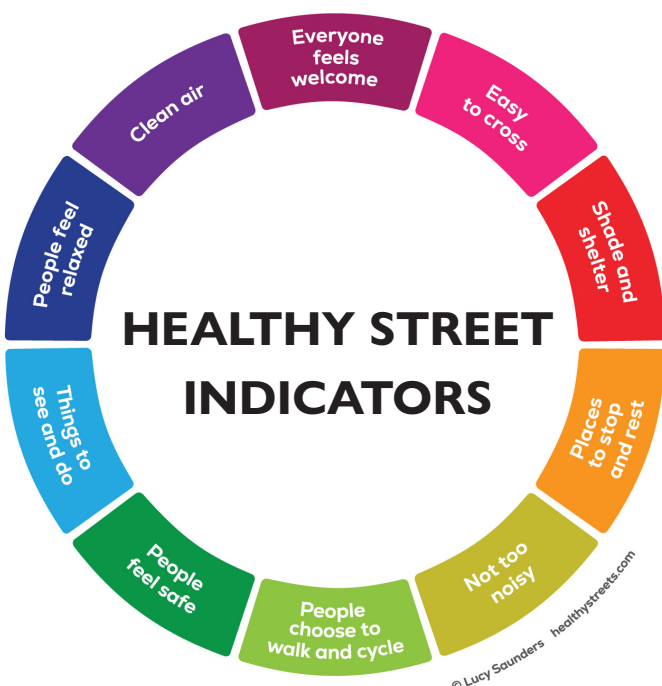
Better Streets, Better Places – Glen Eira's Ten-Year Activity Centre Streetscape Improvement Program 2023-2033 (Better Streets, Better Places) will guide improvements in the main streets of Glen Eira's major, neighbourhood and local activity centres over the next ten years.

Activity centres play an important role in our community. They provide essential goods and services, employment, housing and access to public transport. Vibrant streetscapes in our activity centres support the local businesses and create attractive places for people to visit and spend time.

As our city grows, it is important to ensure that our streetscapes are prepared for growth and remain safe, enjoyable places for our community. Streets make up more than twenty percent of the land area in Glen Eira. They can do more than just help us move throughout the city. Great streets can improve the lives of people in our community by providing areas for social connection, respite and shade, physical activity and enjoyment.

When streets are designed as engaging public areas, they become great places for people. Well-designed streets contribute to local places, foster business activity and welcome the community. Good street design influences the way people move through the city, encouraging active and public transport, reducing congestion and combating climate change. We must ensure that the streets in Glen Eira's activity centres are well designed and maintained to respond to the evolving needs of our community.

