

Maddox Road and Champion Road, Newport

# Community consultation report

November 2024

*Boom gates down at Maddox Road, Newport*





Traffic waiting at the Champion Road level crossing



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# Project overview

The Victorian Government is making the Werribee Line level crossing free by 2030. As part of this commitment, we're removing the Maddox Road and Champion Road, Newport level crossings.

Following the opening of the Metro Tunnel in 2025, the Werribee Line will be busier with more train services planned in the future to meet increased passenger demand. This means that the boom gates would be down for longer, making it harder to move around the local area.

That's why we're removing the Maddox Road, Newport level crossing by building two rail bridges over the road – improving safety, reducing congestion and improving local connections.

We're closing the level crossing at Champion Road and building a new link road to keep drivers moving, and create more reliable travel times.

The link road will connect Champion Road to Maddox Road directly via Akuna Drive and will open before the Champion Road level crossing is closed in 2026.

We'll also build a new pedestrian and cycling bridge across the rail line at Champion Road to keep the community connected.

We'll make it safer for people to cross the rail line at Maddox Road by upgrading local walking and cycling connections.

**Early site investigation works have begun, with major construction to begin in 2025. Newport will be level crossing free in 2026.**

## Why these level crossings need to go



Up to 48 trains run in the morning peak (7am to 9am), meaning that the boom gates are down for around 50 minutes



Over 10,000 vehicles travel through these crossings each day



Improved safety for drivers, bike riders and pedestrians

# Engagement to date

We've run two phases of community engagement, plus dedicated workshops with our stakeholder liaison group (SLG) and other key stakeholders.

## Phase one June 2023–July 2023

We completed our Vision and Values community engagement where we asked you to tell us about how you access the Newport area and what's important to you.

## Phase two April 2024–June 2024

We asked you about your origin and destination points. We also asked what you value about the Newport area that you'd like us to consider as part of our project design.



Scan the QR code to see our Phase one community consultation report.



Scan the QR code to see a summary of our SLG meetings.

We held a key stakeholder workshop and commenced regular meetings with our SLG.

This report focuses on phase two of our engagement: origin and destination surveys, and what you value about your local area.



Traffic waiting at Champion Road level crossing

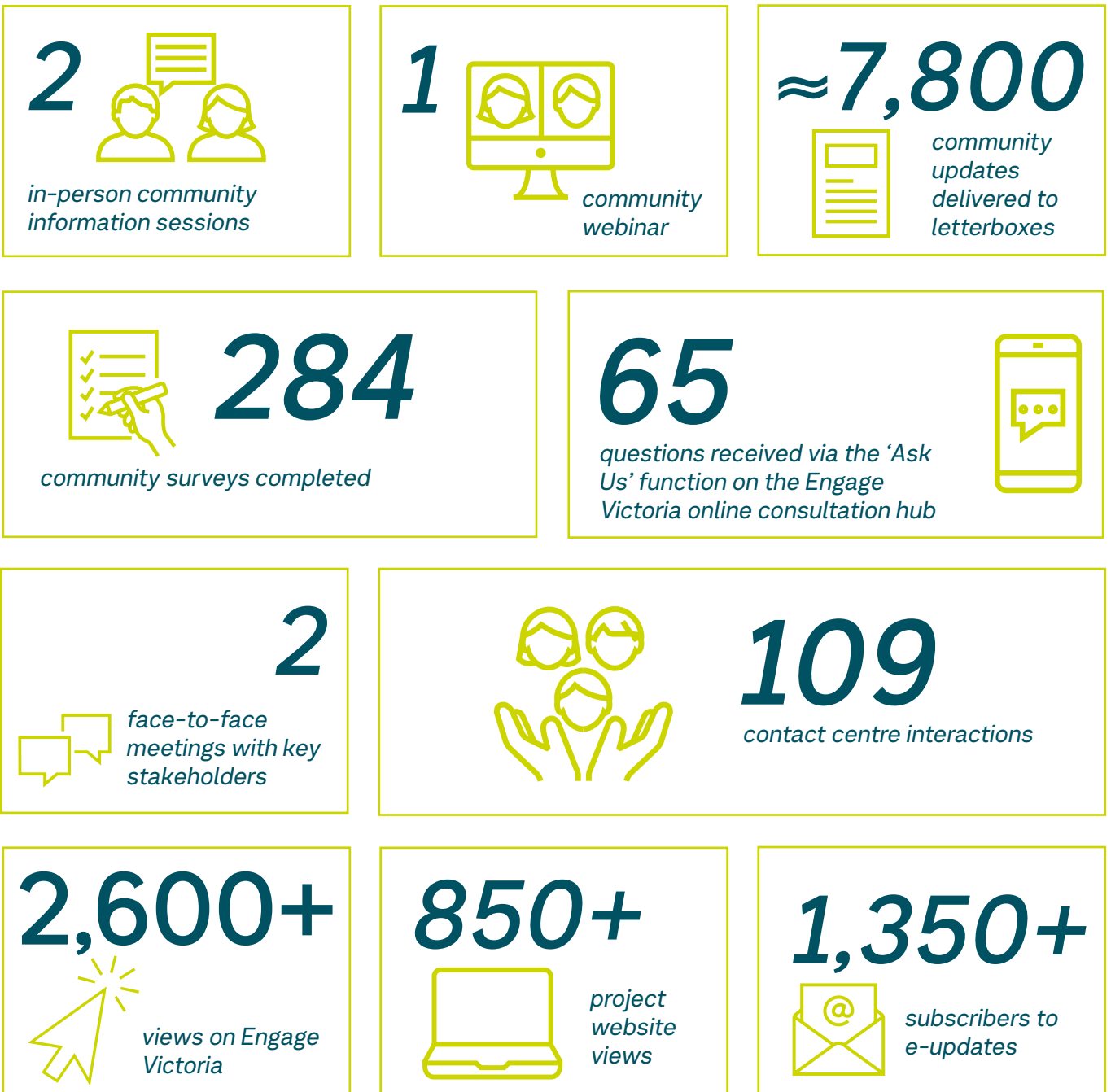
# Consultation summary

Between Monday 29 April and Sunday 9 June 2024, we asked you to share how you move through the Newport area and to provide feedback to help shape designs.

We received more than 280 online and hard copy submissions.

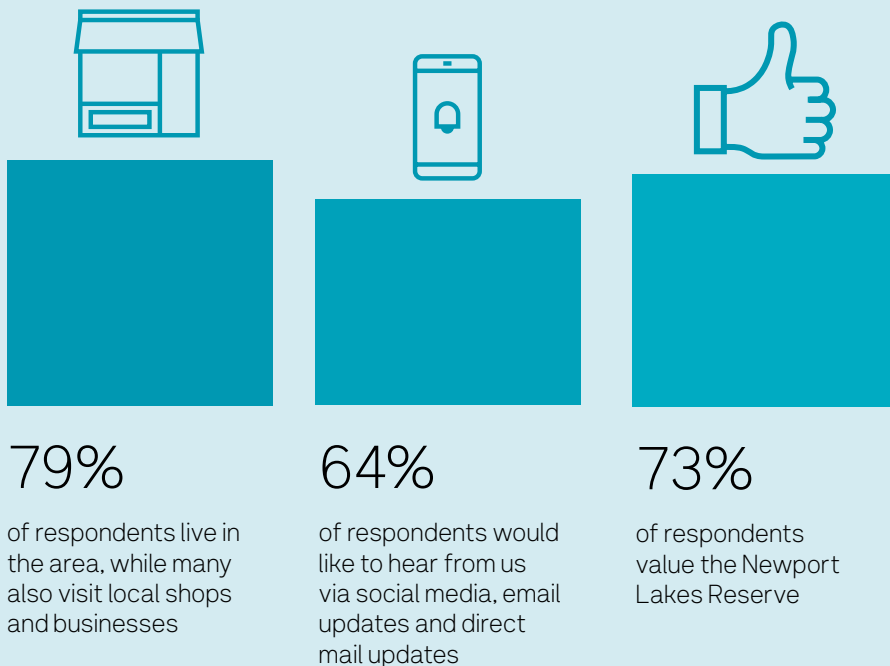
Thank you to everyone who completed the survey. Your feedback has helped us better understand the needs of the community. This combined with safety regulations, our technical assessments and engineering requirements have shaped the project designs.

## How we engaged



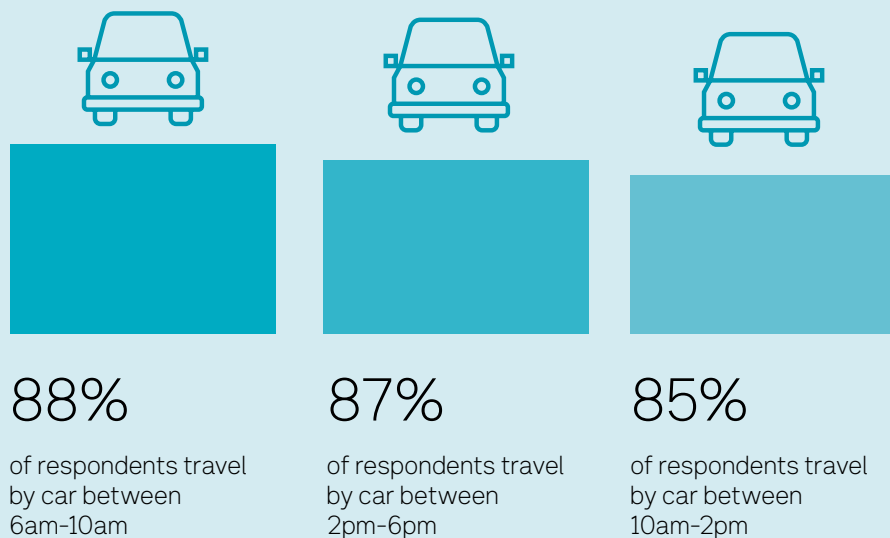
# What we heard: a snapshot

## About the community



## Moving around the local area by car

Throughout Mondays to Fridays:



### Community survey

We invited the Newport and Williamstown North communities to share how they move through the local area and what's important to them.

