Attachment B

Engagement Report

Improving Victoria Street, Darlinghurst

2025

Engagement report

From 8 September to 20 October 2025, we asked the community for feedback on our proposal to upgrade Victoria Street to be safer and more enjoyable for people walking and riding, make the area greener and support local businesses by providing permanent outdoor dining space. To do this, we're proposing to reduce the existing 2 traffic lanes to one lane. The project includes features to calm traffic and improve walking and riding, including:

- upgrading the existing asphalt footpath to concrete pavers
- a new two-way separated cycleway on the eastern side of Victoria Street
- footpath widening, kerb upgrades and pedestrian ramp upgrades to improve accessibility
- creating permanent space for outdoor dining
- upgrading the existing crossing at Surrey Street to a raised pedestrian crossing
- new garden beds along the street and new furniture, including a bubbler, bike parking and seating
- planting around 10 new trees, which will increase the tree canopy by around 25% to help cool and green the street.

We also plan to place overhead electrical cables underground and install new smartpoles with LED streetlights. This will require changes to utility connections to buildings.

The design has no parking loss, but this may change as the design progresses. We'll aim for net zero loss and minimise any possible parking reduction.

Purpose of the engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

- notify stakeholders of the proposal.
- gather feedback from stakeholders and the community.

Submissions received during consultation.

We received a total of 219 responses via an online survey, interactive map, phone calls and emailed submissions.

- 17 survey submissions – all submissions were supportive of the proposal
- 164 comments from 75 stakeholders using the interactive map
- 69 email submissions

The Sydney Your Say page was visited 1,869 times during the consultation period.

Key findings

Design feedback and suggestions	City of Sydney response
Support for the cycleway	The inclusion of the cycleway aligns with the City's Cycling Strategy and Action Plan.
Support of widening footpaths, adding greenery and outdoor dining	The proposed public domain upgrade aligns with the City's 'A City for Walking' Strategy and Action Plan.
Concerns about potential issues with shared paths	Shared paths are required at either end of the cycleway to allow users to safely rejoin the footpath. The footpaths in these locations are 5.5 and 6m wide and can easily accommodate pedestrians and cyclists.
Concerns about impact on emergency vehicles	Emergency services have been consulted on the project and are supportive of the proposal to reduce trafficable lanes from 2 to 1. In case of an emergency, and the road is blocked, an alternate access has been provided via the cycleway.
Concerns about traffic congestion	Traffic modelling has been undertaken and has demonstrated that the level of service for traffic has not been significantly reduced.
Loss of loading zones and potential business impacts	Loading zone locations will be determined during the detailed design phase. This will be done in consultation with businesses to ensure adequate access.
Retain and improve access for loading and waste collection	As above.
Provide more on street bike parking and bike racks	On street bike parking and additional bike racks will be provided.
The cycleway needs to connect to other cycleways	Victoria St is identified as part of the local bike network in the City's Cycling Strategy & Action Plan. Future works will connect this section to the north and south.
Plant native trees – avoid London Plane trees	The proposed trees for Victoria St are as per the City's Street Tree Master Plan. These are the Simon Poplar, Callery Pear and Tulip Tree.
Increase outdoor dining and green spaces by reducing parking spaces	The project aims for no net loss of parking, whilst at the same time increasing outdoor dining and greening.

Design feedback and suggestions	City of Sydney response
Concern about the removal of slip lane on Craigend Street	The removal of the slip lane improves pedestrian safety and amenity. A dedicated left hand turn lane is proposed for turning from Craigend into Victoria Street.
Concerns about existing street furniture including bins and QMS signs	Where possible, street furniture will be consolidated to ensure clear paths of travel.
Concerns about the bus stops and the interaction between people walking and riding	The bus stop at Craigend has an adjacent 5.5m wide footpath. The bus stop south of Liverpool St is an in lane stop.
Concerns about parking arrangement on Surrey Street	The angled parking proposed on Surrey St has been reviewed and removed from the project.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement

1. Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage, https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/your-say-improvements-victoria-street-darlinghurst was created. The page included information about the consultation.

2. Interactive map & survey

Community were invited to have their say by dropping pins on an interactive map and completing a survey A link to the map was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

3. Sydney Your Say notifications

An EDM was sent to subscribers of the Sydney Your Say Newsletter on 15 September to 4,940 recipients.

