

Ruthven Street, Macleod

# Community consultation report

March 2026

*Looking east towards the level crossing at Ruthven Street, Macleod*



Looking west from Chapman Street to Ruthven Street, Macleod level crossing





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# Project overview

## We're removing the Ruthven Street, Macleod level crossing by building a rail bridge over the road.

We're also building a new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade from Ruthven Street to Davies Street. This section of the path is the missing link between existing paths on McNamara Street and Ellesmere Parade.

We'll also build a new signalised pedestrian crossing near the rail bridge, improving safety for everyone crossing Ruthven Street.

The signalised crossing will connect the new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade with the existing McNamara Street path.

Removing the level crossing will eliminate almost half an hour of boom gate down time in the morning peak, saving travel time for 12,600 drivers each weekday.

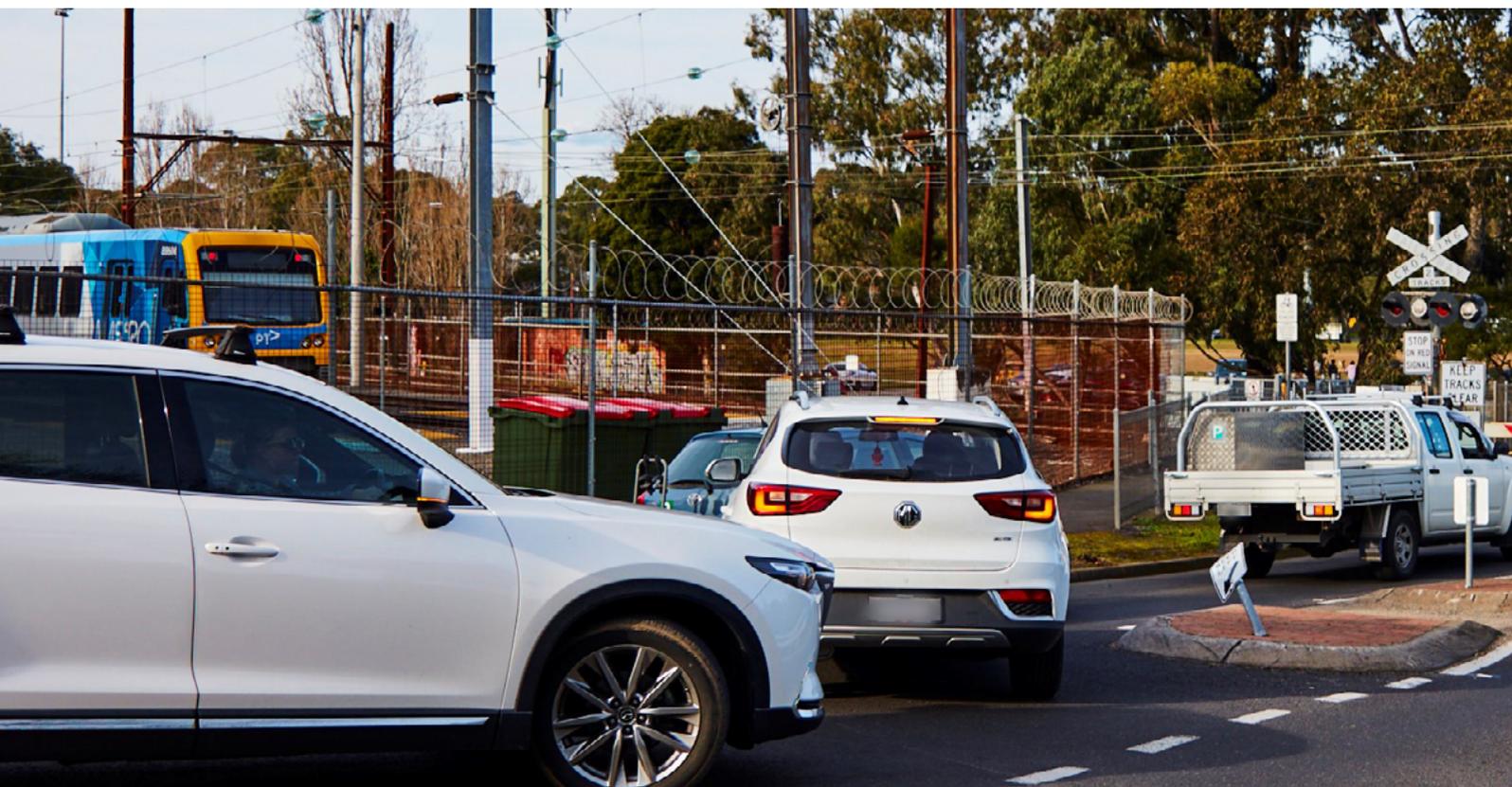
Making Macleod and Rosanna level crossing free in 2027 will improve safety, reduce congestion and create more reliable travel times for drivers, pedestrians and bike riders. These improvements build on the benefits unlocked by the North East Link Project.

