

Attachment C

**Engagement Report – Dixon Street Concept
Design**

Engagement report – Dixon Street concept design



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Overview

Project background

In 2022, more than 1,150 people shared their ideas for the future of Haymarket. This helped build a community vision for the area, following widespread lockdowns associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Key findings of this work are summarised in a report, which can be downloaded [here](#).

In August and September 2023, we invited feedback on our proposed Haymarket and Chinatown revitalisation strategy and Haymarket public domain plan, shaped by the Haymarket community vision.

In October and November 2023, we exhibited a concept design for public domain upgrades at Dixon Street. We collected feedback at face-to-face events and meetings, via survey and through emailed written submissions. This report summarises the engagement activities and key findings associated with this consultation.

Purpose of engagement

Concept plans for Dixon Street public domain upgrades were exhibited between 18 October and 15 November.

The purpose of this consultation was to inform key stakeholders and interested community members on design developments for Dixon Street's public domain upgrades, and provide opportunities to gather feedback.

Engagement summary

This report outlines the engagement activities that took place in October and November 2023 to gather feedback on the Dixon Street public domain concept plans. It also summarises the key findings from this consultation, which can be used to further develop the design prior to construction.

126 surveys were completed during the consultation period, between 18 October and 15 November 2023. The most common language spoken by respondents was English (99%), with people indicating they also spoke Mandarin (25%) and/or Cantonese (17%).

We received 10 written submissions from a range of organisations and community members, including Soul of Chinatown, Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University, and Chinese Australian Historical Society. A number of meetings were also held with key stakeholders during the consultation period.

Engagement findings

Survey responses and written submissions showed overall support for the upgrading of Dixon Street.

Vitality/Lighting

Survey responses were generally supportive of the proposed lighting design. Respondents felt the additional light will make the area safer, and the colour will make it more vibrant and inviting. However, some survey respondents suggested that lanterns may be a more appropriate lighting concept, rather than auspicious clouds. This was echoed in written submissions received.

Email submissions also critiqued the auspicious clouds design in the following ways:

- Too abstract and contemporary
- May not be relevant to the Chinese community, both recent immigrants and older generations
- Adding the cloud lighting above would overcrowd the space
- Budget would be better spent on improving the physical amenities such as quality paving, bins, seating, signage, services and provision of power for events.

Suggested improvements to the lighting design included:

- Lanterns incorporated into design as key lighting element
- Consider the daytime appeal of lighting installation and fixings
- Lighting the facades of heritage buildings and signage to create atmosphere
- Concentrate on good quality functional lighting.

Elements

Across survey responses and emails, there was broad support for the inclusion of traditional symbols in the public domain design of street furniture and paving.

Areas of consideration identified by the community include:

- The use of high-quality materials that will not deteriorate over time
- Further consultation on the traditional symbols, their location, extent and quality
- Signage in both Chinese and English
- Dual naming, that is appropriate in both Chinese and English
- Installation of educational signage
- References to iconic families and individuals of Chinatown
- Position of public furniture should work with the needs of public events
- Views regarding the Kiosk / Pagoda were mixed with those for and against converting it to seating.

The community has requested improved provision of power along Dixon Street, for public events like markets. It was suggested that an upgrade of power be integrated with new furniture, to service both current and future events. The community has noted that access to power for events has been a longstanding problem.

Space

We sought feedback on opening up the tree canopy, through selective tree removal using care and precision to improve flow and open the street to the sky.

Survey responses and written emails displayed mixed sentiment regarding tree removal, with a slight skew supporting the selective removal of trees. 50% of survey responses were supportive of the proposed concept, 39% were unsupportive, 11% were neutral. Of the written responses that referenced tree removal, 50% were supportive and 50% were unsupportive.

Those who supported selective tree removal felt that Dixon Street is too dark and gloomy, and welcomed more sunlight into the space. Many people liked the idea of opening the street up to the sky and making the street more inviting during the day.

Those who were not supportive felt that the tree canopy is a strong feature of Dixon Street and that the city needs more trees. Others commented that while the aim of more light is a good one, the removal of trees is not overall beneficial.

Suggestions made by the community include:

- Tree pruning – careful pruning, trimming on sides and top only, removal of branches
- Only removing sick trees or older trees that cause damage to buildings
- Focusing on fostering biodiversity (plants / animals)
- To consider the importance of pairing in Chinese numerology. It was suggested that trees being in pairs is significant and symbolises 'bonding' and to remove trees would symbolise 'loneliness.'

The community have asked for greater clarity on the selection criteria for tree removal, and mentioned that further information would be welcomed to make an informed decision.