4. On site information sessions

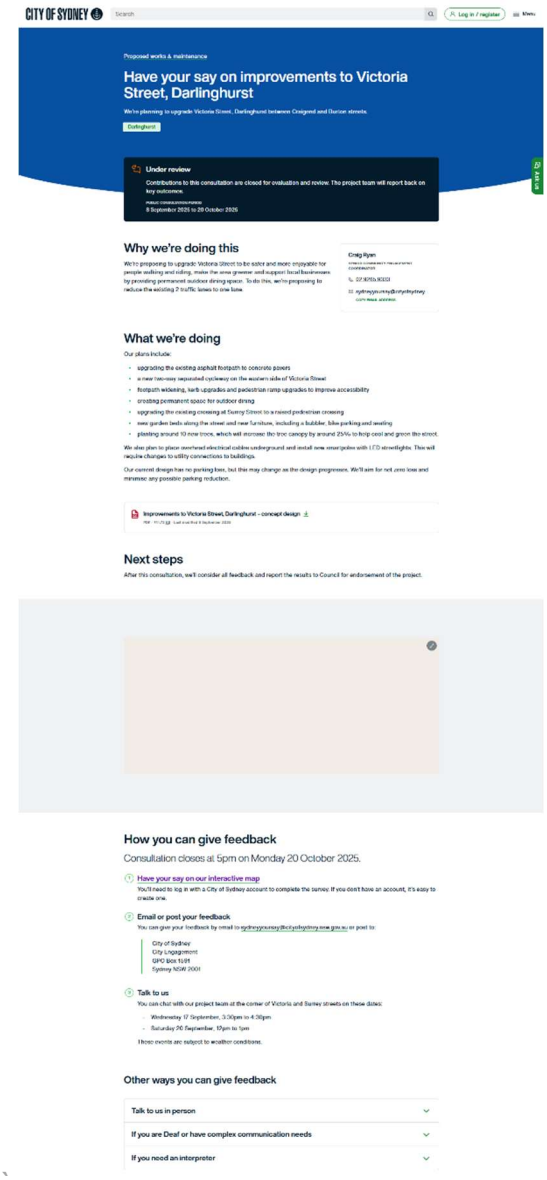
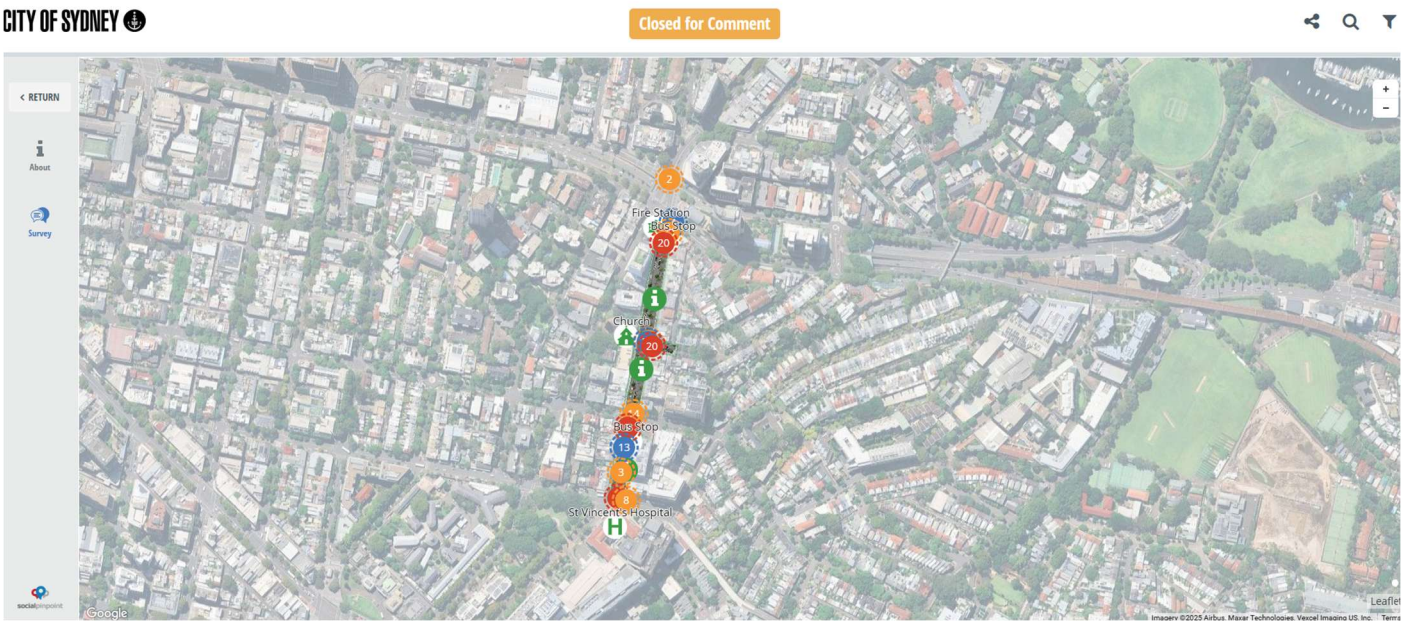
City staff met held information sessions on the corner of Victoria and Surrey streets on Wednesday 17 and Saturday 20 September.

5. Key stakeholder meetings

Prior to public community engagement, the project team met representatives from NSW Fire, NSW Ambulance, NSW Police and St Vincent's Hospital.

The project team presented at the Local Emergency Management Committee in November 2025

Sydney Your Say page



Interactive map