



FERGUSON STREET

Consultation Report

AUGUST 2020

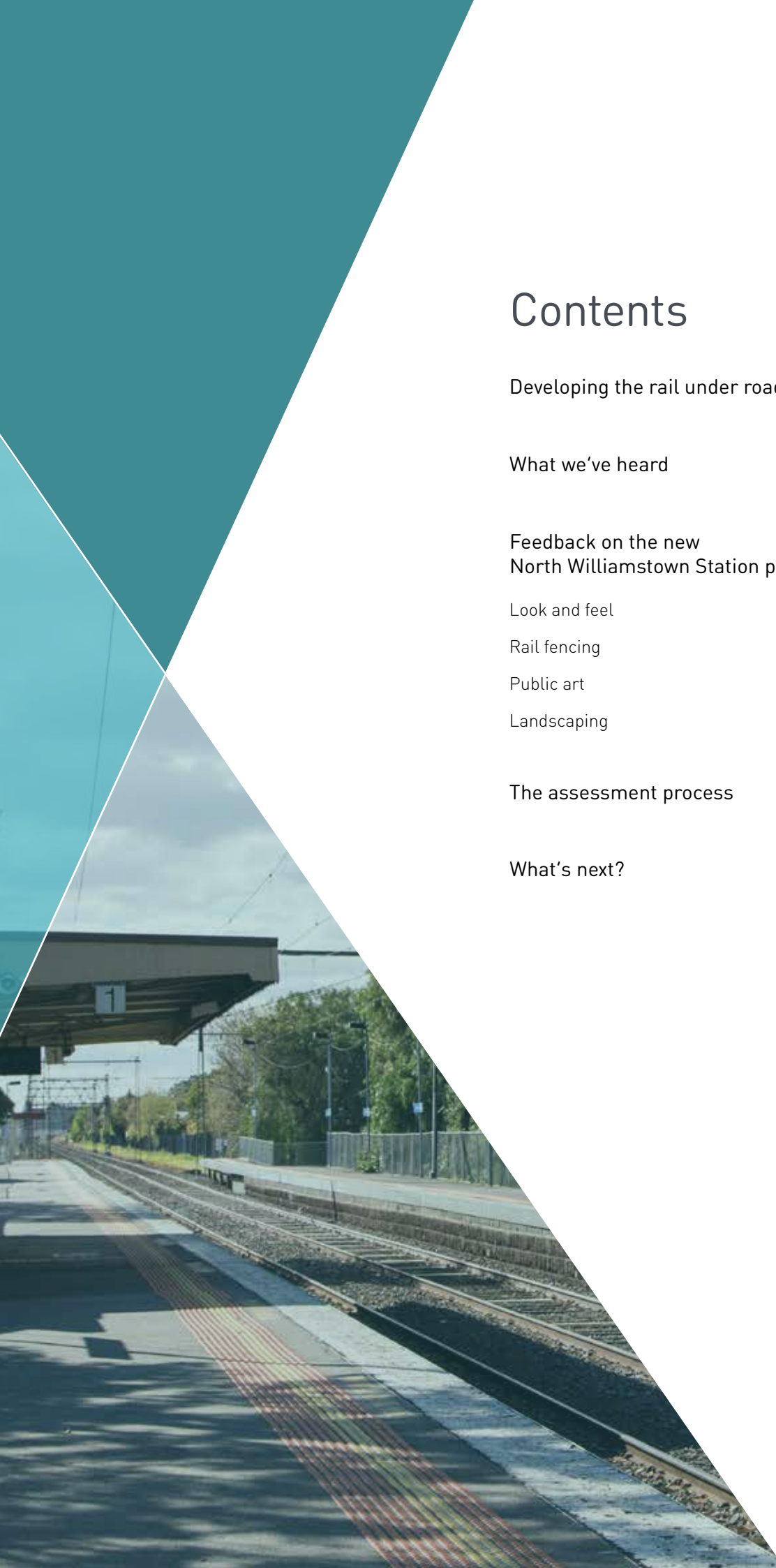
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Contents

Developing the rail under road design	3
What we've heard	5
Feedback on the new North Williamstown Station precinct	6
Look and feel	6
Rail fencing	7
Public art	7
Landscaping	7
The assessment process	8
What's next?	9



DEVELOPING THE RAIL UNDER ROAD DESIGN



Current level crossing at Ferguson Street

We've selected a rail under road design to remove the dangerous and congested level crossing at Ferguson Street, Williamstown.

We will lower the rail line into a trench under Ferguson Street and build a new North Williamstown Station.

Ferguson Street is a key east-west link, with about 25,000 vehicles and more than 110 trains passing through the level crossing each weekday.

Removing this level crossing will mean no more waiting at the boom gates, which will improve traffic flow and allow pedestrians to safely and easily access the new North Williamstown Station.

The level crossing will be removed in 2022.

Level of feedback

In this phase of consultation, we showed the community the rail under road design and asked for your feedback on the look and feel of the project.