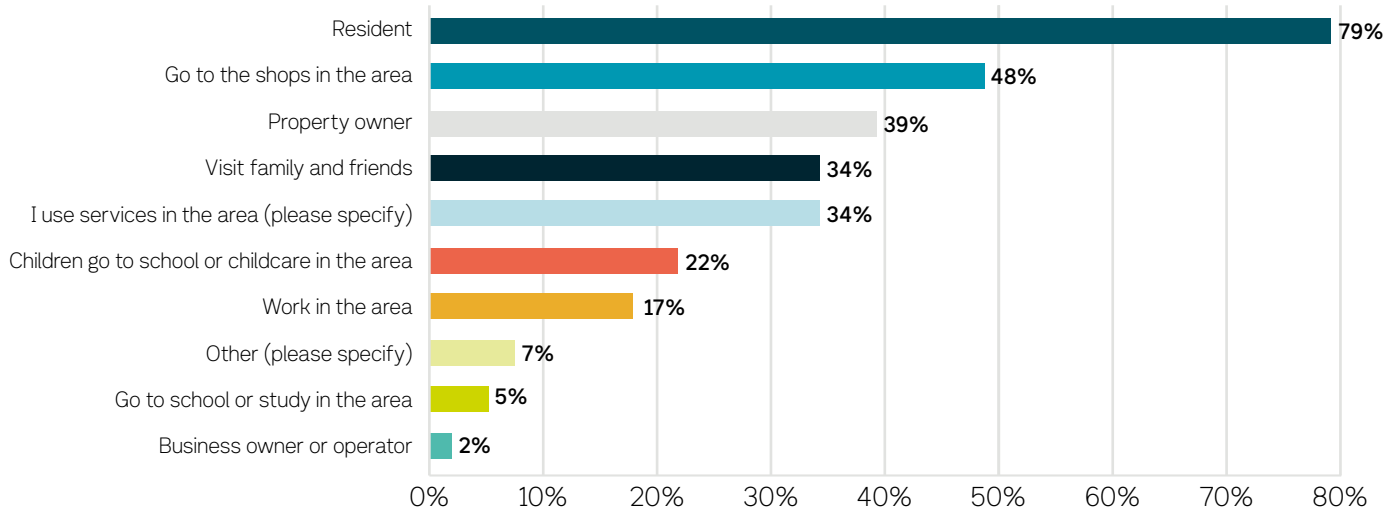
Your feedback, along with our detailed design work, has helped shape the design.



# About you

## What is your connection to the Maddox Road and Champion Road areas?

Respondents were asked to tick all options that applied.

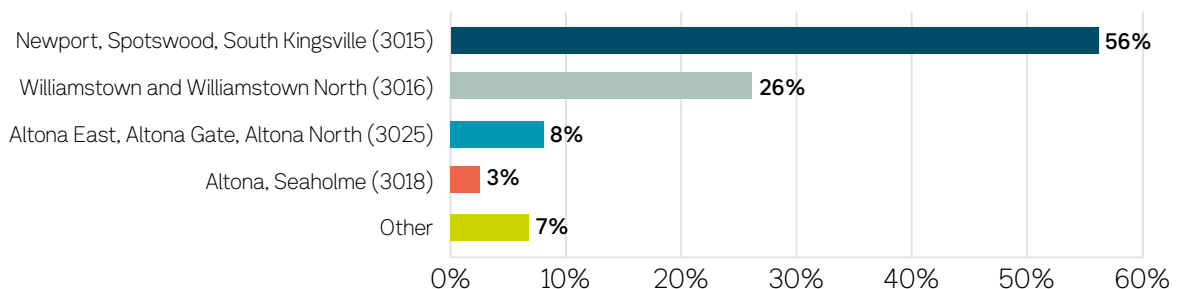


**Almost 80% of survey respondents live in and around Newport.**

Feedback from respondents mentioned that they pass through the level crossings to access amenities to stay active, visit the beach and for education and services.

## What is your postcode?

Respondents were asked which postcode area they reside in.



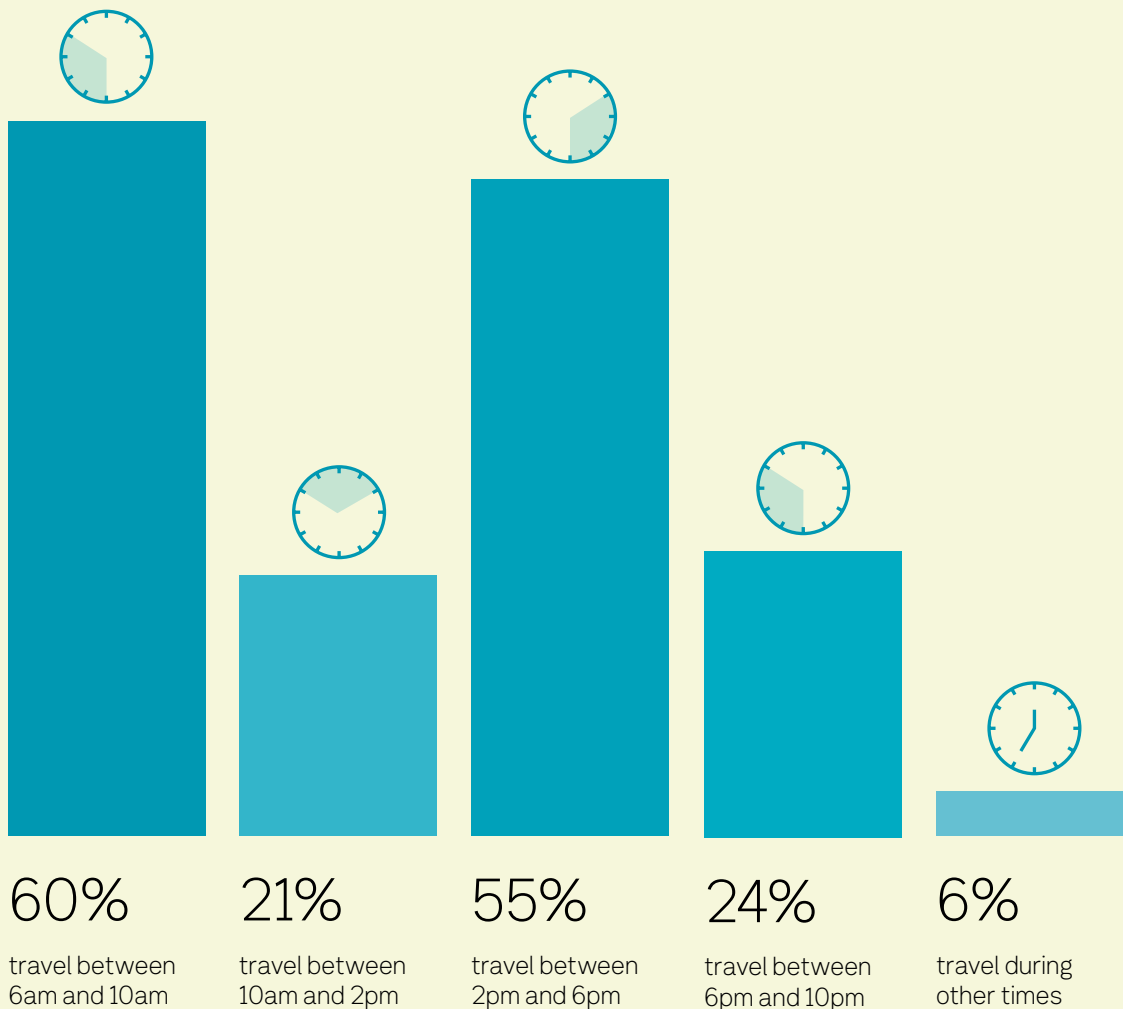
**Over half of the respondents live within three kilometres of the Newport project.**



# How you move through the area – all modes

## What time of the day do you most often travel on a weekday?

Respondents were asked to select up to two options.