To safely build the rail bridge over Ruthven Street, we'll use Macleod Park oval as a construction support area. Once the bridge is complete, we'll upgrade the oval with new drainage and irrigation, and install a new natural turf AFL/cricket surface and cricket pitch.

We're also upgrading the Macleod College oval to provide additional and improved recreation space during construction and beyond.

The Ruthven Street project follows the level crossing removals at Grange Road, Alphington and Lower Plenty Road, Rosanna, and the Hurstbridge Line Duplication, investing in safer local communities and a better transport network for all Victorians.

**Construction will start later this year, with the boom gates gone for good and trains running on the new rail bridge in 2027.**



Looking north east towards the level crossing at Ruthven Street, Macleod

## Why this level crossing needs to go

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**12,600 vehicles** travel through this crossing each day

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Up to **28 trains** pass through this crossing during the morning peak (7am to 9am)

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Boom gates are down for nearly **half an hour** of the morning peak (7am to 9am)

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# Consultation summary

In November and December 2025, we asked the local community to share how they move around the area and what they value about Macleod and Rosanna.

We received more than 250 pieces of feedback via our Engage Victoria surveys, station pop-ups, information sessions and our Big Build contact centre.

Your feedback, along with technical and engineering requirements, helped shape the project's concept designs.

**Thanks to everyone who completed a survey, shared feedback or joined us at one of our information sessions.**

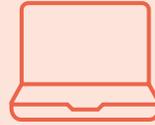


Participants at the Information session in December 2025



**17,473**

people reached via  
social media advertising



**2,745**

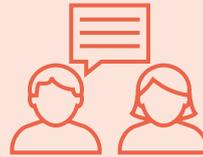
visitors to our Engage Victoria  
online consultation hub