Feedback during this phase of consultation came via two main channels:

- online and printed surveys
- the online engagement hub and call centre.

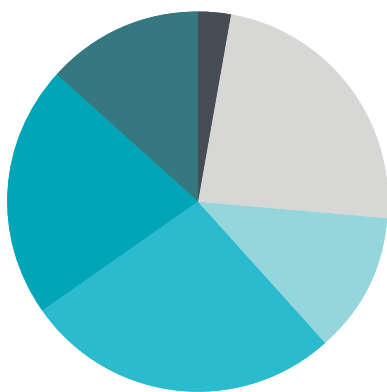


WHAT WE'VE HEARD

Most people visit North Williamstown Station at least a few times a week.

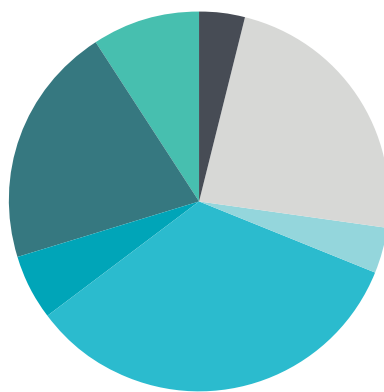


Visitor frequency



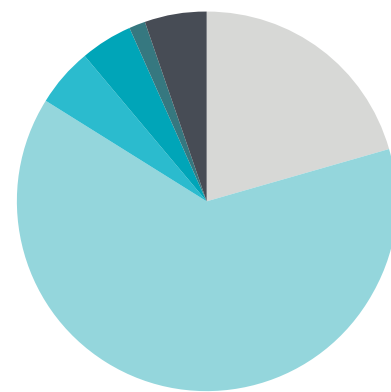
- Every day
- Every Monday to Friday
- A few times a week
- A few times a month
- Rarely visit
- Other

Reason for visit



- Transport to or from work
- Transport to or from school
- Using the local park
- Transport to or from city (for reason other than work or school)
- Walking through
- Cycling through
- Other

Getting to North Williamstown Station



- Drive and park
- Walk
- Cycle and park bike
- Cycle and take bike with you
- Bus
- Other

Design vision and using the space

We developed three design intents for the North Williamstown Station precinct and asked you to rank them from one to three, with one being the most important.

Creating a well-connected and safe precinct ranked as the most important design intent, followed by strengthening the local neighbourhood's character and identity. Creating and connecting community spaces was ranked as the least important design intent.

We also showed a map of the area and asked the following questions.

How you would like to be able to use the new station precinct?

Note - respondents could select multiple options.

- Public transport connections only (59%)
- A place with shelter and shade (56%)
- A place to sit and relax (43%)
- A place to meet friends and family (34%)

What would be the best use of the new station areas?

Note - respondents could select multiple options.

- Garden spaces (80%)
- Places to sit and relax (55%)
- Public art spaces (38%)
- More bike parking (35%)
- A play space (32%)
- Space for exercise (21%)

FEEDBACK ON THE NEW NORTH WILLIAMSTOWN STATION PRECINCT



We showed some images featuring a range of colours and materials and asked you to tell us which ones resonated with you, and how they could be reflected in the final design.

Top three ideas for the area's look and feel

Native vegetation and landscaping

- 44% of people said it was important for the station precinct to have a natural feel, with native vegetation, greenery and landscaping incorporated into the design.

Heritage and village feel

- 17% of people told us it is important that the design is in keeping with the heritage and village feel of Williamstown, with links to coastal, maritime and railyard themes mentioned.

Well-defined pathways

- 15% of people said they would like the area to include well-defined and connected pathways lined with greenery to enhance the natural feel of the area.

Rail fencing

A fencing design featuring community or public artwork was ranked most important by the community, followed by a simple vertical design and then a panel design.

Public art

We showed you some examples of public art from across Melbourne, such as screening, installations and sculptures.

Incorporating art into the design

Reflect Williamstown's history and heritage

- 32% of people said they would like public art to reflect the area's history and heritage, including links to coastal, maritime and railyard themes.

Sculptures, murals and modern art

- 27% of people said they would like to see sculptures, murals or modern art that fits with the local area, similar to the examples from across Melbourne.

Fencing and screening

- 18% of people said they would like to see fencing and screening using imagery that references Williamstown's history.

Landscaping

We heard it is important for the community to see a mix of landscaping in the area, with 55 per cent of people saying they would like to see a mix of plantings, trees, concrete, paving and grass.



THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS



How your feedback is used

Community considerations

At each development stage we ask for your input.



Environmental considerations

For example:

- loss of trees and bushes
- underground water levels.



Technical considerations

For example:

- utilities along and below the road and rail line
- ground conditions and natural features
- narrow rail corridor.



We consider all these factors when making assessments of the potential designs as we move towards a final design.

Usually, no single factor is decisive in developing a design, rather a combination of factors and an assessment of how each benefits or impacts the local area.