Culture and Heritage

The community have emphasised the importance of culture and heritage in upgrading Dixon Street, including:

- Preservation of buildings and landmarks with heritage or cultural significance
- Heritage listing the Chinatown Ceremonial Gates
- Cultural heritage and historical stories presented in the street via plaques, or through QR codes linking to past stories relating to the area and positive contribution of the community/neighbourhood
- Use of traditional Chinese characters, rather than simplified Chinese as a way to honour the Cantonese heritage of Sydney Chinatown.

Outcomes of engagement

The following is a snapshot of the outcomes from the engagement.

Submissions received during October/November 2023 consultation

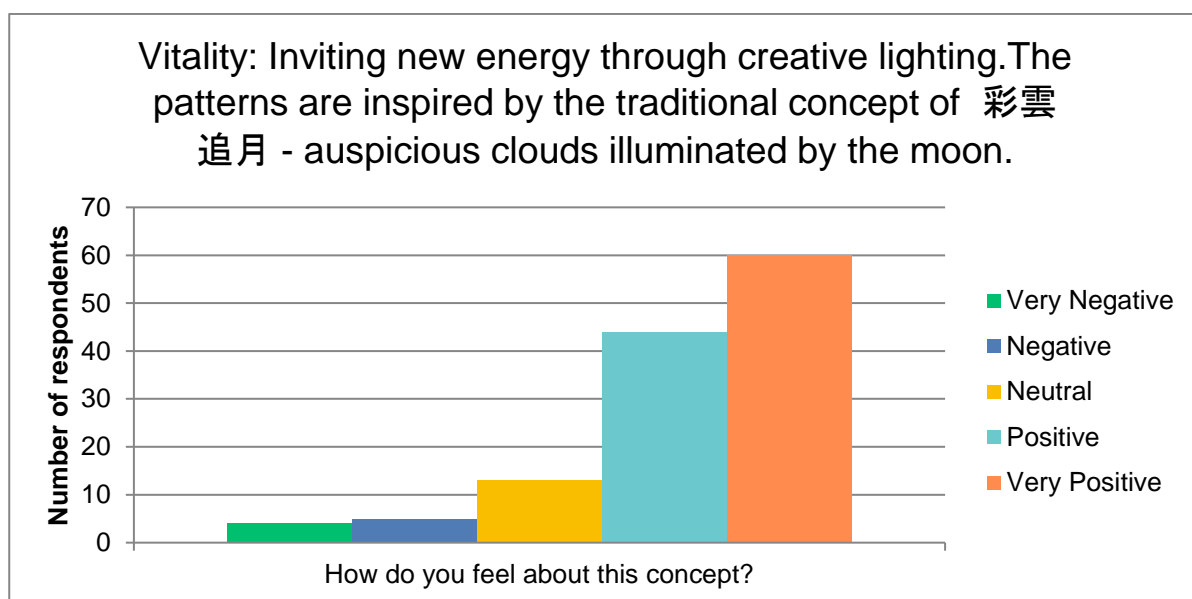
We received a total of 149 submissions and the Sydney Your Say page was visited 1,693 times during the public exhibition period.

Quantity	Description of activity
149	Total submissions received
126	Survey submissions (4 submissions in Simplified Chinese 1 submission is Traditional Chinese.)
10	Written submissions received via emailed
13	Written submissions at face-to-face events
1,693	Sydney Your Say webpage visits
435	Document downloads