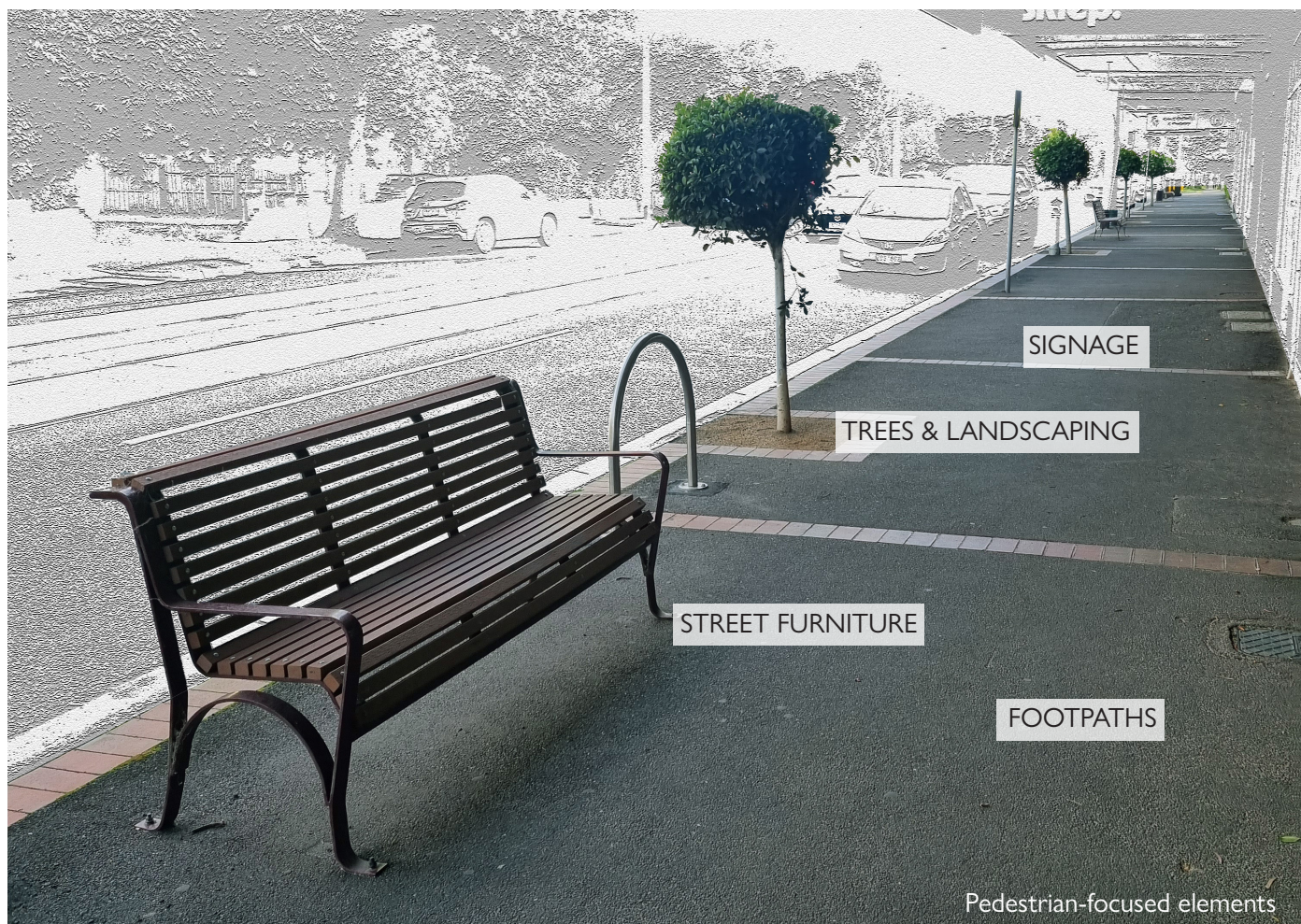
The ten healthy street indicators help identify the desirable aspects of activity centre streetscapes. [Glen Eira's Street Design Guidelines 2023](#) also sets a clear vision for high-quality streetscapes in Glen Eira and will be used to guide the *Better Streets, Better Places* program.



Better Streets, Better Places concentrates on improving the pedestrian-focused aspects of our streets including footpaths, street furniture (public seating, bicycle hoops and bins), signage and wayfinding, as well as street trees and landscaping. These improvements will enhance the quality of our activity centres, making them both functional and enjoyable places.

Through *Better Streets, Better Places*, Council will invest funding into upgrading these aspects of our shopping strips. These works will improve the vibrancy, safety and function of our streets as places for the community. This program provides Council with a clear, equitable plan for prioritising investment. It will guide long-term capital works planning and inform annual budgets. The program provides a list of priorities while allowing flexibility to respond to emerging priorities or new funding opportunities.

Better Streets, Better Places will help ensure our community has access to well designed and maintained open spaces and places.



