

Dear Minister Steel,

**RE: Brierly Street Upgrades – Community Feedback**

During June and July of 2021, I undertook consultation with the Weston Creek community on what people would like to see in the ACT Government's \$2 million commitment to upgrade Brierly Street. Through this consultation I received a significant range of feedback.

The feedback broadly fell under four categories:

- 1. Landscaping**
- 2. Amenities**
- 3. Maintenance**
- 4. Changes to the Street**

Please find attached the Community Feedback Summary outlining in detail some of the things the community would like to see.

I look forward to seeing the results of the Act Government's community consultation and welcome an opportunity to talk with you and the project team in more detail about our findings. I look forward to seeing these upgrades come into fruition, and helping promote the great work undertaken by you, your team and the Directorate.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr Marisa Paterson MLA**  
**Member for Murrumbidgee**

## **Brierly Street upgrades – Community Feedback Summary**

During June and July of 2021, I undertook consultation with the Weston Creek community on what people would like to see in the ACT Government’s \$2 million commitment to upgrade Brierly Street. This consultation was completed through multiple avenues, including phone calls, emails, mobile offices and letters.

My office received a wide variety of feedback in this process, which fell under four broad categories:

- 5. Landscaping**
- 6. Amenities**
- 7. Maintenance**
- 8. Changes to the Street**

This overview provides information about the responses received across these categories, and more specific feedback and requests, below.

### **Landscaping**

The most common response was that people want to see landscaping on the street. This was expressed through suggestions for more plantings throughout the space, both along the street and Trenerry Square. Many people highlighted the beautiful tulip display during last years’ Floriade festival and how it enlivened and activated the space. They commented on how they not only wished to see these temporary plantings continue, but also wished for more permanent plantings. Comments indicated that local residents would appreciate more plantings to provide colour and more natural sources of shade and protection from the elements.

In general, community respondents wish to see more installations, whether they be plantings or shade sails, to provide protection and shade. Most the feedback we have received, in particular related to Trenerry Square, is that this lack of protection leads to areas that cannot be used throughout the year due to extreme temperatures. For similar reasons the community requested changes to the style of seating, as the current metal ones were described as either too hot in summer, or made to be freezing to the touch during winter.

The community also wish to see more murals and artwork in the space. Most pointed to the recent example of the bird mural painted on a side of Cooleman Court as an example of what they wished to see more of.

Overall, this feedback centred on making the space more visually appealing in order to incentivise use of the space, and to improve the comfort of the space so that people wishing to use it are indeed able to do so.

*Some selected quotes:*

*“It could be made into something much more attractive, featuring living shade and wooden benches plus perhaps some sculptures.”*

*“Another recommendation is for more art murals. The mural - Flight of Fancy along Brierly Street is spectacular indeed, such a delight to walk by this area now.”*

## **Amenities**

The main area of interest for people concerned with the amenity of the area was lighting.

Many acknowledged the improvements that were already being undertaken by the ACT Government in the areas surrounding Cooleman Court, and many wanted to see that work continue so that the space was more comfortable to use in later hours of the day, and to improve safety.

The secondary feature of particular interest was an increased presence of bins. Constituents were clear that whilst they are happy to see improvements coming to Brierly St, it should be anticipated that foot-traffic and through-traffic would subsequently increase. To adapt to the changed state of Brierly St, the presence of bins should be increased to provide more opportunities to easily dispense of personal rubbish and maintain the attractiveness of the area. It was noted that this would also help to ensure that damage to the environment is kept to a minimum.

Ultimately, the feedback regarding amenities aims to make the space safe at all times of the day, and to ensure the environmental impact of any improvements is kept to a minimum as well as supporting the beauty and aesthetics of any improvements.

*Some selected quotes:*

*“Some extra lighting would really go the distance in making space feel safer at night.”*

*“I would like to see more bins for cigarette disposal. Many people throw their cigarette garbage on the ground or into garden beds.”*

## **Maintenance**

In regard to maintenance, only one issue was of particular salience throughout constituent comments – potholes.

Many constituents were excited about the upcoming upgrades to Brierly St and were invigorated by the increase of utility and potential beautification of the space. However, the fixing of potholes was raised as a consistent element of feedback. Regardless of the other changes to Brierly St, constituents were firm in their beliefs that the fixing of potholes along this stretch must accompany any improvements.

*Some selected quotes:*

*“And PLEASE fix the pothole at the pedestrian crossing properly!”*

*“...they might finally fix the potholes at the crossing.”*

## **Changes to the Street’s transport**

Potential changes to the street’s movement patterns and opportunities was particularly dominant feedback, with a primary focus on closing off Brierly st to vehicals.