Community updates sent to

**10,200+**

properties



**2,234**

people reached by  
our email update



**164**

vision and values  
surveys completed



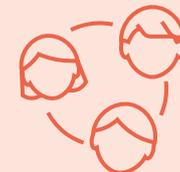
**35**

questions via Engage  
Victoria online  
consultation hub



**24**

enquiries via the Big Build  
contact centre



**77**

participants across

**6**

information sessions

# What we heard

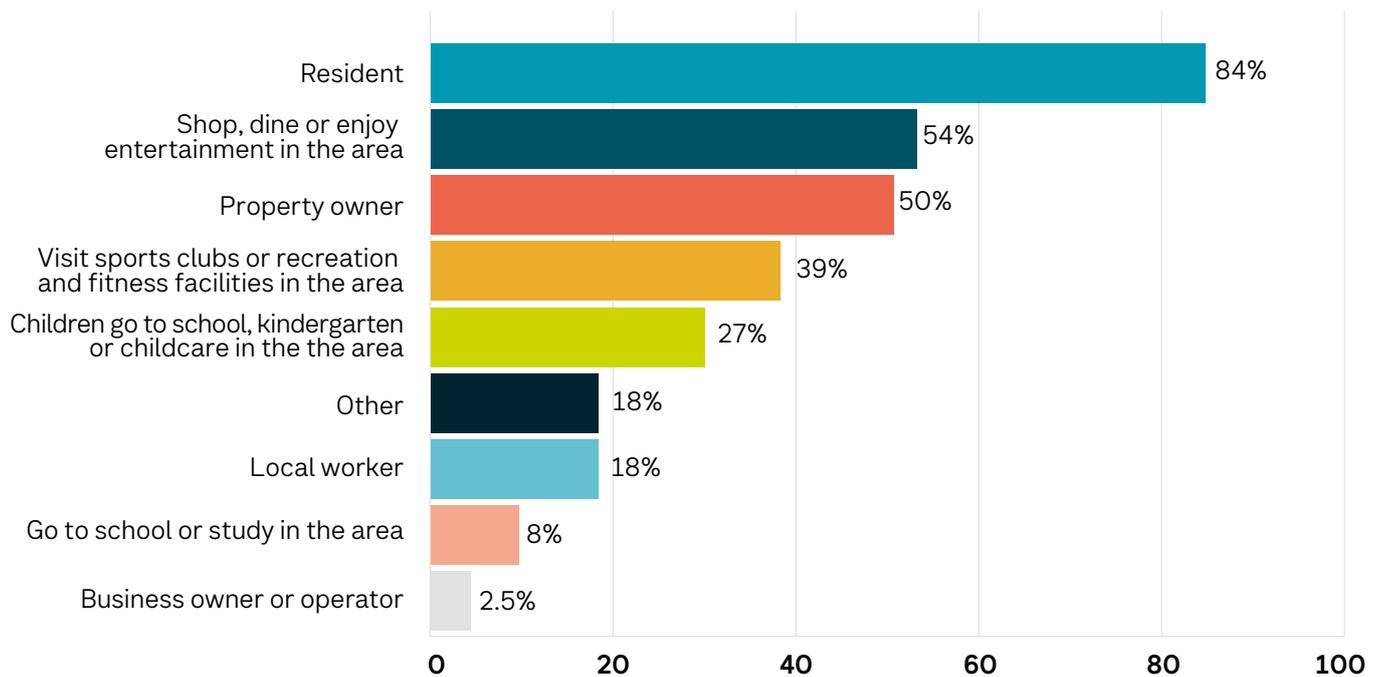
Respondents were asked to tick all options that applied.



More than 85% of survey respondents live in Macleod and Rosanna

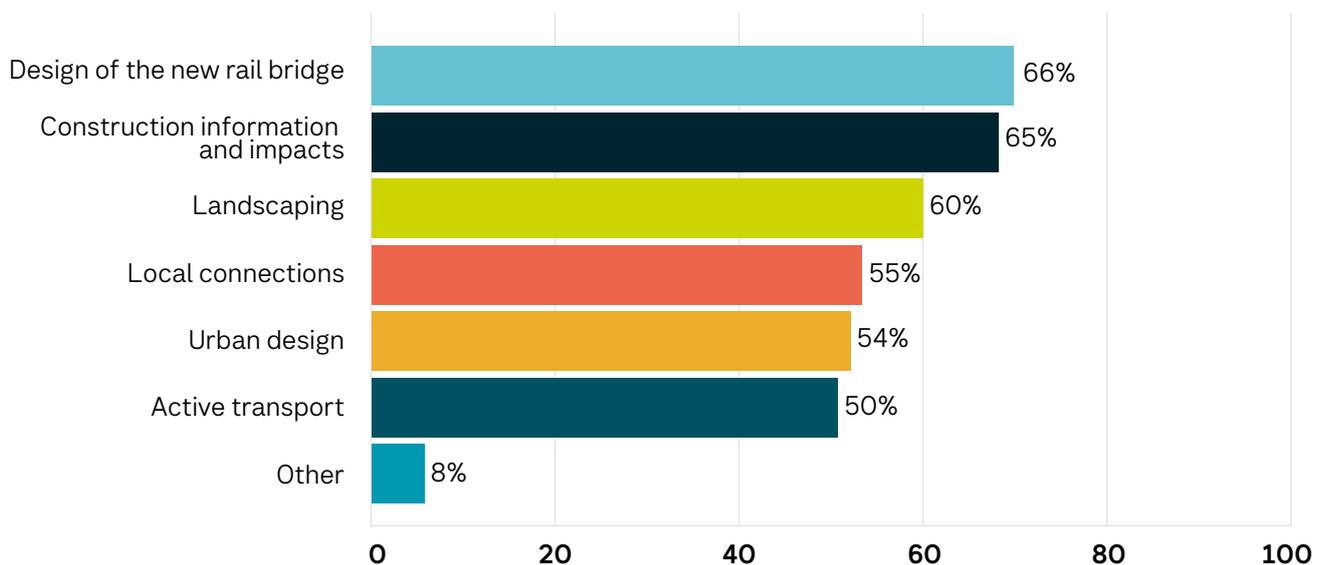
## About you

### What is your connection to the Ruthven Street level crossing removal project?



Respondents who selected Other stated that they take the Hurstbridge Line to travel through the area, use the parks and open spaces nearby and ride their bike through the area.