ORGANISATIONAL CONTEXT

This program aligns with Glen Eira's Vision –

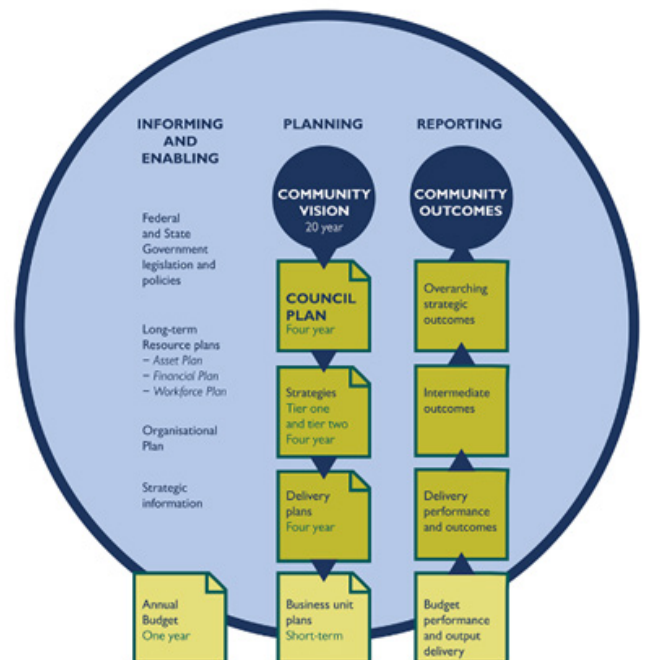
‘Our Glen Eira: A thriving and empowered community working together for an inclusive and sustainable future.’

It also aligns with Glen Eira's Council Plan 2021-2025 for access to well designed and maintained open spaces and places –

“Our public open spaces and places support a healthy and connected community and contribute to a more sustainable and vibrant City.”

Glen Eira's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework aligns Council's plans and strategies and directs effort and resources to achieving the results our community most needs and wants. This delivery plan aligns with the Community Vision and is related to the Glen Eira Integrated Transport Strategy.








The plan will be reviewed yearly and if required amended to reflect the changing priorities of the community.



STRATEGIC BASIS

Better Streets, Better Places follows the principles of the *Glen Eira Street Design Guidelines 2023*. The principle of Financial Sustainability was also introduced to help guide the delivery of the program.

Creating sustainable, resilient, green, functional streets in our activity centres aligns with other Glen Eira strategies as outlined below. This program will contribute to the actions of other strategies and help to achieve their objectives.

	BETTER MOVEMENT	SAFER	HEALTHIER	BETTER PLACES	STREETS AS ECOSYSTEMS	EVOLVING	FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE
							
<i>Glen Eira Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2031</i>	●	●	●	●		●	●
<i>Glen Eira Urban Forest Strategy 2021</i>			●	●	●	●	●
<i>Activity Centre Structure Plans</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Glen Eira Asset Plan 2022-32</i>		●		●		●	●
<i>Glen Eira City Plan 2020</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
<i>Community Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025</i>		●	●	●		●	●
<i>Community Safety Plan 2022-2025</i>	●	●		●		●	●

OUR ACTIVITY CENTRES

What is an Activity Centre?

Activity centres are vibrant community hubs where people shop, work, meet, relax and dwell. Glen Eira has a network of over 50 activity centres of three types: major, neighbourhood and local. Each type has its own identity and plays an important role in the larger community. *Better Streets, Better Places* recommends streetscape improvement projects in all three types of activity centres. Some activity centres have already had large-scale streetscape works undertaken in recent years, some need specific improvements, and others are performing well.