Many members of the community acknowledged that, whilst they understood it may be quite an extensive change, the closing of the street to traffic was of interest. Constituents had many angles through which they considered this to be a positive outcome. Some suggested that it would be a positive change for the safety of pedestrians in the area as traffic along Brierly St can often be rather careless of pedestrians regardless of the presence of a crossing. Others took the business-centric angle

in that closing off this space to cars would allow businesses to flourish into this space and facilitate public use.

The second most common desire among constituents was that of an increase to the availability of car-parking. Due to the current difficulties of the parking situation at Cooleman Court, constituents believed that utilising this upgrade process to provide some amount of increased car-parking would prove both useful and functional.

The last primary area of interest constituents commented on was an increase to pedestrian access in the area. Constituents commented on several areas in which pedestrian access needed to be considered. Of particular concern was a crossing from Trenerry Square to Cooleman Court, and improved crossing options from the Woolworths parking centre at the north of the shopping centre building.

Constituents were firm that regardless of any potential changes that are undertaken in the Brierly St upgrades, pedestrians should be prioritised. In the graphs below, it is clear that 51% of respondents would like to see the street closed to vehicular traffic, and only 22% against this option.

Some selected comments in support of closing the street:

*“May as well close off the street altogether - you have to go all the way around to get into the small carpark anyway.”*

*“Make Brierly Street pedestrian only with pop up eateries and seating like there used to be in Braddon.”*

However, there were some conflicting comments:

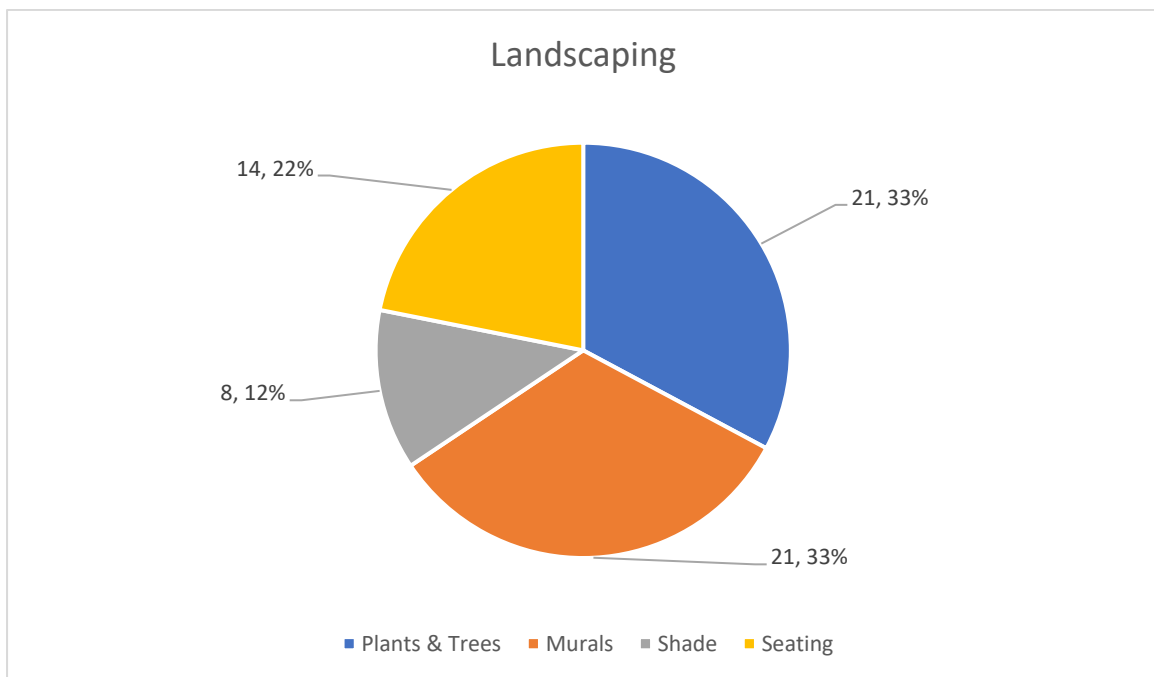
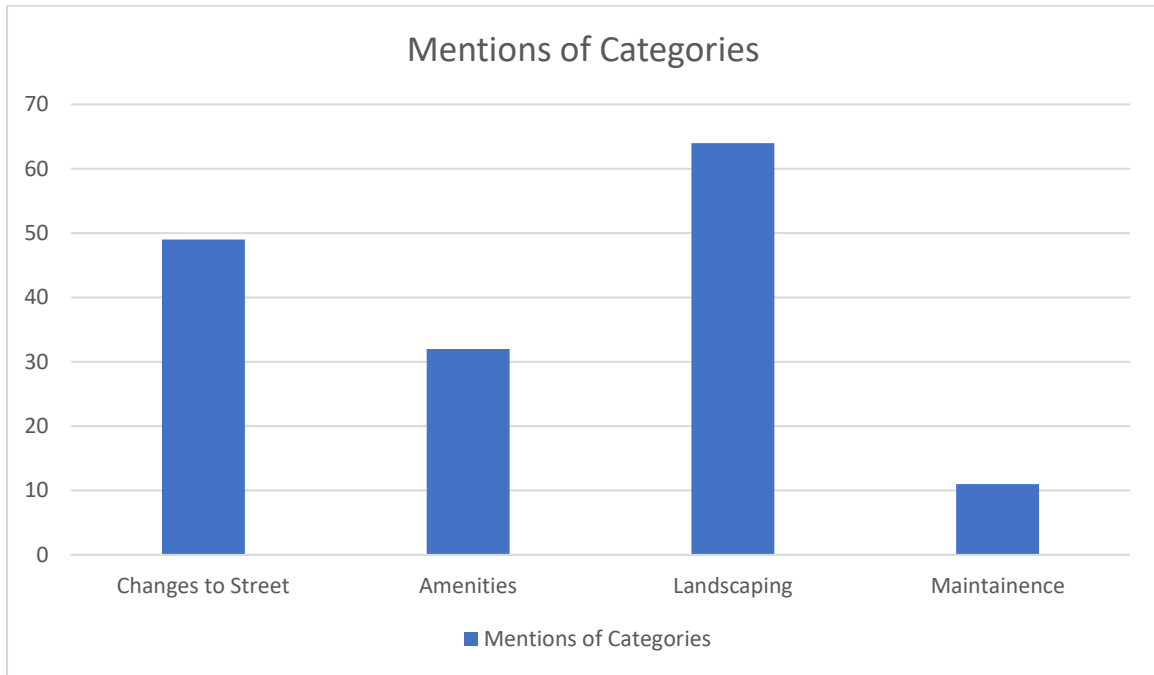
*“As I mentioned in the online survey in regards to this: Blocking off the entire street will be a nightmare for traffic. If the entire street is blocked off - the only entrance to the Woolies side carpark will be the entrance near Maccas.”*