**Popular times for travel are between 6am and 10am (60%) and 2pm and 6pm (55%).**

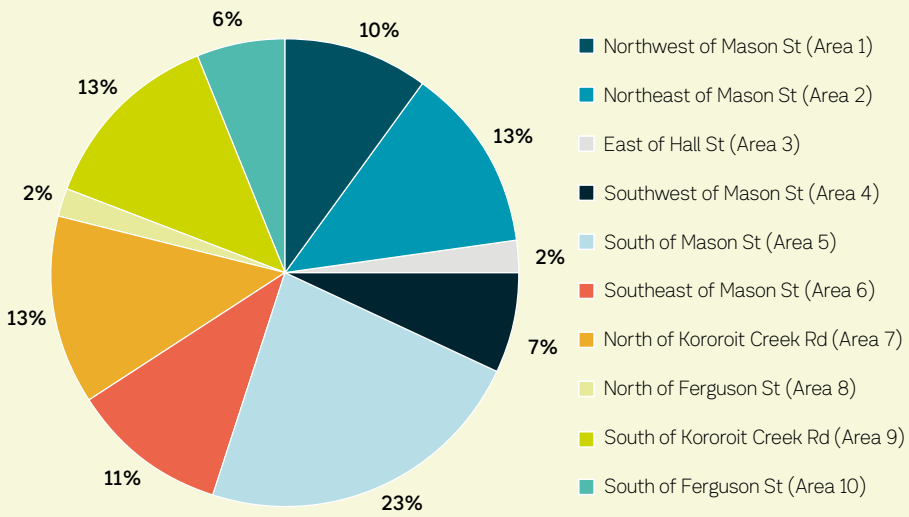
# How you move through the area



6am to 10am

## Origin

Where respondents were most often starting journeys between 6am and 10am.



**Top three origin points**

Your top three origin points were:

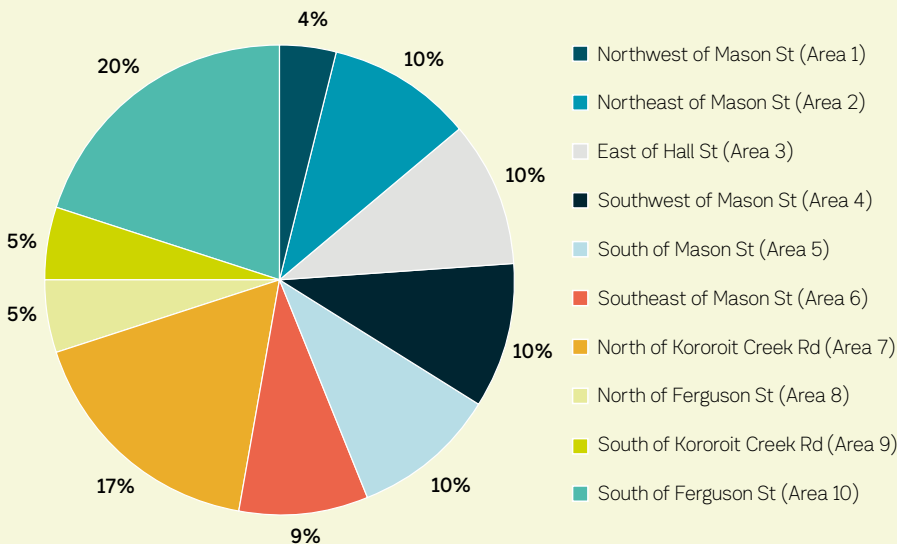
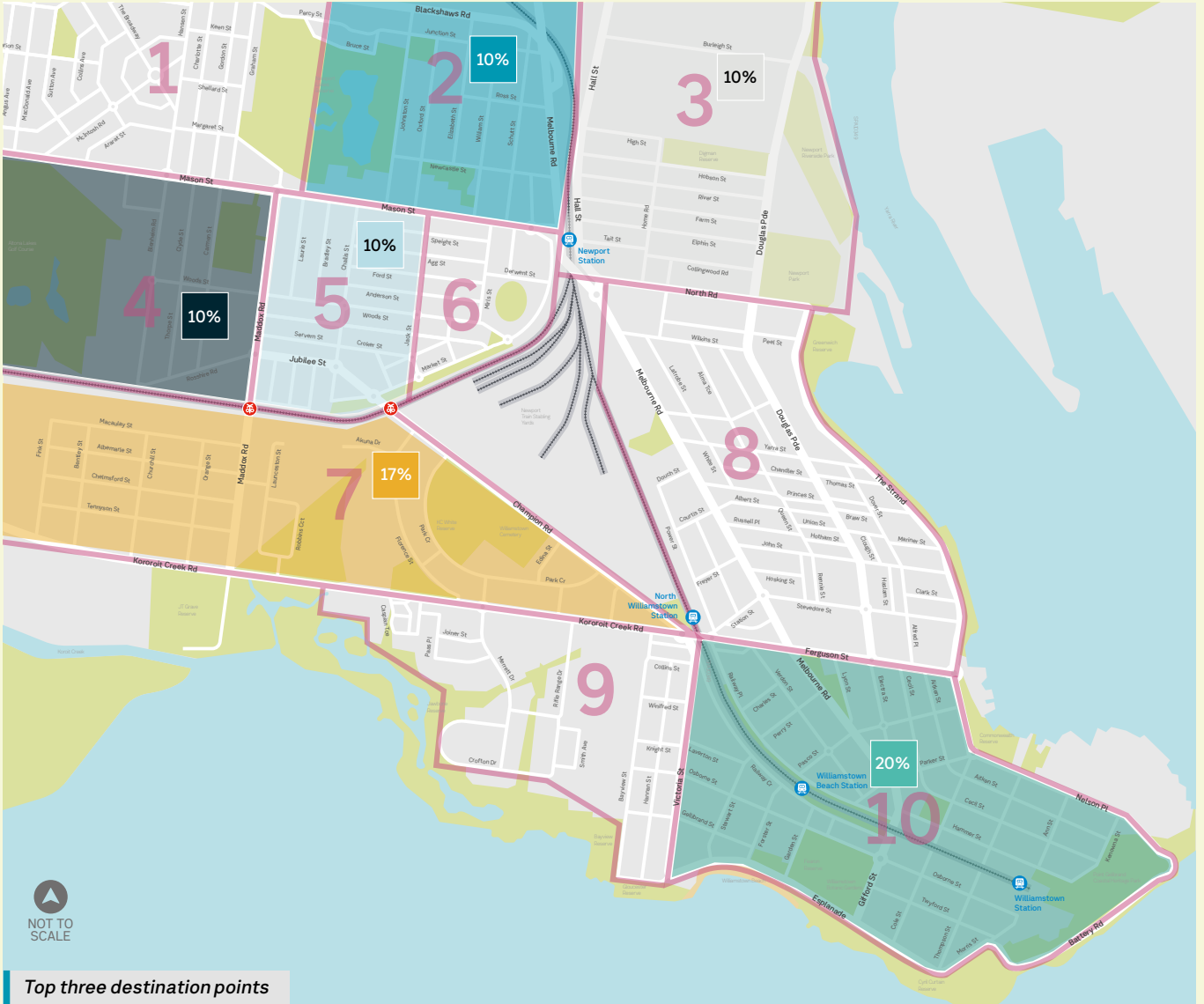
- South of Mason St (Area 5)
- Northeast of Mason St (Area 2), North of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 7), South of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 9)
- Southeast of Mason St (Area 6)



6am to 10am

### Destination


Where respondents were most often ending their journeys between 6am and 10am.



**Top three destination points**

Your top three destination points were:

- South of Ferguson St (Area 10)
- North of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 7)
- Northeast of Mason St (Area 2), East of Hall St (Area 3), Southwest of Mason St (Area 4) and South of Mason St (Area 5)

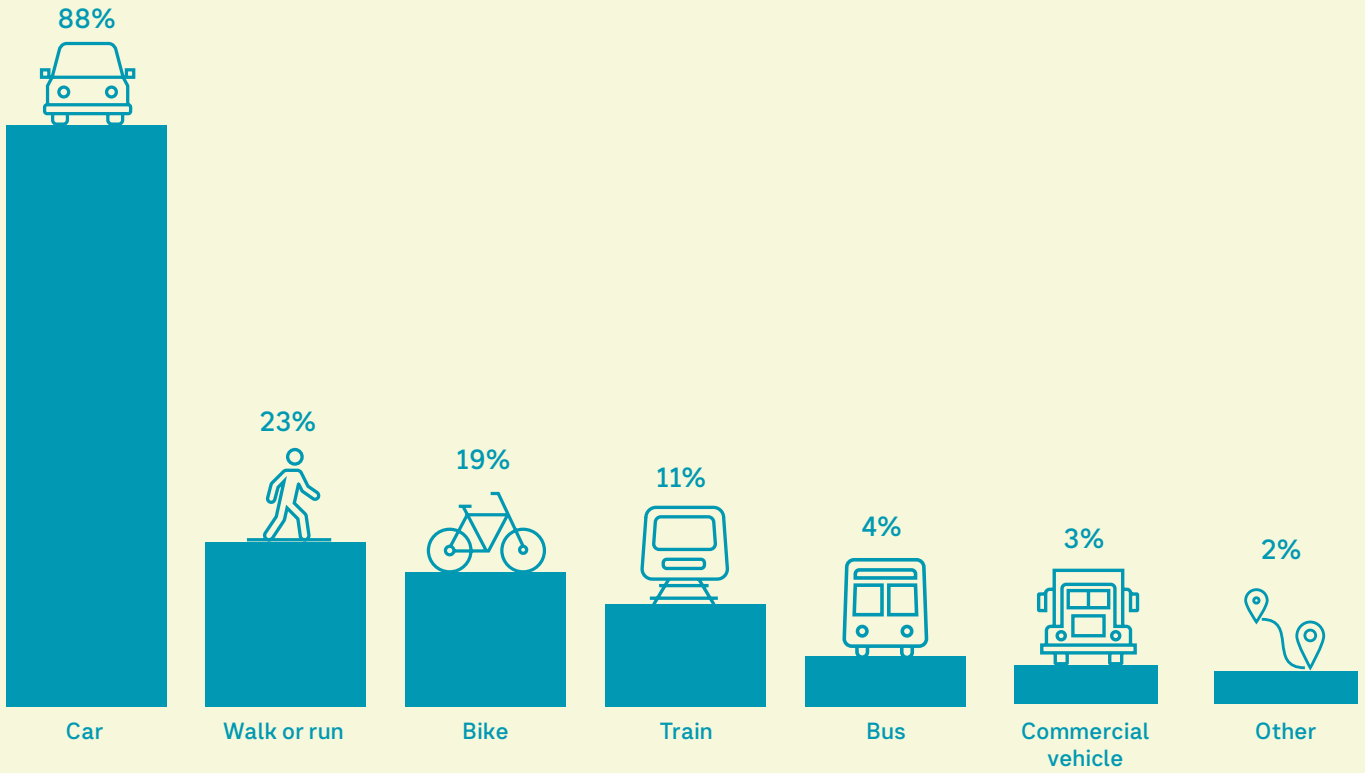




# 6am to 10am

## How the journeys are made

How do you make this journey between 6am and 10am?



