

Engagement report – Surry Hills traffic changes



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Overview

Background

From 21 May to 19 June, we asked the community for feedback on options to reopen Holt Street to north bound traffic and change the traffic direct on Adelaide Place.

Scope

Our plans include:

Holt Street

- Reopen Holt Street at Devonshire Street to northbound vehicle traffic as a shared zone
- New shared zone paving and kerb laybacks
- Revised stairs and walls
- New furniture and fixtures including bench seats, bollard seats, lighting and bike hoops
- New plants and garden beds with habitat fence
- New signs and line marking
- Removing one tree to enable works, all others will be retained

Adelaide Place

- Reverse traffic flow in Adelaide Place from one-way northbound to one-way southbound
- New signs and line marking
- Restricting vehicle access from Adelaide Street to cars only
- Adelaide Place properties to place bins on Adelaide, Steel or Devonshire streets for collection

Background and context

Holt Street was closed off and converted to a plaza as part of the construction of the light rail and has since been used as a place to access local cafes and restaurants and take breaks from work. Many of these businesses were impacted by light rail construction and the general sentiment is that this area of Holt Street was well earned by enduring the impacts.

In March 2025, Council approved the design for the Surry Hills to Central quietway. This project includes restricting east bound traffic on Cooper Street, between Elizabeth Street and Holt Street.

This change will mean that traffic accessing parts of Surry Hills will need to use Kippax Street, one block north. Some feedback raised concerns that instead of using Kippax Street, vehicles will use Devonshire Street and then Adelaide Place to loop around into surrounding streets.

City staff met with community members and discussed the perceived impacts. It was suggested by a community member that Holt Street should be reopened to north bound traffic and the traffic flow on Adelaide Place be changed to south bound.

City staff then coordinated a traffic study to understand current vehicle movements and set a baseline to measure impacts after the change at Cooper Street came into effect.

The traffic study found that much of the traffic in the small streets of Surry Hills like Adelaide place was servicing these streets and that traffic volumes were low.

Council resolved that community engagement was undertaken to gauge what the community thought of the proposals.

Purpose of engagement

The purpose of the engagement was to:

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

Outcomes of engagement

Submissions received during May/June consultation

We received a total of 208 submissions (via Survey Monkey and email) during the public exhibition period. The Sydney Your Say page was visited 867 times during the consultation period.

Quantity	Description of activity
208	Total submissions received
57	Survey submissions
151	Emailed submissions
867	Sydney Your Say webpage visits
168	Document downloads
35	People attended community workshops
1	Community information sessions held

Key findings

The overwhelming theme of the feedback is that reopening Holt Street is not supported.

There was significantly less feedback on the changes to Adelaide Place however most submissions were not opposed to the proposal.

Holt Street

Sentiment	Email	Survey	Total
Support the reopening of Holt Street	4	14	18 (9%)
Oppose the reopening of Holt Street	146	39	185 (89%)
Neutral – other design suggestions	1	4	5 (2%)

Feedback supporting reopening Holt Street	Count
Support reopening Holt Street to improve access/circulation	12
Support public domain improvements (lighting, planting, seating)	8
Request seating orientation away from traffic	1
Request improved loading/service access	1
Request bike management infrastructure	1
Request improved crossings/pedestrian treatments	1
Support retaining existing trees where possible	1

Feedback opposing reopening Holt Street	Count
Retain pedestrian-only pocket park	105
Loss of public gathering/social space	104
Loss of pedestrian amenity and place character	42
Impact on outdoor dining and local business activity	18
Pedestrian safety concerns	15
Shared zone design conflicts with pedestrian use	9
Alternative design/access solutions suggested	8

Feedback opposing reopening Holt Street	Count
Noise and amenity impacts	5
Unsafe turning movements	4
Tree retention	4
Light rail interface concerns	3

Adelaide Place

Sentiment	Email	Survey	Total
Support the change of direction on Adelaide Place	2	14	16 (48%)
Oppose the change of direction Adelaide Place	5	3	8 (24%)
Neutral – other design suggestions	1	8	9 (28%)

Feedback supporting changes to Adelaide Place	Count
Support traffic direction reversal	16
Existing safety concerns	2
Support restriction to cars only	1
Alternative design/access solution suggested	1

Feedback opposing changes to Adelaide Place	Count
Oppose traffic direction reversal	3
Wayfinding concerns	2
Safety concerns	2
Traffic displacement concerns	2
Waste collection/bin arrangement concerns	1

Community information session feedback

City staff heard many of the above issues raised when meeting with community and businesses on site.