### What parts of the project are you most interested in?



# How you move through the area

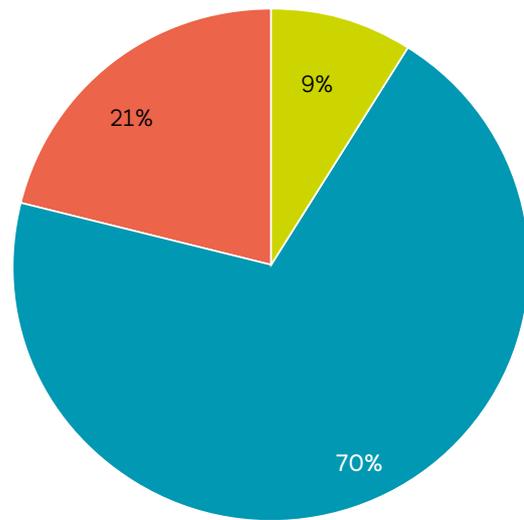


97%

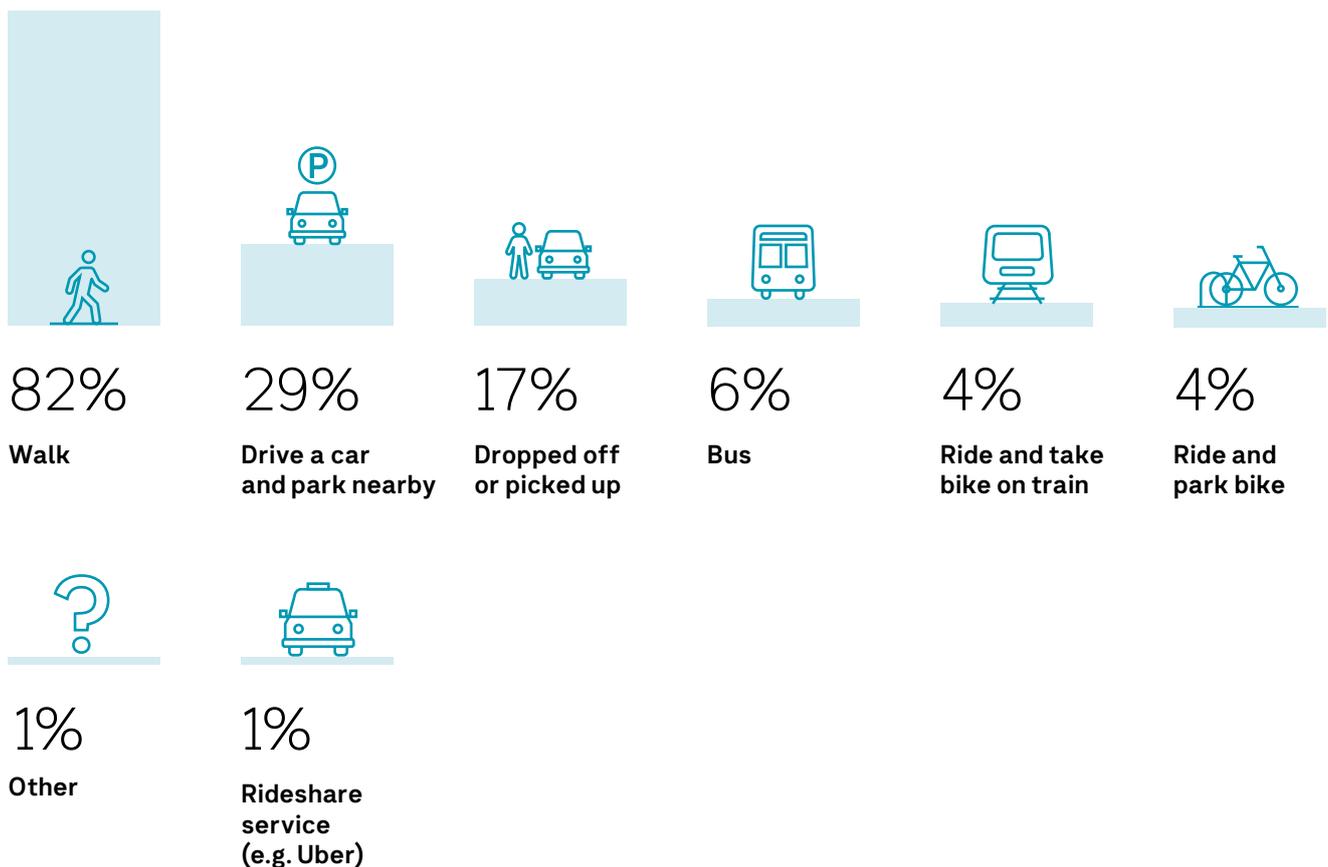
of survey respondents travel through the Ruthven Street, Macleod level crossing