Respondents were asked to tick as many options as applicable.

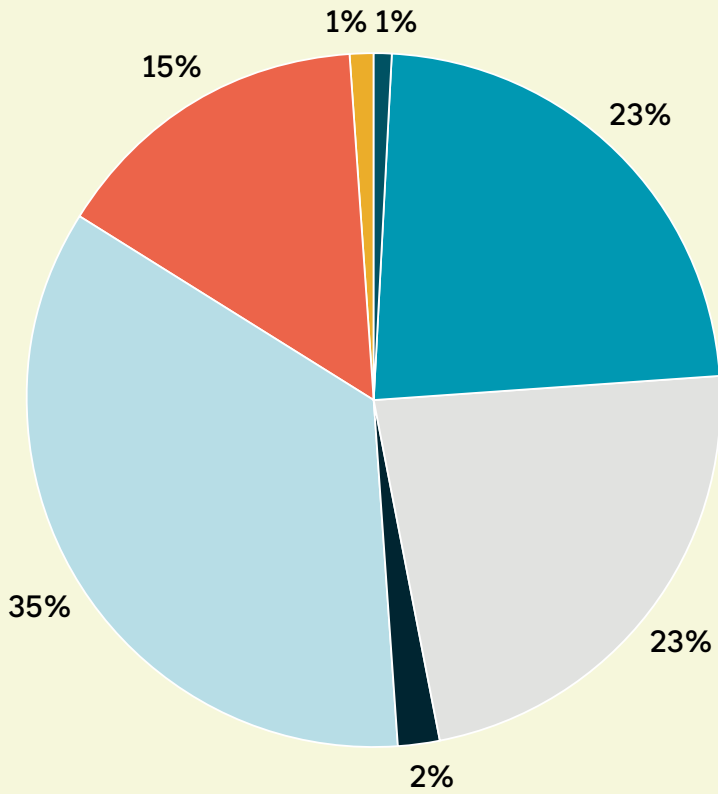




# 6am to 10am

## How often the journeys are made

How often do you make this journey on a weekday between 6am and 10am?



- Once a day, one day
- Once a day, every day
- Once a day, some days
- Multiple times a day, one day
- Multiple times a day, every day
- Multiple times a day, some days
- Less than once a week

Respondents were asked to select one only.



Cars waiting at the boom gates on Maddox Road.

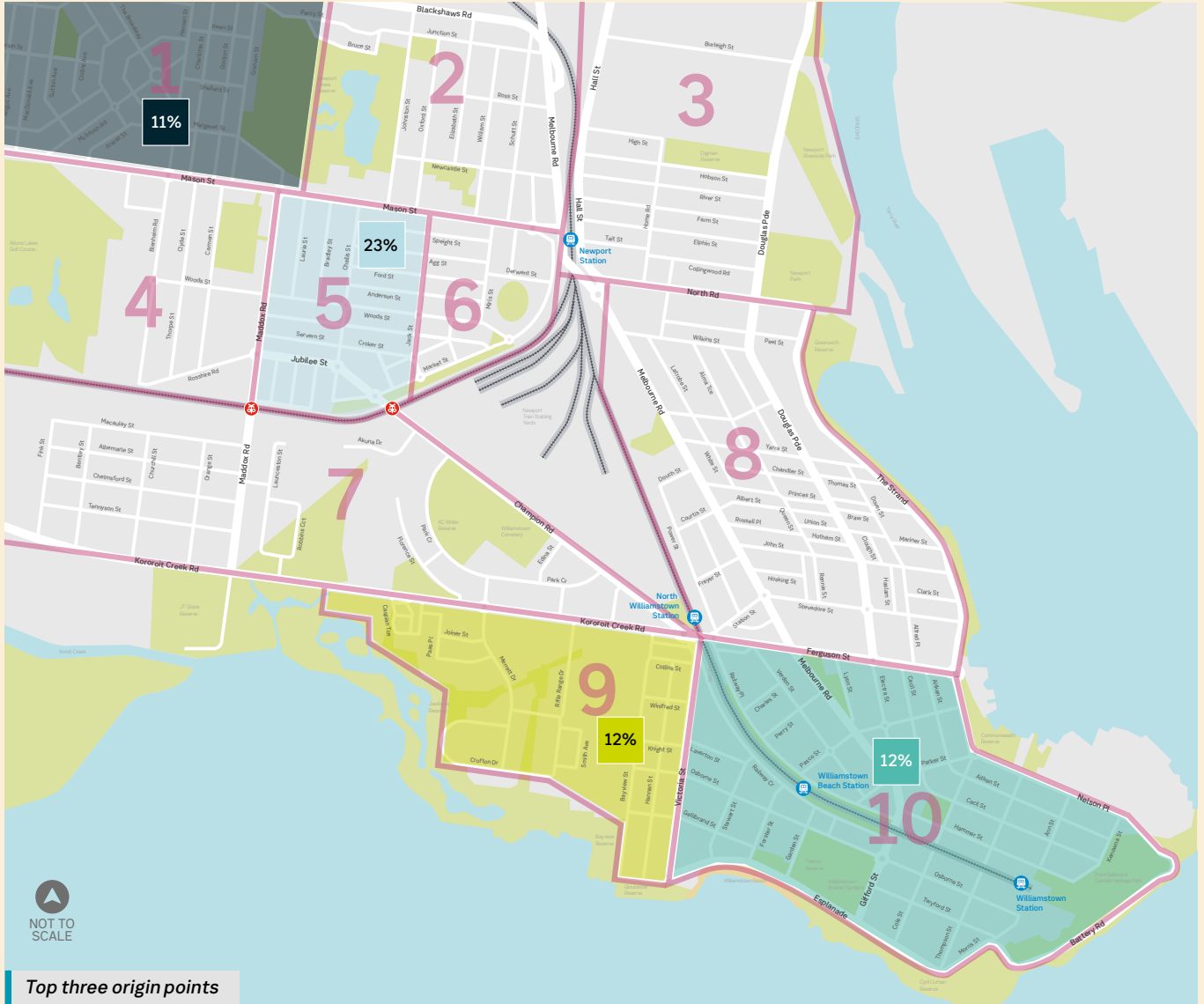
# How you move through the area



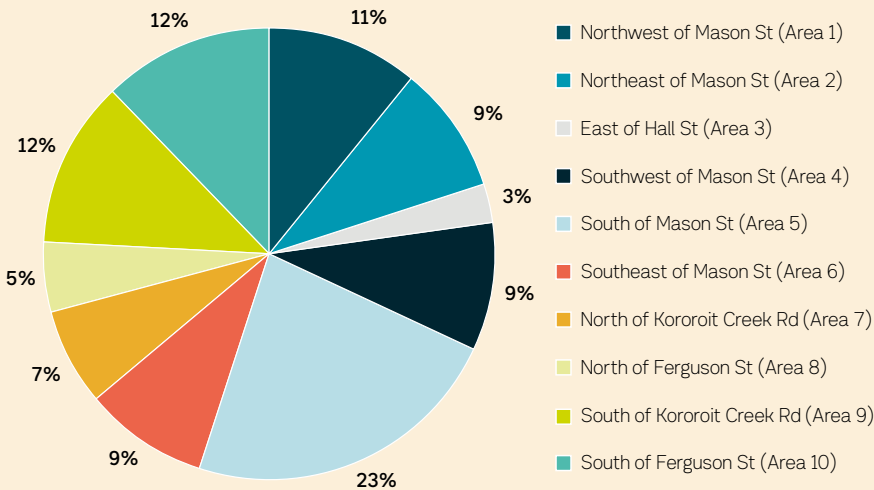
10am to 2pm

## Origin

Where respondents were most often starting journeys between 10am and 2pm.