We want to find the design that best meets the needs of the site.

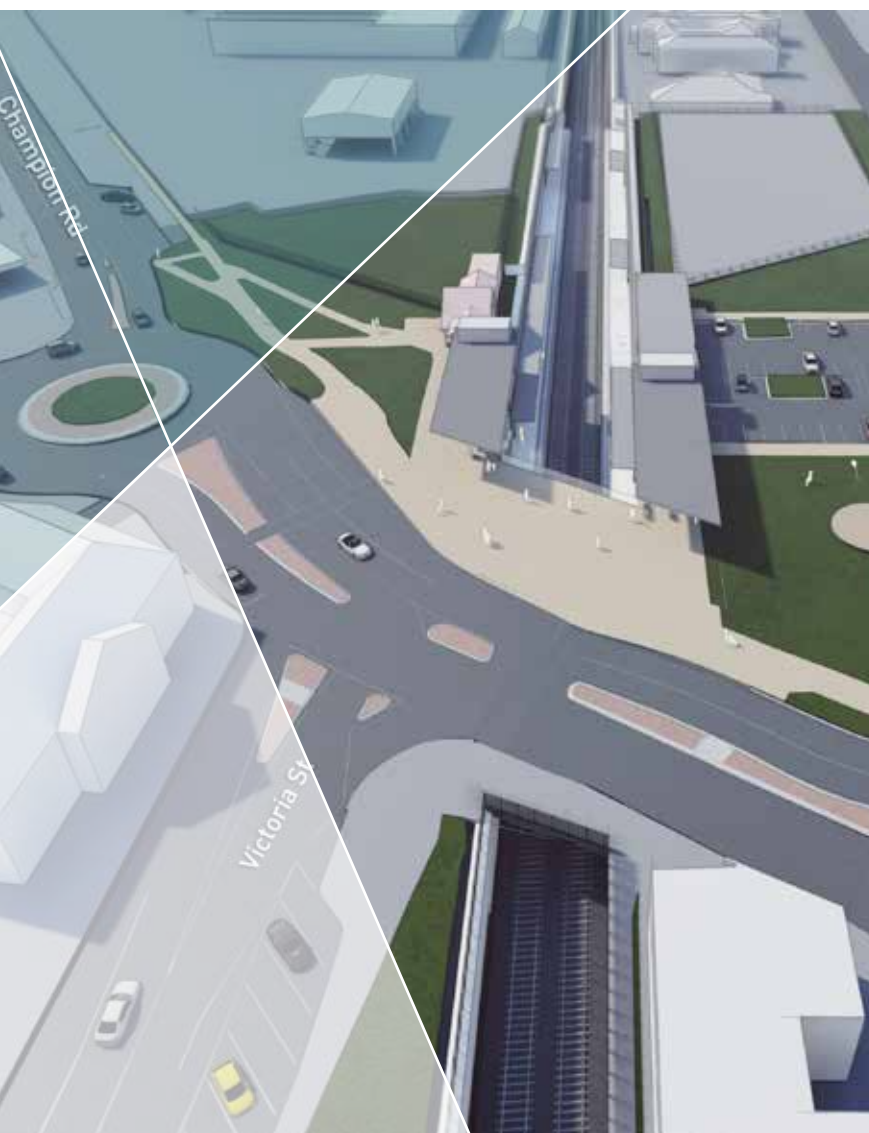
WHAT'S NEXT?

Now that we have heard your feedback about the look and feel of the new station precinct, work will continue to develop the design to remove the Ferguson Street level crossing and build a new North Williamstown Station.

We've undertaken site investigations in and around the level crossing and station area to better understand the environmental conditions. This information, along with technical assessments and community feedback will help us determine the best urban design elements to fit the area.

In September–October we will show you designs for the new North Williamstown Station Precinct. Then later this year we'll present a final design to the Williamstown community. We'll also explain the construction of the rail under road and new station designs.

**Construction will begin in early 2021,
and the level crossing will be gone in 2022.**



Project timeline

- ✓ **November 2019**
Getting to know the area
Community input helped us understand what is important to Williamstown locals.
- ✓ **Early 2020**
Preliminary assessment
Investigations helped us gain an understanding of the area and tell us what additional detailed investigations are needed as we further refined the design options for this site.
- ✓ **March 2020**
Detailed investigations and community feedback
We explained the potential designs and asked for feedback. This helped us determine the preferred design. We also undertook detailed technical investigations.
- ✓ **June 2020**
Preferred design
We've selected a rail under road design and continued its development. We asked the community for feedback on the look and feel of the design.
- **September – October 2020**
Updated concept designs released
We'll show the community the updated design and continue to work through its development.
- **Late 2020**
Final design
We'll announce the final design and start talking to the community about construction in more detail. We'll ask the community for further feedback on the look and feel of the design.
- **2021–22**
Level crossing removed
We'll seek your feedback on how things are working and if there is anything we can do to make the construction phase easier for the community.

**Timeline above subject to change*

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