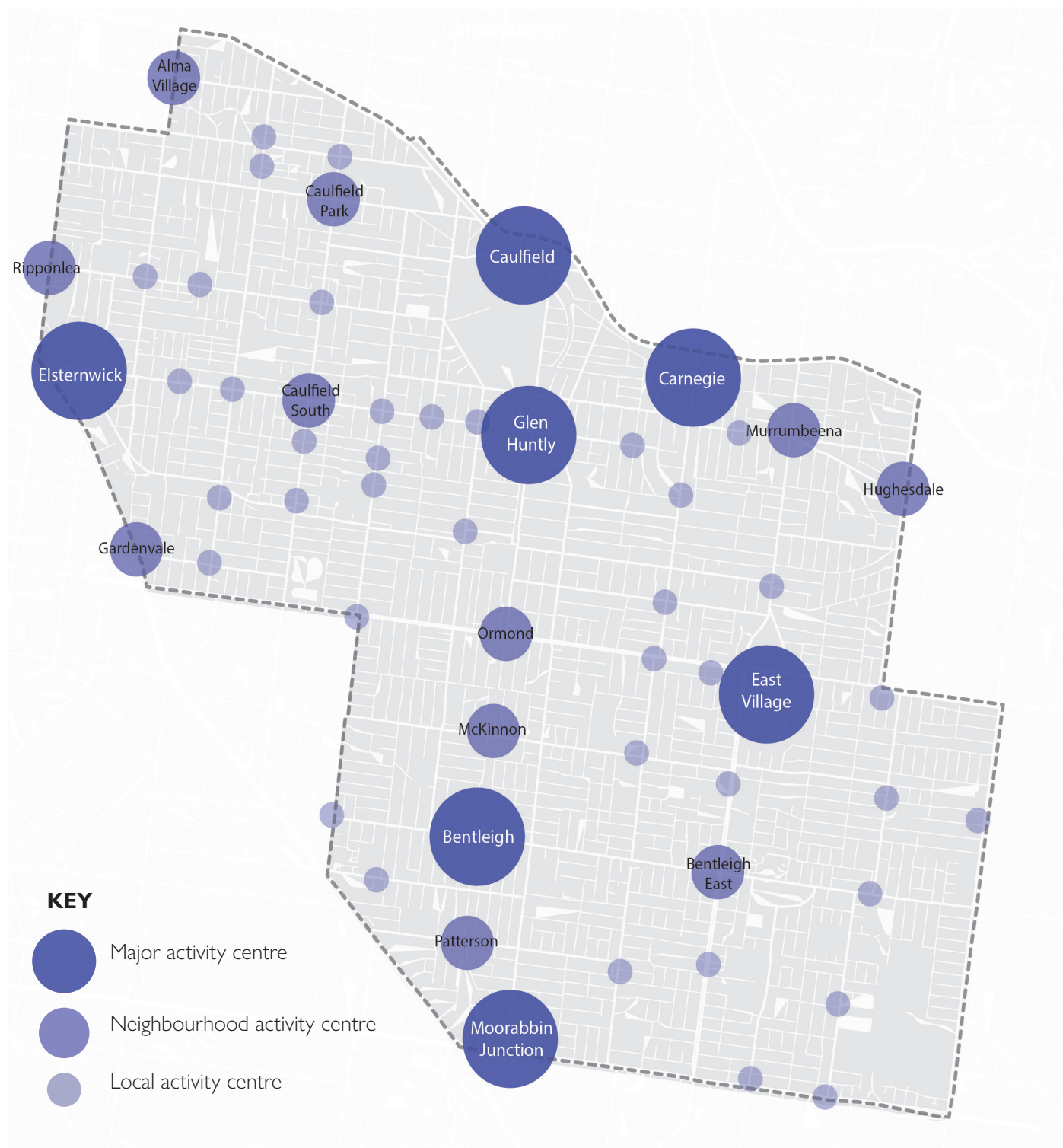
Council designed *Better Streets, Better Places* to improve the amenity of our activity centres by identifying what appears to be missing in each centre, and by looking for new opportunities for shopping strips. The program focuses on the “main streets” and some key side streets of activity centres that offer significant public benefit. The scope of the program is primarily focused on the pedestrian-focused elements of the street. These include:

- **Street trees and infrastructure** (tree pits and kerb outstands) – These provide shade, improve the look and feel of the streetscape, introduce natural elements, clean the air, filter stormwater and reduce heat-island effect.
- **Landscaping** (other than trees) – These improve the look and feel of the street, clean the air and filter stormwater.
- **Street furniture** (public seating, bins, bike hoops) – These provide opportunities to sit, places to put litter and park bikes in safe locations.
- **Signage and wayfinding** – These provide the information our community needs to navigate through our centres, ensuring that streets are not cluttered, and deliver clear, accessible information to everyone.
- **Footpaths/pavement** – This keeps high-traffic pedestrian areas walkable and safe, improves the look and feel of the centres, provides space for outdoor dining and vibrant street-life.