Top three origin points



### Top three origin points

Your top three origin points were:

- South of Mason St (Area 5)
- South of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 9) and South of Ferguson St (Area 10)
- Northwest of Mason St (Area 1)

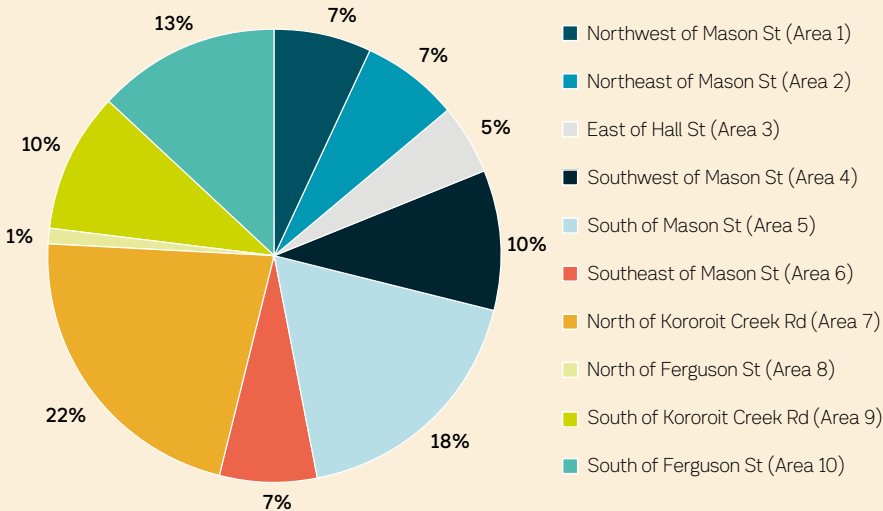




10am to 2pm

### Destination


Where respondents were most often ending their journeys between 10am and 2pm.



**Top three destination points**

Your top three destination points were:

- North of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 7)
- South of Mason St (Area 5)
- South of Ferguson St (Area 10)

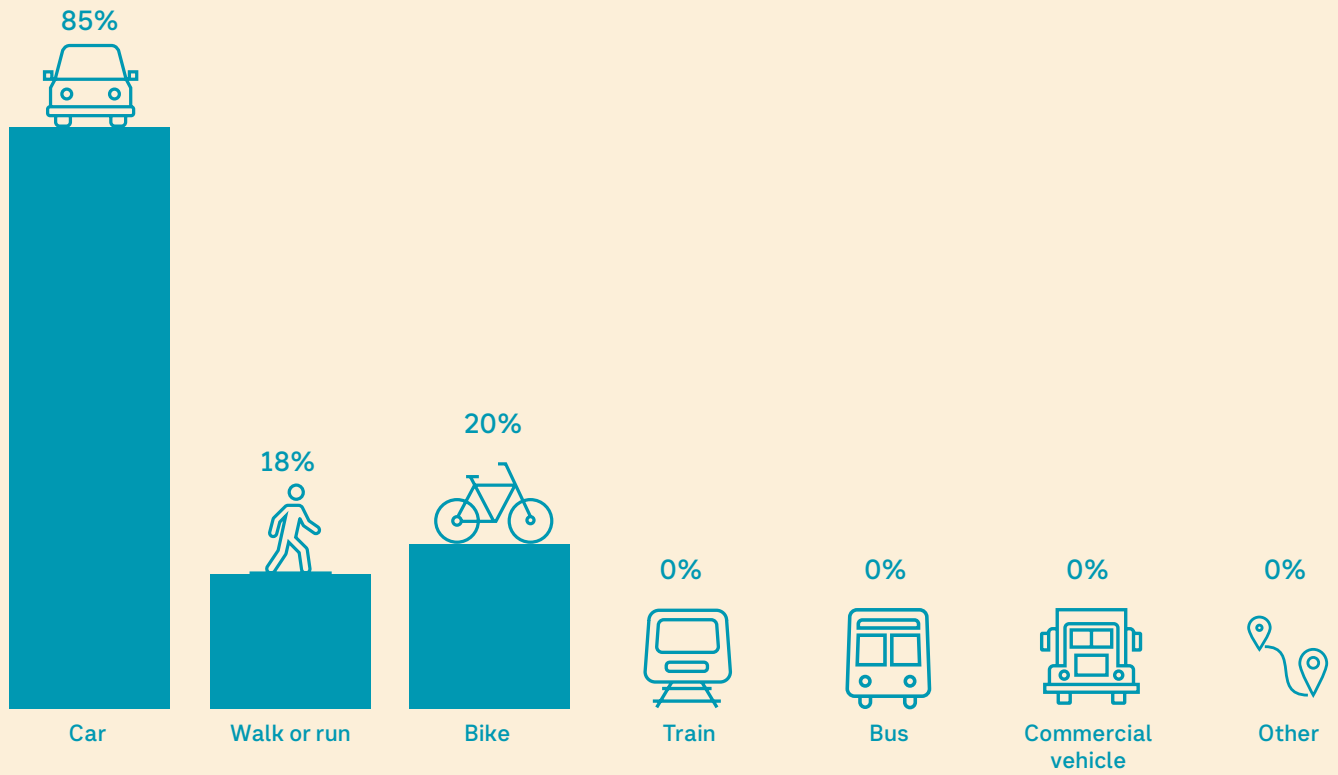




10am to 2pm

## How the journeys are made

How do you make this journey between 10am and 2pm?



Respondents were asked to tick as many options as applicable.



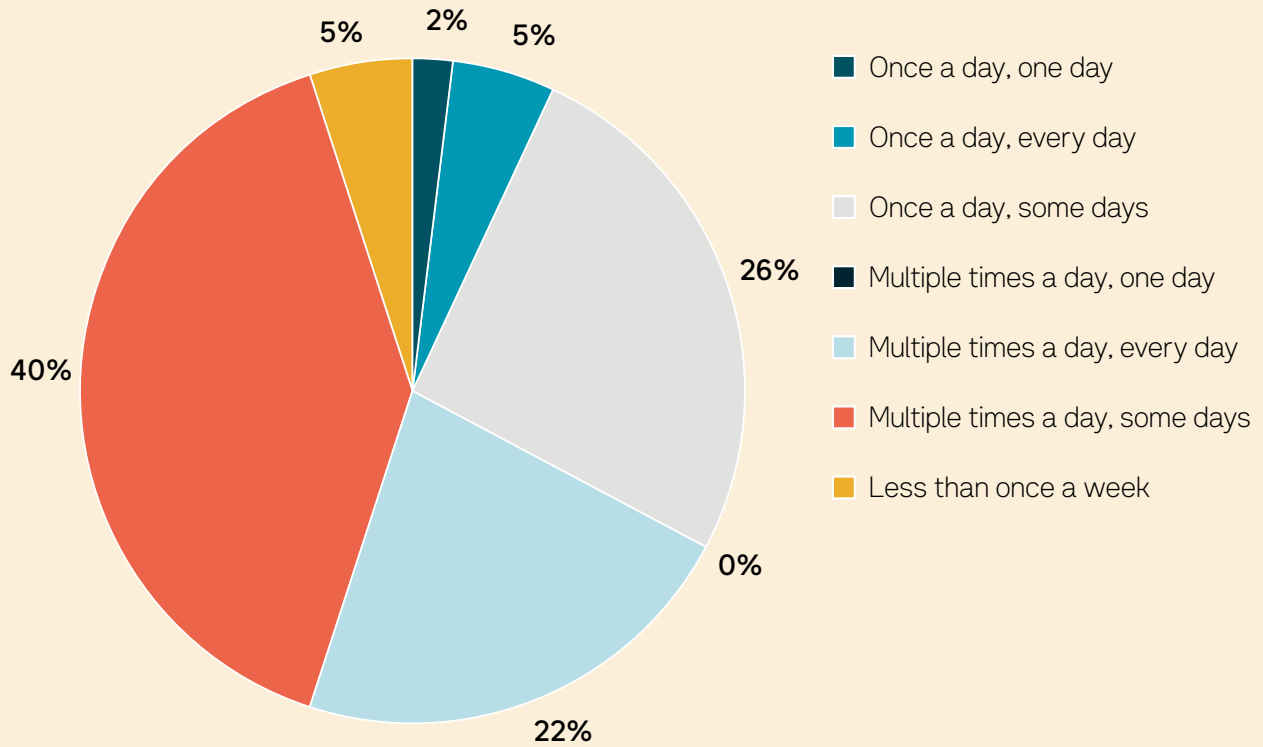




# 10am to 2pm

## How often the journeys are made

How often do you make this journey on a weekday between 10am and 2pm?



Respondents were asked to select one only.



Cars waiting at the boom gates on Maddox Road.

# How you move through the area



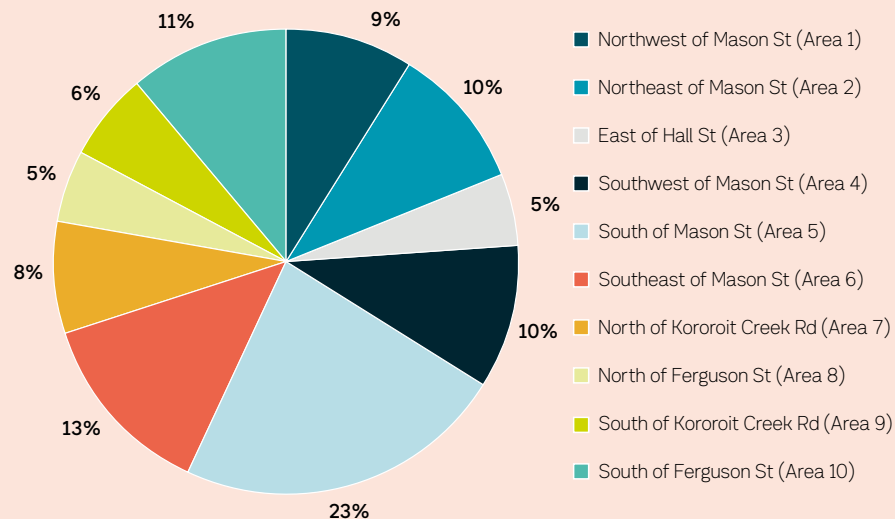
2pm to 6pm

## Origin

Where respondents were most often starting journeys between 2pm and 6pm.