Engagement report – Surry Hills traffic changes

Primarily, people let us know that they like Holt Street as it is now and since it was closed to traffic as part of the light rail project, it has become a place to gather that provides pedestrian amenity.

Additionally, businesses said that the space had become a place loved by people and earned by enduring through the impacts of light rail construction.

Engagement activities

Overview of engagement undertaken

Summarise all activities that took place during the consultation period

Sydney Your Say webpage

A Sydney Your Say webpage <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/proposed-works-maintenance/have-your-say-surry-hills-traffic-changes> was created. The page included an electronic copy of the concept design, survey and other key information about the consultation.

Online feedback form via Survey Monkey

The community and stakeholders were able to give feedback using an online feedback form. A link to the feedback form was provided on the Sydney Your Say website.

Sydney Your Say e-news

The consultation was included in the Sydney Your Say June 2026 e-newsletters (3617 subscribers).

Consultation letter

A letter was posted to residents, inviting them to give feedback on the proposal. 4306 letters were distributed.

Community information sessions

A community drop in session was held on Tuesday 26 June and was attended by approximately 35 residents and stakeholders.

On-site signage

10 notice boards were installed inviting people to give feedback on the proposal.

Appendix

On-site signage

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Have your say

Surry Hills traffic and access changes

We invite your feedback on reopening Holt Street at Devonshire Street as a shared zone and changing Adelaide Place from one-way northbound to one-way southbound.

Talk to us
We'll be at the corner of Holt and Devonshire streets on Tuesday 26 May, 12pm to 2pm.



How to give feedback
You can give feedback at [cityofsydney/consultations](https://cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/cityofsydney/consultations) or use the QR code.

Consultation closes at:
5pm Friday 19 June 2026.

For more information, please contact
Craig Ryan, Senior Community Engagement
Coordinator on:
02 9265 9333
sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Consultation letter



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21 May 2026

**Reopening Holt Street at Devonshire Street as a shared zone
and changing traffic direction in Adelaide Place, Surry Hills**

We invite your feedback on 2 proposed changes in Surry Hills: reopening Holt Street at Devonshire Street as a shared zone and changing Adelaide Place from one-way northbound to one-way southbound.

The changes respond to community concerns and aim to improve access for heavy vehicles servicing businesses in the precinct. They are also expected to reduce traffic on Adelaide Place and Steel Street.

Proposed changes

Holt Street

- Reopen Holt Street at Devonshire Street to northbound vehicle traffic as a shared zone
- New shared zone paving and kerb laybacks
- Revised stairs and walls
- New furniture and fixtures including bench seats, bollard seats, lighting and bike hoops
- New planting and garden beds with habitat fence
- New signs and line marking
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Adelaide Place

- Reverse traffic flow in Adelaide Place from one-way northbound to one-way southbound
- New signs and line marking

How to give feedback

View the proposal and give your feedback by Friday 19 June at sydneyyoursay.com.au.

You can also chat to us at Holt Street near Devonshire Street from 12pm to 2pm on Tuesday 26 May, weather permitting.

Contact us

For more information, contact Senior Community Engagement Coordinator Craig Ryan on 02 9265 9333 or email sydneyyoursay@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anton Leddin".

Anton Leddin
Delivery Manager

Sydney Your Say e-news

Sydney Your Say

CITY OF SYDNEY 



Image: City of Sydney

Have your say on Surry Hills traffic changes

In response to community concerns and to improve access for heavy vehicles, we propose to reopen Holt Street at Devonshire Street as a shared zone and change Adelaide Place to a one-way southbound route.

Share your thoughts by Friday 19 June.

[Read more](#)