## Which station do you use most?

- Macleod Station
- Rosanna Station
- I don't use these stations

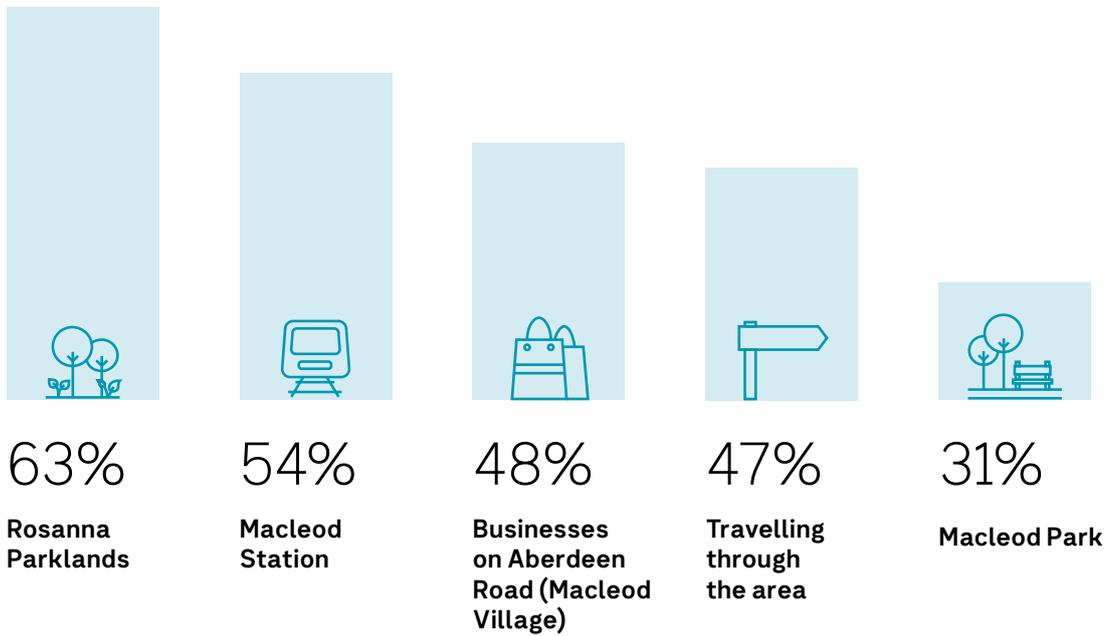


## How you get to or from the station?