Top three origin points



**Top three origin points**

Your top three origin points were:

- South of Mason St (Area 5)
- Southeast of Mason St (Area 6)
- South of Ferguson St (Area 10)

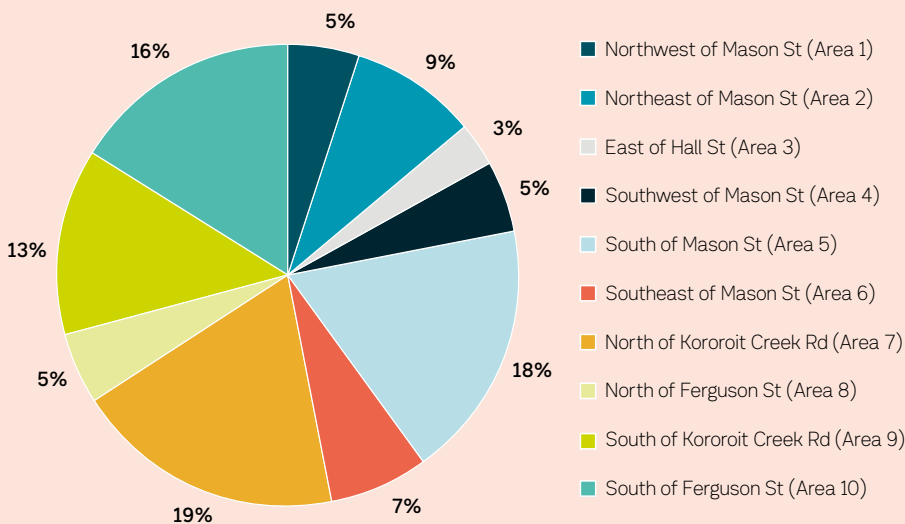




2pm to 6pm

### Destination


Where respondents were most often ending their journeys between 2pm and 6pm.



**Top three destination points**

Your top three destination points were:

- North of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 7)
- South of Mason St (Area 5)
- South of Ferguson St (Area 10)

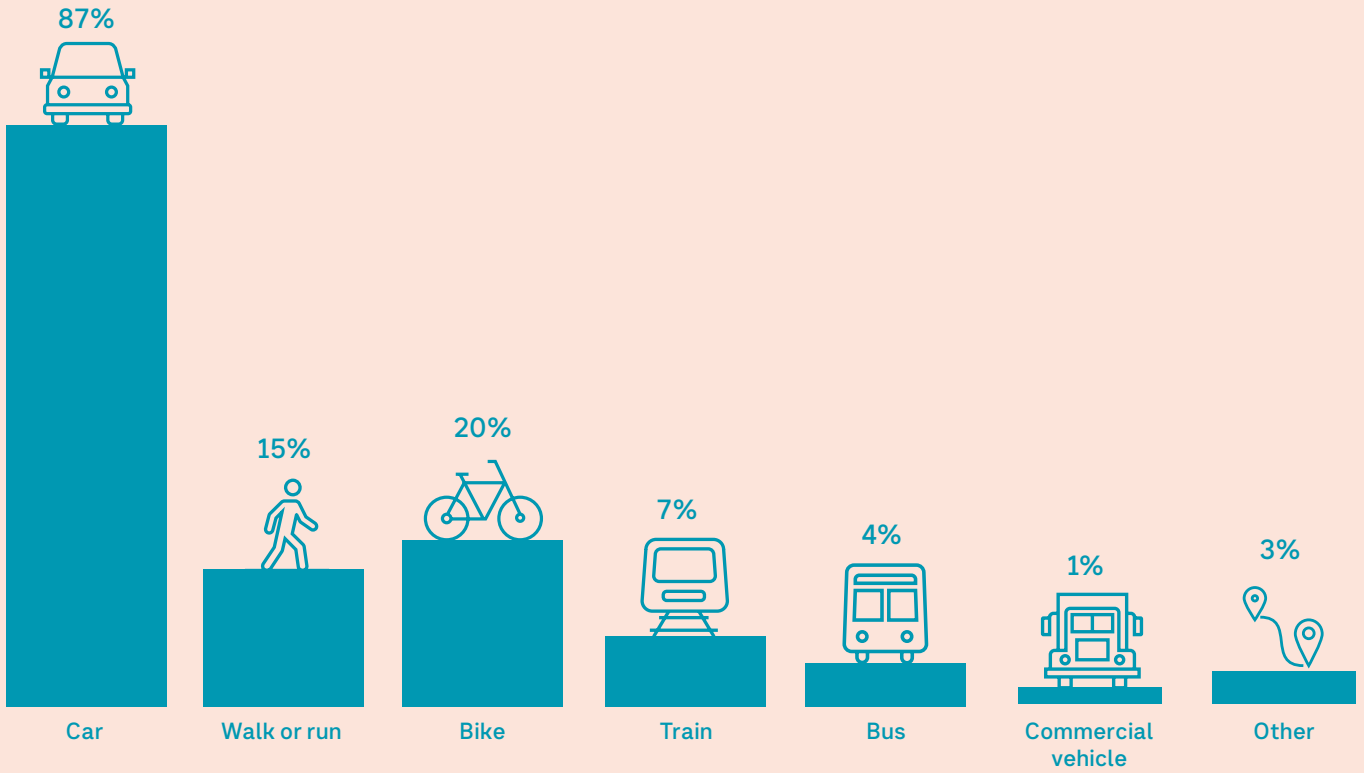




2pm to 6pm

### How the journeys are made

How do you make this journey between 2pm and 6pm?



Respondents were asked to tick as many options as applicable.

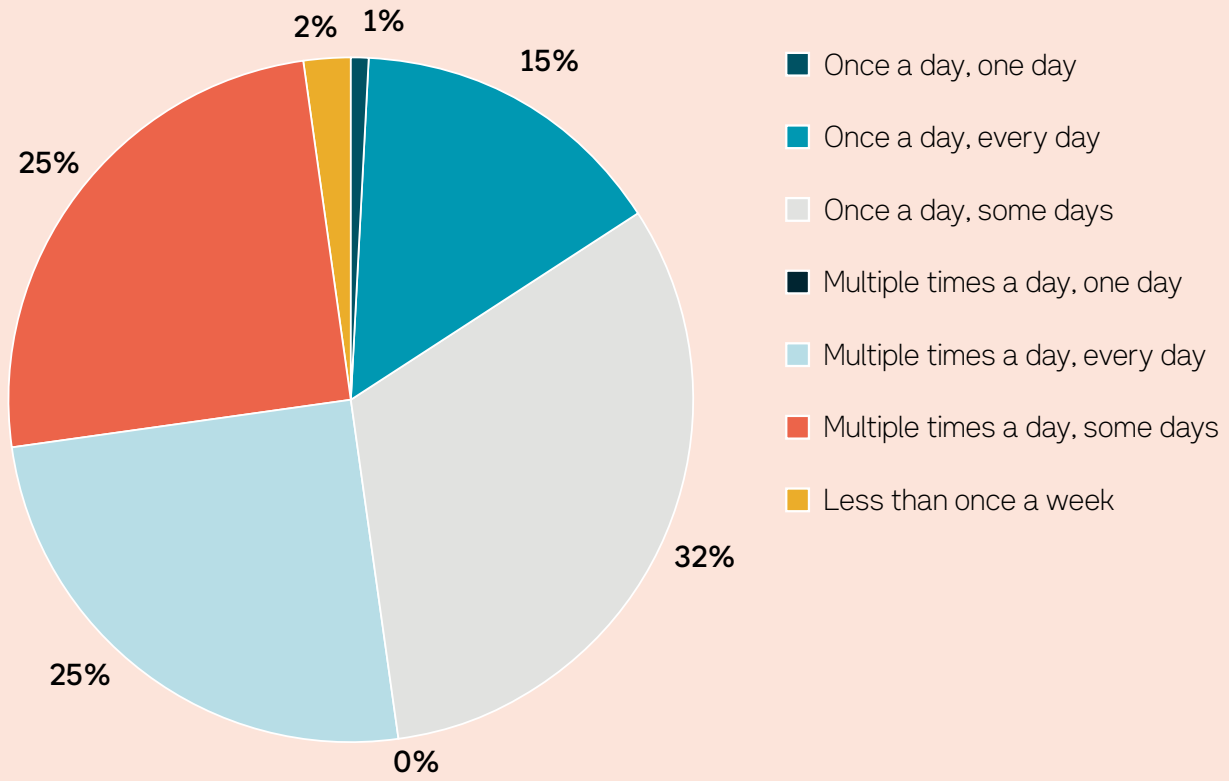




# 2pm to 6pm

## How often the journeys are made

How often do you make this journey on a weekday between 2pm and 6pm?



Respondents were asked to select one only.