The program aligns with Council's Integrated Transport Strategy vision:

“Glen Eira will be a City of child-friendly neighbourhoods that are connected to a network of vibrant and well-designed walkable activity centres.”





Glen Eira activity centre map



PROCESS

We used two stages to assess our activity centre streetscapes and help us identify and prioritise improvement opportunities.

Stage 1: Existing streetscape assessment

The two key criteria were used to evaluate the existing assets and understand the priorities of each centre. The criteria for assessment included:

- **Attributes** – the quality and quantity of assets (elements of the streetscape listed below)
- **Condition** – the physical condition and expected lifespan of the asset

Streetscape assets in the assessment include:

- Street trees and infrastructure (tree pits, kerb outstands)
- Landscaping (other than trees)
- Street furniture (public seating, bins, bike hoops)
- Signage and wayfinding
- Footpaths/pavement

Stage 2: Future improvements assessment

We conducted a second assessment to consider the proposed improvements to the streetscape in the context of the principles from the *Glen Eira Street Design Guidelines 2023*.

These principles reflect our strategic vision for our streetscapes, aligning with Council's other strategies including the *Glen Eira Integrated Transport Strategy 2018-2031*, *Urban Forest Strategy 2021*, *Glen Eira Community Safety Plan 2022-2025* and *Our Climate Emergency Response – 2021– 2025 Dhumbali Wurrungi-biik Parbin-at*.

We considered each improvement in the context of how it would align with or improve the following:

- **Better movement** - Our streets must move more people and reduce reliance on private vehicles.
- **Safer** - We have a shared responsibility to make our roads and streets safe for all users.
- **Healthier** - Our roads and streets should support the physical, mental and social health of all users.
- **Better places** - We need to enhance our sense of place by centering human-scaled experiences that support our local economy.
- **Streets as ecosystems** - Our roads and streets should protect and enhance our natural environment by increasing the urban tree canopy and reducing the heat island effect.
- **Evolving** - Our roads and streets can evolve and should be designed to cater for the needs of the community today and in the future.
- **Financial sustainability** – With Council's growing financial pressures, we want to ensure that projects remain deliverable.

This process allows Council to better understand the needs of each centre, including what is missing, new opportunities and the overall priorities within our activity centres. We also considered the scale of projects, their alignment with other projects across Council, and project costs.