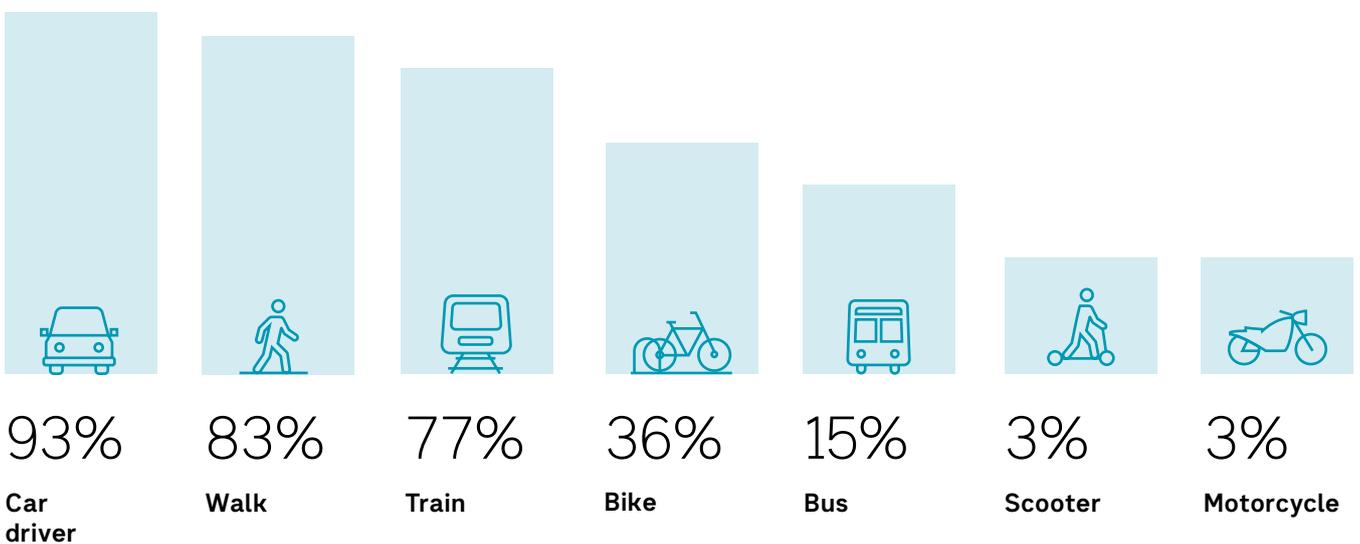


## What are your top destinations in the area?

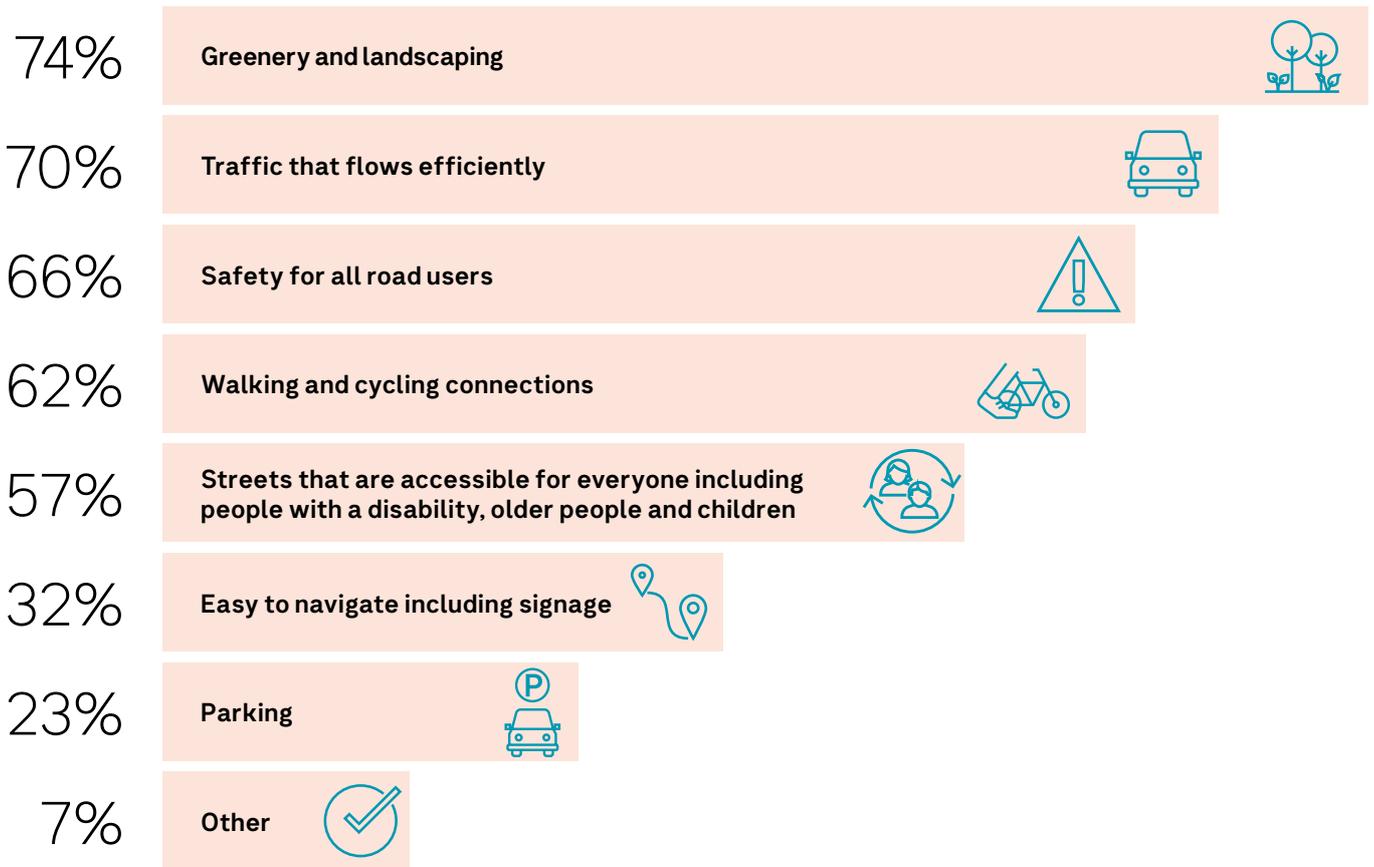
Respondents were asked to rank destinations they travel to.