*“Please do not close off Brierly Street. It would cause so much congestion on Parkinson Street and Liardet St that it could hold up traffic back to Hindmarsh.”*

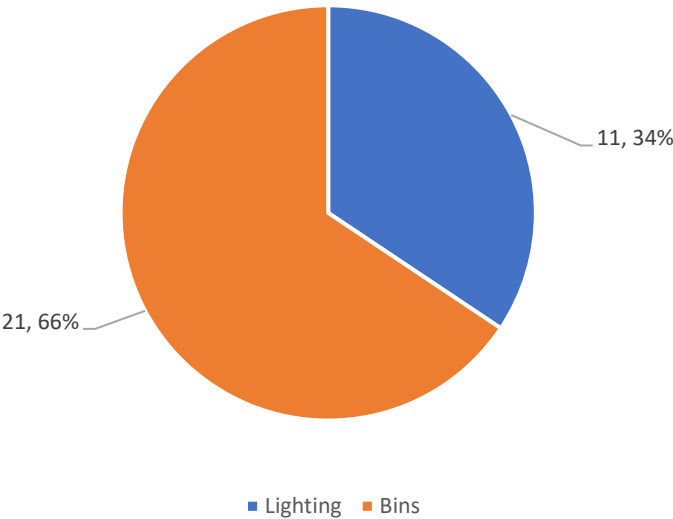
Constituents did not necessarily see eye-to-eye on the some of the suggested changes to Brierly St towards a car free zone, however, the summary above is an accurate depiction of the range of views and the strong desire by the majority of people engaged to close the street.

Please find attached a graphic depiction of this summary of comments and matters of most importance to the community

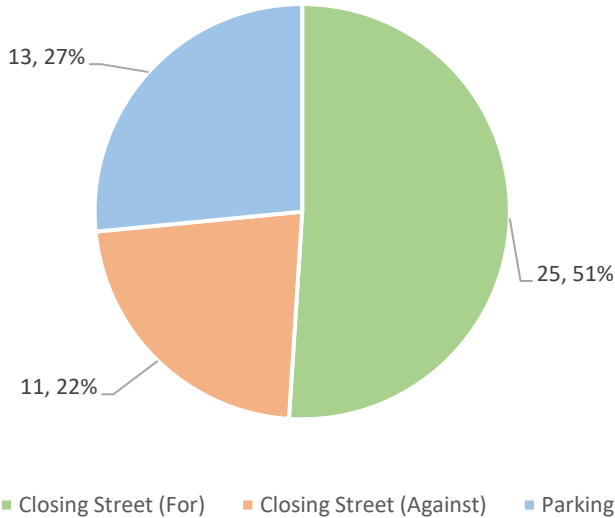
**Attachment – Graphic depiction of community consultation Brierly St Weston**



### Amenities



### Changes to Street Division



### Closing Off Brierly St