Street trees and infrastructure



Landscaping



Street furniture



Signage and wayfinding

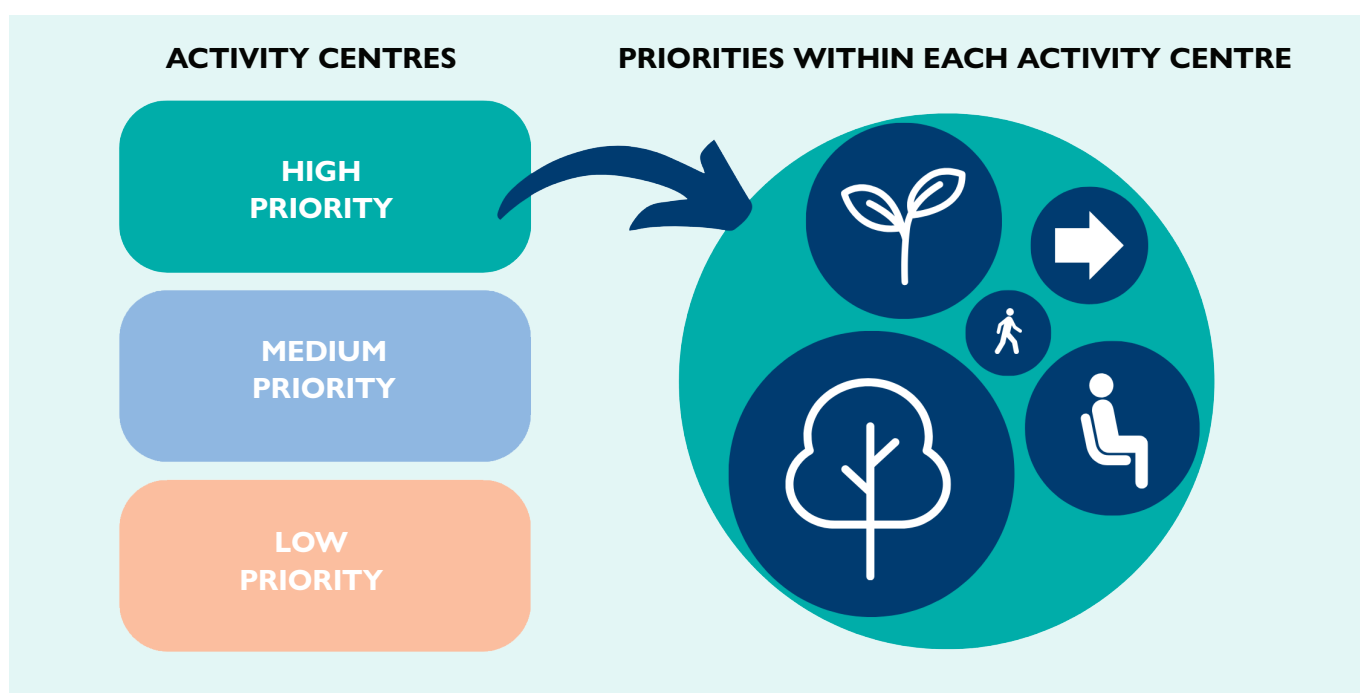


Footpaths and paving

STREETSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES

Each of our activity centres plays an important role in the lives of the local community. Each centre has its own unique character and attributes. To maintain financial sustainability, the scope of the *Better Streets, Better Places* is limited to the key priorities of our centres over the next ten years. Established by these priorities, improvements will be delivered based on funding approvals and project management requirements.

This program identifies a list of centres that are categorised as being high, medium and low priority as outcomes of the assessment process. However, each centre is different, and there are asset priorities within each centre that will determine how projects are delivered, either placed based or asset based. This will be established at the feasibility stage.



Activity centres have been grouped as high, medium and low, however each activity centre is different and has its own items of improvement and priorities.

HIGH PRIORITY STREETScape OPPORTUNITIES



Carnegie

Opportunity for new canopy trees, shrub planting, upgrades to public seating, bins, paving and wayfinding.



Murrumbeena

Opportunities for footpath renewal works, canopy tree and shrub planting.



Elsternwick

Opportunities to improve footpaths on Glenhuntly Road and to improve the streetscape in Staniland Grove.



Bentleigh

Opportunity to improve function and health of existing tree pits and garden beds.



Bentleigh East

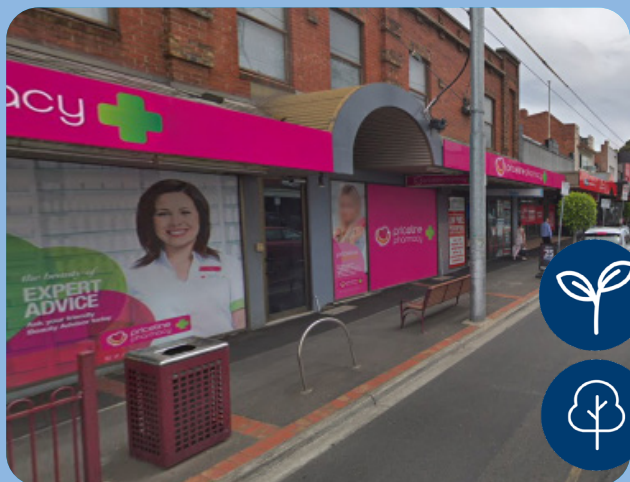
Opportunity for new canopy trees and shrub planting.