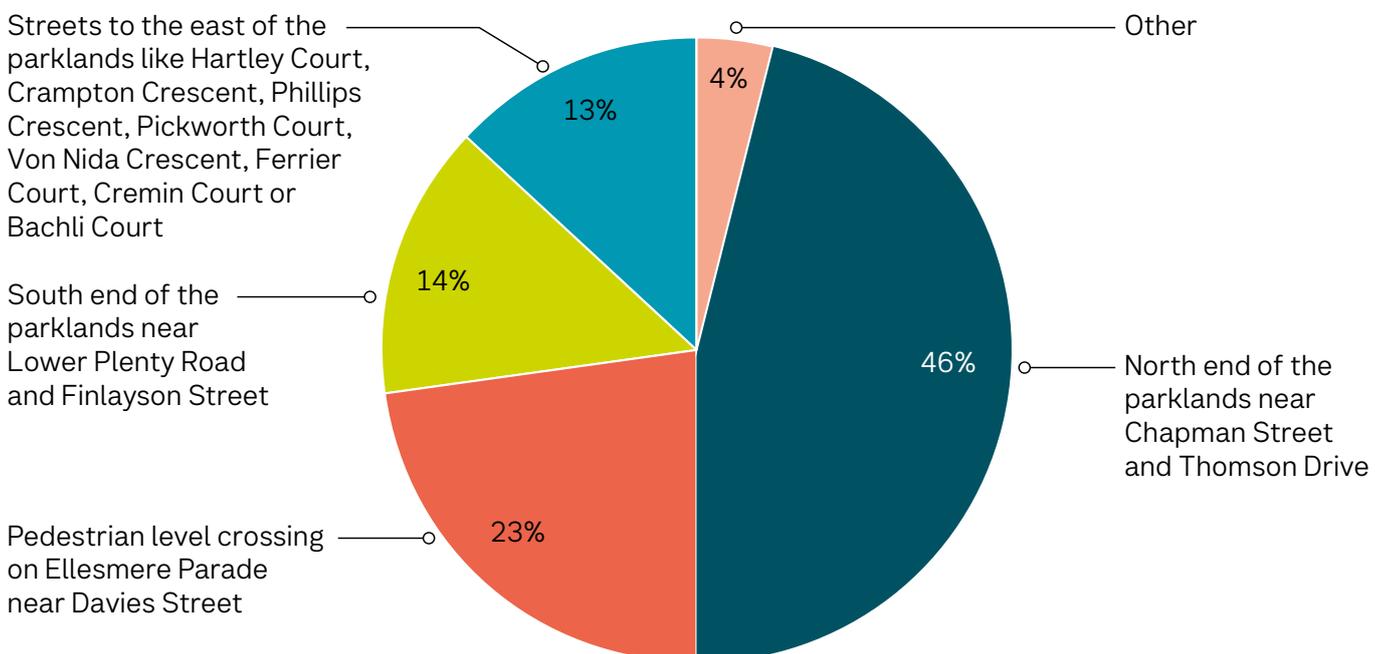
## How do you travel around Macleod?



## What's important to you when you're moving around the area?



## When visiting Rosanna Parklands, how do you normally access the park?



# What's important to you

From our conversations, information sessions, and survey responses, we heard the top things you value about the area are:



**Parks and open spaces**



**Local flora and fauna**



**The community and village feel**



**Local history and stories**

## We asked what you would like to see reflected in the project:



**Design that complements the area**

We heard that the community would like the project to include natural colours, features and architectural finishes, with a rail bridge design that complements the area.



