

**What you've
said**

**Somerton Road
Upgrade**



AUGUST 2023

**Community and Business
Consultation Summary**

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SOMERTON ROAD UPGRADE

We've undertaken planning to investigate the potential upgrade of Somerton Road between Fleetwood Drive and Roxburgh Park Drive.

Planning investigated solutions to improve traffic flow, travel times and increase connectivity.

Consultation

From 1 to 22 August 2022, we asked the community, including local businesses for feedback on the potential future upgrade to Somerton Road.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to provide feedback.

20,004

VISITS TO THE ENGAGE VICTORIA WEB PAGE



711 SURVEYS COMPLETED

280 MAP PINS PLACED ON THE INTERACTIVE MAP

123,847

REACHED VIA SOCIAL MEDIA ADVERTISING



What we heard

Your feedback has provided important local insights.

The following quotes on our interactive map and surveys, highlight common themes expressed by respondents including views on access, efficiency, safety and what's important in the local area.

“ Please add a dedicated shared cycle/footpath along here to improve safety and allow more people to visit the nearby Woodlands Park.”

“ Somerton Road is no longer the country lane I learned to drive on 38 years ago, it's a major thoroughfare yet has barely changed. Should have been duplicated years ago.”

“ Takes so long to get from one delivery stop to another. During my time it was a maximum 5 to 10-minute drive, now nothing below 30 to 40 minutes.”

“ The road needs a major upgrade, it should be double lanes and should have plenty of streetlights, also should have road barriers for the sides.”

“ The road is in severe need of an upgrade including lights.”

Key themes

93% OF COMMUNITY RESPONDENTS SUPPORT THE POTENTIAL UPGRADE

Community survey

- **98%** of respondents support the potential addition of extra lanes and respondents frequently expressed support for upgrades at key intersections, particularly Aitken Boulevard, Kirkham Drive and Roxburgh Park Drive
- **90%** of respondents have concerns when travelling along Somerton Road. Main concerns include safety (**65%**), traffic flow (**73%**), congestion (**74%**) and variability of travel times (**39%**)
- **79%** of respondents rated traffic flow as poor or very poor, **18%** said fair, and **3%** said good or very good
- **42%** of respondents feel unsafe using Somerton Road, **31%** feel neither safe nor unsafe, **18%** feel very unsafe, and **9%** feel safe
- when asked what would make you feel safer (multiple choice), **83%** of respondents said adding more lanes, **72%** said improved lighting, **63%** said wider centre medians/greater separation between carriageways, **42%** said better line marking and **42%** said safety barriers
- **54%** of respondents said that they did not enjoy walking or cycling in the area. When asked to elaborate on why respondents didn't walk or cycle in the area (multiple choice) **89%** of respondents said safety concerns, **67%** noted the lack of connections to other walking or cycling paths and **63%** said insufficient lighting



- when asked what should be considered from a landscaping, visual amenity, environmental and noise perspective (multiple choice) **59%** of respondents want to see plants and shrubs replanted, **38%** said minimising noise, and **33%** said minimising the impacts to Greenvale Reservoir Park.

Business survey

100%
OF BUSINESS RESPONDENTS:

- support a potential future upgrade
- said they would support the potential addition of extra lanes
- were either dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the current traffic conditions.

Interactive map

Key themes from interactive map pins include:

- consideration should be given to adding a dedicated bike lane
- requests to improve street lighting
- importance of implementing measures to protect local wildlife
- importance of minimising tree removal during construction
- requests to add dedicated bus lanes
- consideration should be given at all intersections for pedestrian crossings
- requests to add extra lanes and safety barriers
- requests to provide better walking and cycling connections to Roxburgh Park station.

Planning timeline

-  **1 to 22 August 2022**
 - Community and business engagement
-  **Current**
 - Technical investigations to better understand the area
 - Develop a Business Case
-  **2023**
 - Business Case draft complete



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Project overview map



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