Glen Huntly

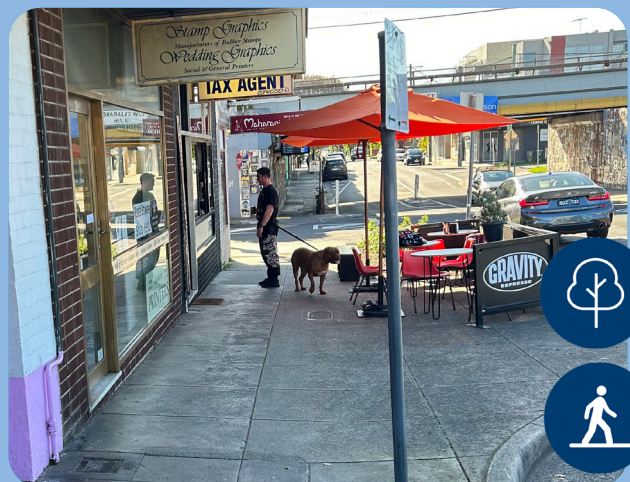
Opportunity for new canopy trees, shrub planting and street furniture upgrades to bins and seating beyond LXP.

MEDIUM PRIORITY STREETScape OPPORTUNITIES



Caulfield South

Opportunity for new canopy trees and shrub planting.



Patterson

Opportunity for footpath improvements and canopy tree planting.



Ripponlea

Opportunity for footpath renewal works.



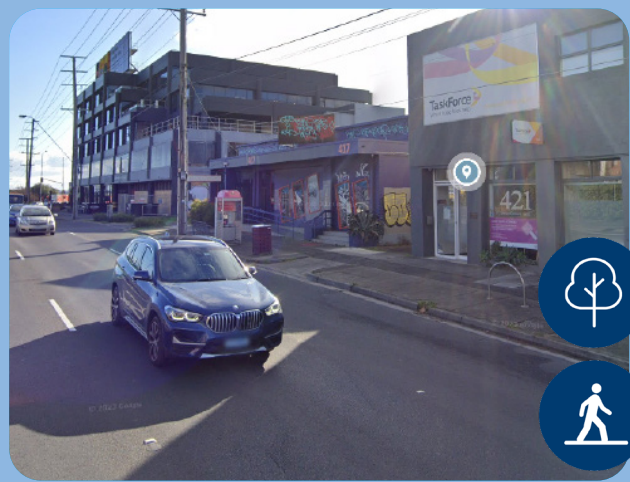
Hughesdale

Opportunities for footpath upgrades and canopy tree planting.



Caulfield Park

Opportunity for some footpath renewal, public seating and bin upgrades.



Moorabbin

Opportunities for footpath upgrades and canopy tree planting.

MEDIUM PRIORITY STREETSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES



Caulfield

Opportunity for streetscape upgrades through future development and transport improvements.



East Village

Opportunity for streetscape upgrades through future developments.

LOW PRIORITY STREETSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES



Alma Village

Opportunity for minor landscaping works.



Gardenvale

Opportunity for minor landscaping works.



Ormond

Opportunities for advocacy to improve the pedestrian experience.



McKinnon

Opportunity for minor landscaping works.

LOCAL CENTRE STREETSCAPE OPPORTUNITIES



Due to their scale, small projects have been recommended in local centres. These include minor tree and shrub planting, renewal and street furniture upgrades.



Our Local Centres

- Bambra Rd & Filbert St
- Bambra Rd & Teak St
- Bambra Rd & North Rd
- Bingnell Rd & Mathews Rd
- Booran Rd & Bundeera Rd & Woodville Av
- Brewer Rd & Todd St
- Centre Rd & Thomas St
- Chesterville Rd & South Rd
- Clarence St & East Boundary Rd
- Crimea (Kooyong Rd)
- Glen Eira Rd & Orrong Rd
- Glen Eira Rd & Park St
- Glenhuntly Rd and Booran Rd
- Glenhuntly Rd & Bambra Rd
- Glenhuntly Rd & Kean St
- Glenhuntly Rd & Mimosa Rd
- Glenhuntly Rd & Hopetoun St
- Hawthorn Rd & Brooklyn Av
- Hawthorn Rd & Inkerman Rd
- Hawthorn Rd & Sycamore St
- Inkerman Rd & Orrong Cr
- Koornang Rd & Leila Rd
- Kooyong Rd & Gardenvale Rd
- Kooyong Rd & Parnell St
- Koornang Rd & Truganini Rd
- Glen Huntly & Kooyong Rd
- Mackie Rd & Centre Rd
- Mackie Rd
- East Boundary & McKinnon Rd
- McKinnon Rd & Tucker Rd
- Murrumbeena Rd & Oakleigh Rd
- Neerim Rd & Hewitts Rd
- North Rd & East Boundary Rd
- North Rd & Tucker Rd
- Orange St & Warrigal Rd
- Poath Rd & North Rd
- Scanlon St & South Rd
- Town Hall Precinct
- Tucker Rd & Patterson Rd