**Better connections for pedestrians and bike riders**

Locals told us that Macleod and Rosanna are an active transport community.



**Landscaping and use of native and local plantings**

Many responses expressed an interest in incorporating native and local plants and landscaping as part of the project.

Respondents also expressed the importance of minimising impacts to the local flora and fauna, particularly limiting the number of trees removed.

Our project team is working on a bridge design and construction methodology that retains as many trees and shrubs as possible.

Most of the impacted trees will likely be in and around where the new rail bridge will be located. To minimise impacts to Rosanna Parklands, most of the rail bridge will be built from Ellesmere Parade.

The new rail bridge design includes opportunities for new landscaping and tree planting.

We'll plant two trees for every tree we remove, and the community can share their feedback on landscaping design as part of concept design consultation.

## What we heard from you:

*"Maintain the aesthetics and natural landscape of the area as much as possible."*

*"Materials, colours and sculpting that will blend in with the background of the greenery, trees and open space."*

*"Interactive garden spaces to relax, play and socialise. I love that Macleod playground / Aberdeen Shops and Rosanna parklands are meeting places."*

*"Ensuring the local plants are used to rehabilitate the area after the construction has finished, including connecting walking paths and bike access paths within the intersection."*

*"I hope consideration will be given to a safe crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists as part of the project design."*

# Conversations with the community

When asked if you had any other feedback for the project, these are the top things you said you would like to see:

What we heard	How we're delivering
 <b>Minimise disruptions and construction impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– We're in the planning stage of the project and will have more information about construction impacts and disruptions later this year before we start construction.</li><li>– In the lead up to and during construction, the project team will work closely with residents and businesses to understand any measures which may need to be taken to minimise the impact of our works.</li><li>– We know there will be times when buses replace trains on the Hurstbridge Line and Ruthven Street will need to close at the level crossing. Our project team is developing a construction plan for the rail bridge that will minimise disruptions and travel impacts as much as possible.</li><li>– We're working with the North East Link Project to coordinate our works and disruptions where possible.</li></ul>
 <b>Improve pedestrian and cycling connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– As part of the project, we're building a new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade from Ruthven Street to Davies Street. Adding this section of the path will link to the existing paths on McNamara Street and Ellesmere Parade, increasing connectivity in the area.</li><li>– We're also building a new signalised pedestrian crossing near the rail bridge, improving safety for pedestrians and bike riders when crossing Ruthven Street.</li></ul>
 <b>Improvements to other road intersections and traffic flow through the area</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– The scope of our project is to remove the Ruthven Street level crossing and build a new rail bridge. We're also building a new walking and cycling path along Ellesmere Parade and a new signalised pedestrian crossing on Ruthven Street near the rail bridge, improving safety for everyone crossing Ruthven Street.</li><li>– We're working with Banyule City Council and the Department of Transport and Planning to ensure that our removal design increases safety for all.</li><li>– We're working together to see what traffic controls and improvements may be included in the design to improve journeys in the area.</li></ul>

# Thank you and next steps

Thanks to everyone who shared their feedback and thoughts or joined an information session about the Ruthven Street, Macleod level crossing removal project.

Your feedback, along with technical and engineering requirements, helped shape concept designs.

You'll have more opportunities to share your thoughts during the concept design consultation, including on landscaping, architectural features, finishes and other elements of the bridge design.

## Keeping in touch

The best way to stay up to date with the project is to:



Read more about the project at [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/ruthven-street](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/ruthven-street)



Subscribe to email updates at [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe) and under Hurstbridge Line select Ruthven Street, Macleod



Call us on **1800 105 105**



Email [levelcrossings@bigbuild.vic.gov.au](mailto:levelcrossings@bigbuild.vic.gov.au)



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## Project timeline



**2022**

- Project announced



**2024**

- Site investigations



**2025**

- Site investigations
- Community consultation



**2026**

- Concept designs released and further community consultation
- Final designs released
- Site establishment and early works
- Construction starts



**2027**

- Construction
- Trains running on the rail bridge
- Level crossing removed
- New walking and cycling path open
- Project complete

\* Timeline subject to change.

Looking west towards a train travelling through the level crossing at Ruthven Street, Macleod



**levelcrossings.vic.gov.au**

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1800 105 105 (call anytime)     

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