Vehicles waiting at Champion Road

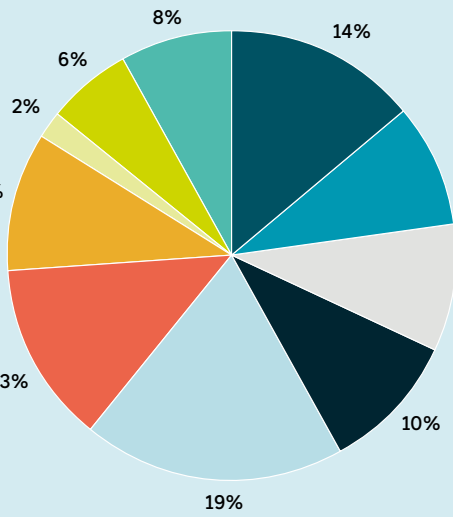
# How you move through the area



6pm to 10pm

## Origin

Where respondents were most often starting journeys between 6pm and 10pm.



- Northwest of Mason St (Area 1)
- Northeast of Mason St (Area 2)
- East of Hall St (Area 3)
- Southwest of Mason St (Area 4)
- South of Mason St (Area 5)
- Southeast of Mason St (Area 6)
- North of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 7)
- North of Ferguson St (Area 8)
- South of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 9)
- South of Ferguson St (Area 10)

**Top three origin points**

Your top three origin points were:

- South of Mason St (Area 5)
- Northwest of Mason St (Area 1)
- Southeast of Mason St (Area 6)





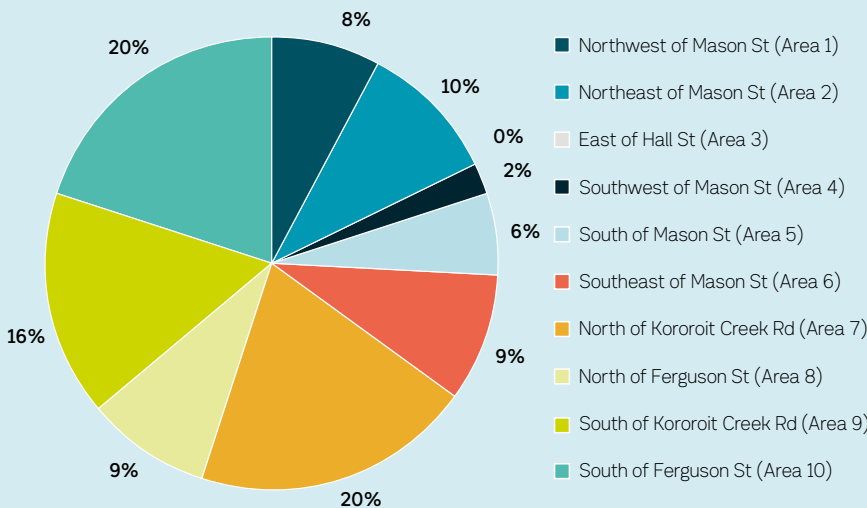
6pm to 10pm

### Destination

Where respondents were most often ending their journeys between 6pm and 10pm.



Top three destination points



### Top three destination points

Your top three destination points were:

- North of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 7) and south of Ferguson St (Area 10)
- South of Kororoit Creek Rd (Area 9)
- Northeast of Mason St (Area 2) and southeast of Mason St (Area 6)

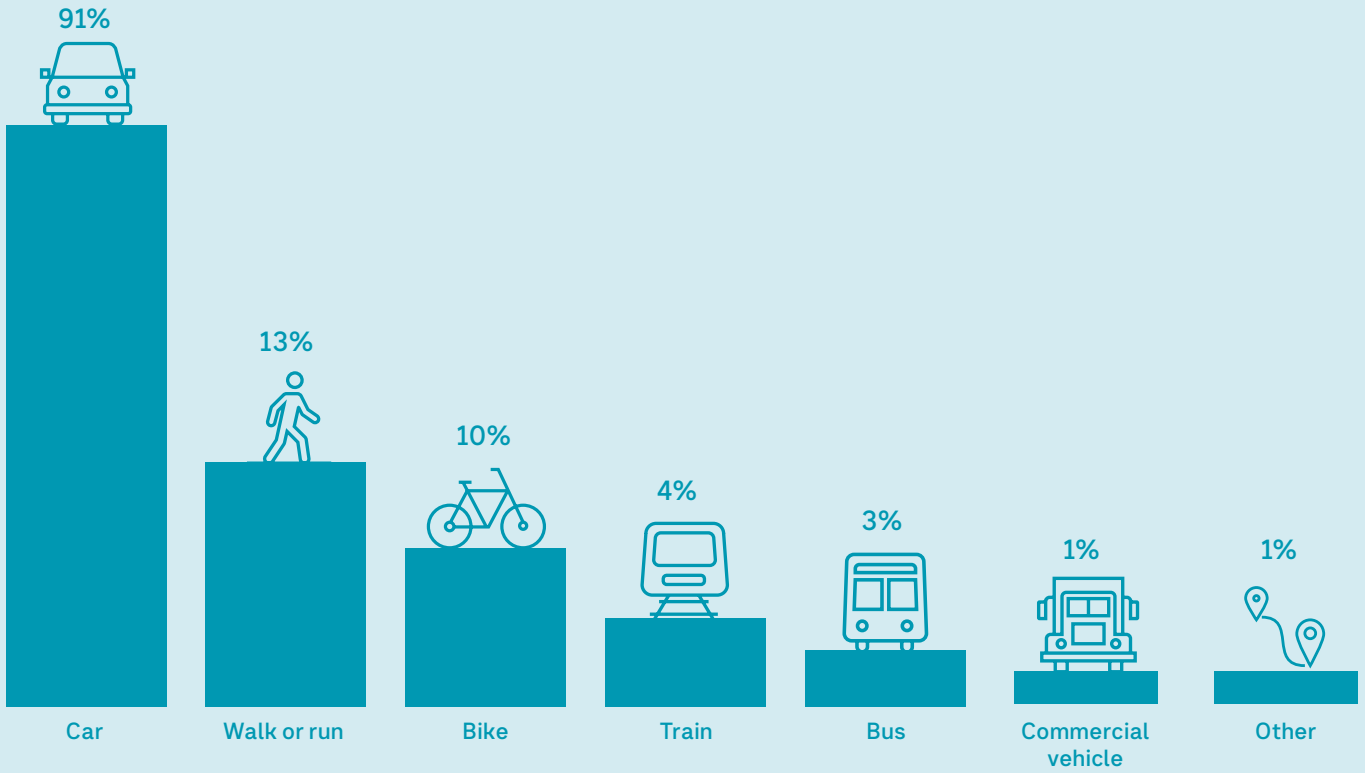




# 6pm to 10pm

## How the journeys are made

How do you make this journey between 6pm and 10pm?



Respondents were asked to tick as many options as applicable.



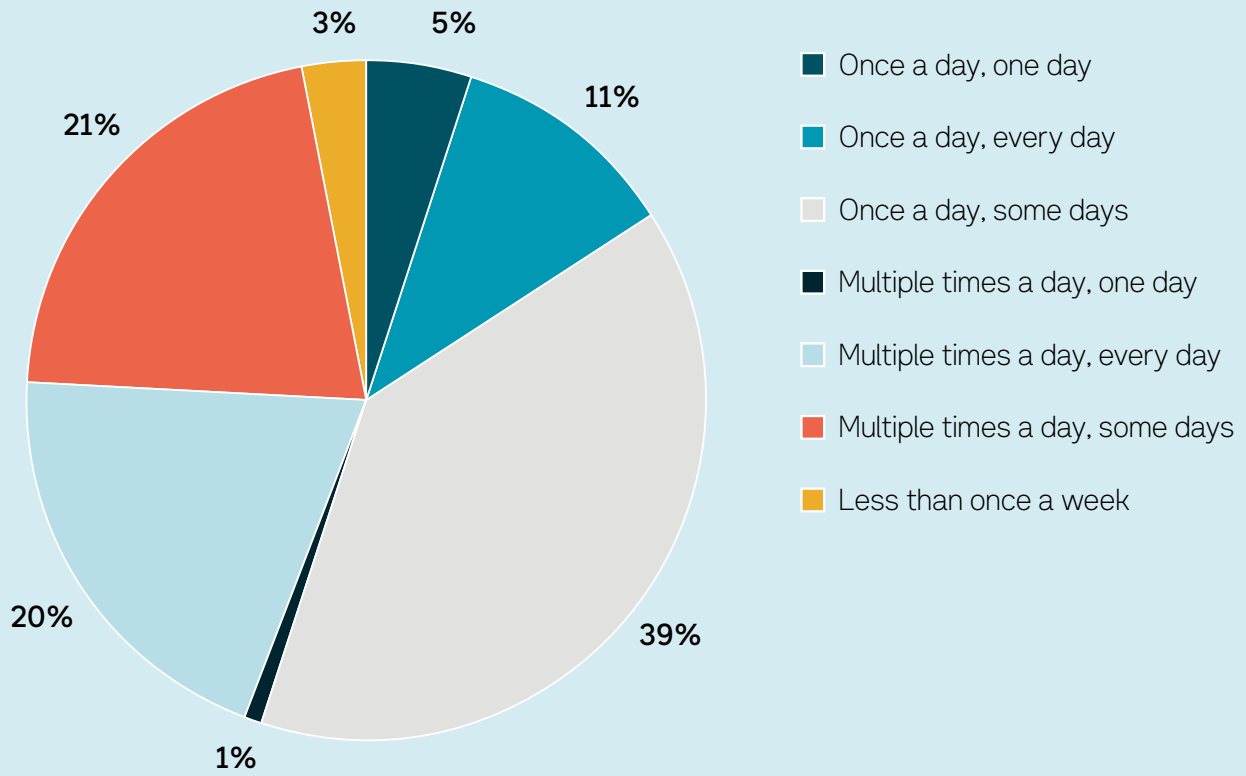




## 6pm to 10pm

### How often the journeys are made

How often do you make this journey on a weekday between 6pm and 10pm?