TYPES OF PROJECTS

Better Streets, Better Places identifies different types of streetscape projects based on the needs of the activity centre. These may include:

Streetscape redevelopments

Extensive streetscape redevelopments involve large scale improvements to an activity centre. They may involve civil reconstruction and upgrades to most streetscape assets.

Streetscape upgrades

Small upgrades to streets can have big impacts on the look, feel and function of our centres. These may involve small upgrades to one type of asset across a few centres or a centre-based upgrade including a combination of improvements. These may involve upgrades to or the new installation of the following assets:

- Public seating
- Bins
- Bike hoops
- Signage and wayfinding
- Footpaths and pavement

Street-greening projects

Green streets contribute to pedestrian comfort levels, improve air quality, minimise the heat island effect and improve the overall look and feel of our activity centres. Aligning with Council's Urban Forest Strategy, activity centre street greening projects grow the urban forest through canopy-tree planting and low-level shrub planting/landscaping. These projects may require hard infrastructure to support landscaping including kerb outstands, planter beds or tree pits.

Greening our streets through "quick win" infill planting can also add to the urban forest and create more healthy streetscapes prior to large streetscape redevelopment in the long term. These projects may also include potted trees or raised planting beds in locations where street greening is difficult.

Asset renewal

This involves the monitoring and maintaining Council's assets throughout their lifecycle and replacing or fixing when required. This includes Council's footpaths, street furniture, kerb and channel, drainage and plants. Renewal is funded separately, but opportunities have been identified through *Better Streets, Better Places*.

Road safety improvements

Traffic and on-road projects that improve safety for all road users. These projects are funded through a different Council program, however, will be aligned with streetscape projects improving the walkability, safety and function of our activity centres.



IMPLEMENTATION

Better Streets, Better Places will be considered as a part of Council's 10-year Capital Works Program to ensure the coordination of this work and other project priorities. It follows Council's project management framework for capital works project delivery:

Feasibility – Planning – Delivery – Closure

This program provides a starting point for understanding the needs of our centres however, for implementation, projects could be delivered by asset type rather than a centre by centre approach, for example an upgrade of public seating assets in several centres.

Following endorsement of this program, forward planning on an annual basis will be required to package projects in a way that is financially sustainable, delivers on priorities at the activity centre or asset level to ensure efficient delivery.

We will conduct community engagement on improvements on a project-by-project basis. The type of community engagement undertaken will be tailored to each project, factoring in the type of activity centre, the level of change being proposed, the annual budget process and in conjunction with our Council Plan commitments. This approach will ensure Council can deliver on the program yet still respond to factors that may affect the delivery timeline, including cost escalations and feasibility study outcomes.

Evaluation and review will be undertaken every year to ensure the *Better Streets, Better Places* remains relevant, reflects community needs, expectations, existing conditions, Council's financial resources and is responsive to any legislative changes.

The process to undertake complex or large streetscape redevelopments can include:

- **Site analysis, feasibility testing and investigation.**
- **Developing a draft concept plan for streetscape improvements.**
- **Inviting feedback from traders and the local community on the draft concept plan.**
- **Reviewing feedback and further developing the design, as needed.**
- **Preparing design documentation.**
- **Implementing the streetscape improvements in the activity centre.**



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