Respondents were asked to select one only.



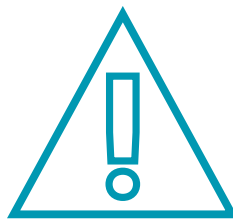
Maddox Road level crossing

# Public space

What would you like us to consider as part of the new public space?

Respondents were asked to select up to five options.

## The top three selected



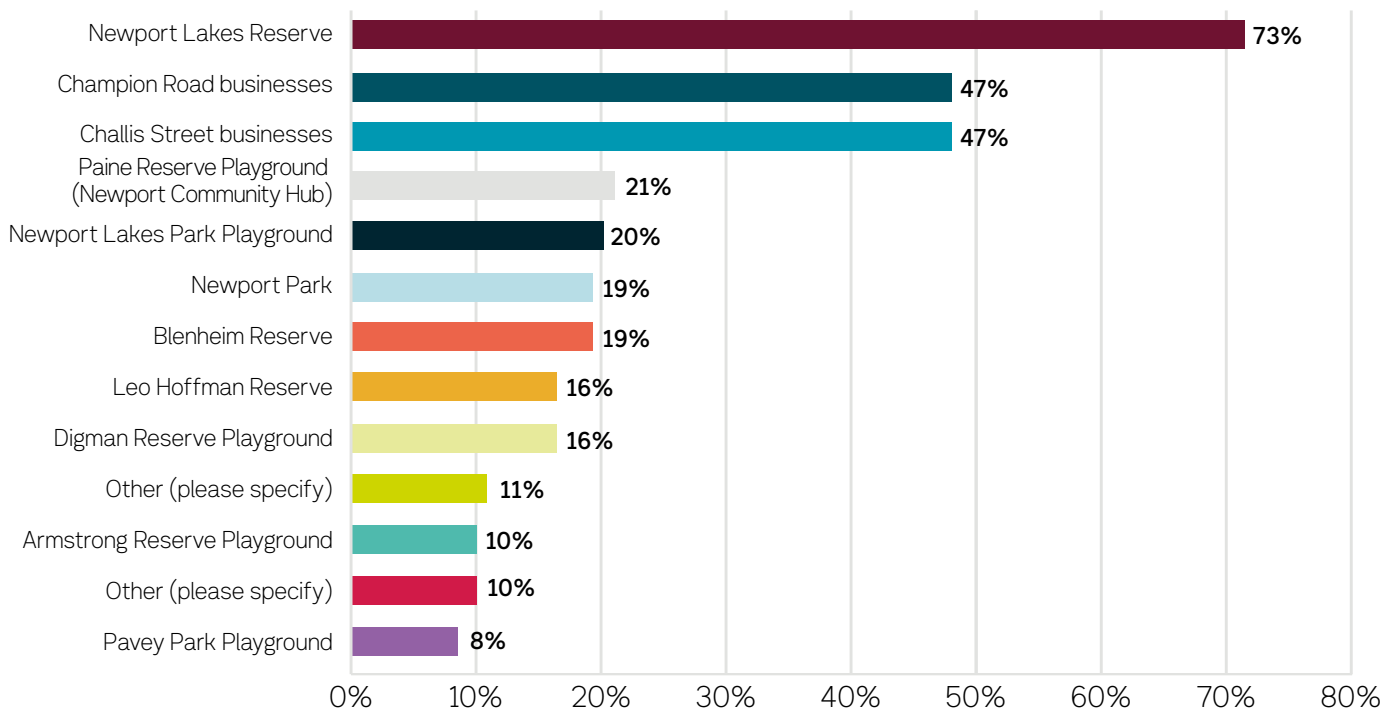
Somewhere to  
enjoy nature

Public safety

Somewhere  
to be active

## What community spaces or places do you value in the Newport area?

Respondents were asked to select as many options as applicable.



**Almost three quarters of respondents value the Newport Lakes Reserve. Community members also value their local businesses.**

# What's important to you

We also asked what else you value about the Newport area and if there was any other feedback you'd like us to consider as part of the project.

We heard that locals value ease of movement around the area, access to transport and proximity to Williamstown and Williamstown Beach. Newport's green spaces and nature were also highly regarded with many references to trees and parks noted.

*“Good access to frequent trains. Close to [the] city, shops, transport.”*

*“I value the small businesses around Newport and Williamstown.”*

*“The greenery and mature trees that are scattered around the suburb are lovely. Please consider planting of natives.”*

*“It's really important for people to be able to freely and safely move between Newport and Williamstown.”*

*“We value the through connection between Newport and Williamstown.”*



Cars waiting at the boom gates on Champion Road.

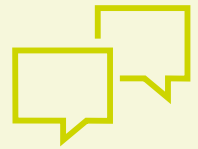
You shared feedback about the closure of Champion Road at the level crossing, noting concerns about safety, traffic and congestion. These issues were highlighted as important considerations for the project.

*“[Our] family previously lived along the railway line and experienced firsthand the congestion and dangerous behaviour of drivers [at] the railway crossings [on] Challis St and Maddox Rd.”*

*“Closing off champion rail crossing to cars makes more congestion on Mason and Melbourne [roads].”*

*“If you go ahead with this, the Akuna [Drive] cut through is a must. You cannot force the community to have to drive [an] extra 10+minutes ...”*

*“If you cannot remove the level crossing without closing Champion [Road] then just leave it as it is!”*



# How we are responding

## What we heard

## How we're delivering



### Closure of Champion Road

Locals do not want to see the Champion Road level crossing closed

- Assessments show a closure is the only feasible way to remove this level crossing, due to site constraints, critical underground services, major disruptions to the Newport Train Stabling Yards and the number of private property acquisition required in the heritage zone
- We'll close Champion Road following the opening of the new link road
- This will ensure the safety and reliability of the rail network and facilitates benefits of future transport projects, including the Metro Tunnel Project when it opens in 2025.



### Safety

Locals have expressed that they highly value safety in getting around the local area

When we develop designs our number one priority is safety, but we also consider traffic movements, land constraints and engineering requirements.

Ways we're improving road safety include:

- Dedicated right turn lanes on Maddox to keep cars moving
- Better visibility and sight lines for drivers, pedestrians and bike riders
- Dedicated walking paths to help separate pedestrians from vehicles along Akuna Drive and Maddox Road
- Removing the interface between drivers, pedestrians and trains with no boom gates.



### Travel times

We have heard that locals are concerned about what their journey times would look like following the closure of Champion Road

The overall road network within the Newport and Williamstown North area will continue to perform well following the closure of Champion Road at the level crossing in 2026.

Our traffic modelling shows that most of the community will use Maddox Road and Melbourne Road via Kororoit Creek Road during peak periods.

The new link road will primarily be used by locals for neighbourhood and local business trips and will, on average, add only two minutes to local journeys.

To support the redistribution of traffic from Champion Road, we're upgrading the intersection at Maddox Road and Kororoit Creek Road.

Improvements include:

- Extending the dedicated right turn lane
- Adjusting traffic signals letting more drivers get through the intersection
- Installing a dedicated U-turn at this intersection allowing more drivers to access businesses without blocking the intersection.

Removing the boom gates will improve traffic flow and create more reliable journeys on Maddox Road and help to maintain the strong performance rating of intersections in the Newport and Williamstown North area.



### Small businesses

Respondents have expressed concerns about impacts to small businesses in the area

- We'll work closely with local businesses to understand what support best suits them
- We'll offer dedicated trader support initiatives as the project moves into construction
- We'll encourage our workforce to shop local.

# Thank you and next steps

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey and provide feedback on how you move around the area.

This information from the community on how you move around is consistent with traffic modelling and has helped us to plan for traffic improvements in the area.

Your responses have been collated and forms part of our technical assessments, which will help shape the project.



## Keeping in touch

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

Call us on **1800 105 105** (anytime) or email us at [contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au](mailto:contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au)

Subscribe to receive email updates by visiting [levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe](https://levelcrossings.vic.gov.au/subscribe) and under Werribee-Williamstown Line, select 'Newport level crossings'

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## Project timeline



### Late 2022

- Project announced



### 2023

- Vision and value engagement
- Early site investigations and planning



### Early 2024

- Planning consultation and community surveys
- Stakeholder Liaison Group meetings begin
- Continue site investigations and planning



### Late 2024

- Design release
- Early works begin



### 2025

- Major works begin



### 2026

- New link road opens
- Champion Road level crossing closed
- Maddox Road level crossing removed
- Newport level crossing free






\* Timeline subject to change.

**levelcrossings.vic.gov.au**

contact@levelcrossings.vic.gov.au



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1800 105 105 (call anytime)     

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