Survey feedback and sentiment analysis

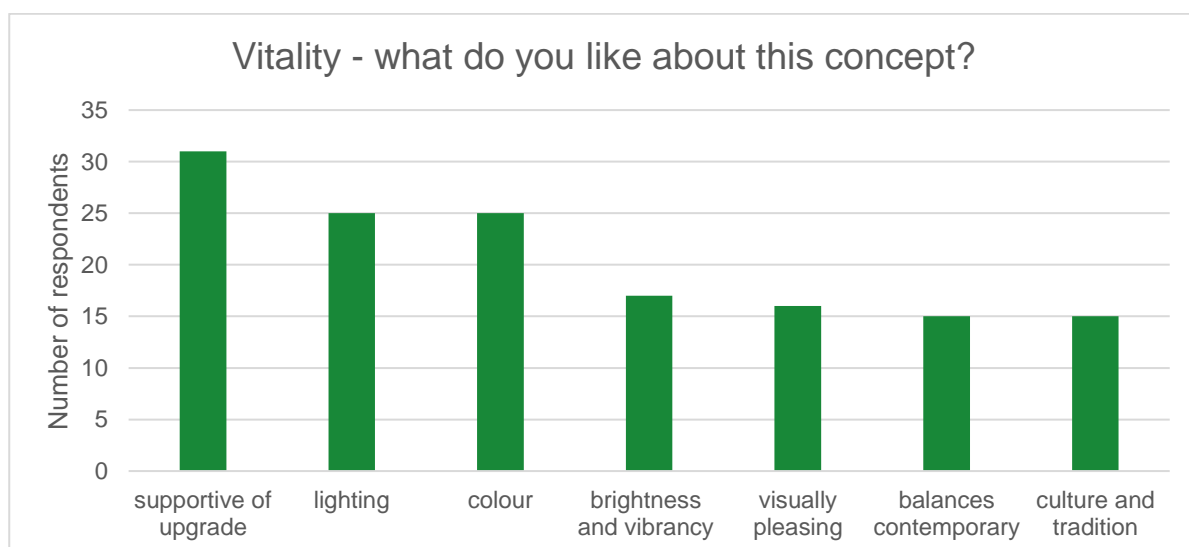
Vitality

Regarding the theme, 83% of feedback received was very positive (48%) or positive (35%) about vitality in the concept design.



What people liked about the design

Qualitative feedback about what people liked was provided by 96 respondents.



Lighting

“It brings light and emphasises the Chinese cultural heritage of the street.”

“The additional light will make it safer, and the colour will make it more vibrant and inviting.”

“I absolutely love the lighting proposed which is excellent and long overdue!”

Colour

“I love the colour and traditional motif.”

“It enhances the streetscapes in terms of brightness and colours and attracts more people to wonder and stay at Dixon Street than passing through.”

How people felt the design could be improved

Qualitative feedback about what could be improved within the theme of vitality was provided by 73 respondents. Of the feedback provided, 14% of responses made suggestions to extend project scope.

“Make the area larger. Rent relief so the closed down shops can reopen?”

“Same type of lighting on buildings.”

“Scope to extend similar lighting installations to side streets as well.”

The next most recurrent suggestion (11%) was to improve the artistic style of the design.

“Improving the art style to capture the look of clouds better without caricaturing Chinese culture or making it look cliché, too flashy/trendy and look dated over time.”

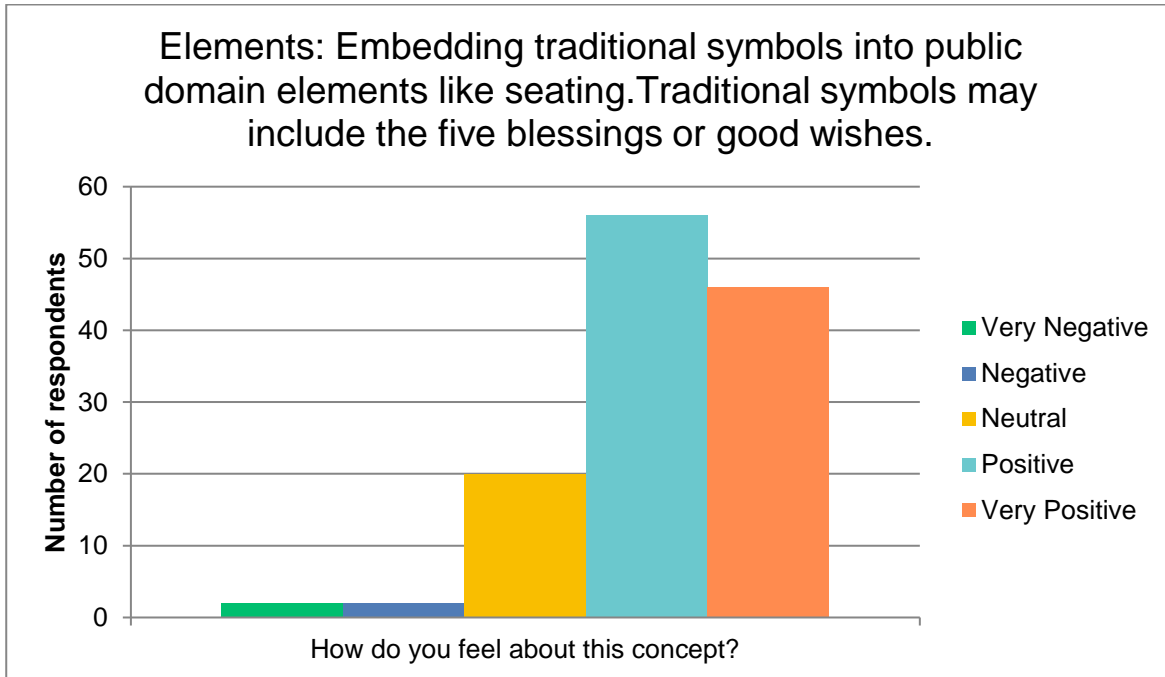
“It moves too far away from the essential character of Chinatown a modern version of traditional concepts eg lanterns is better than the Cloud concept.”

The third most recurrent suggestion for improvement of the design was light movement.

Respondents suggested interactive lighting, adding glowing effects, lights “moving like waves of the sea”, and lights with “subtle tonal changes or intensity to emulate the movement of clouds,” amongst other suggestions.

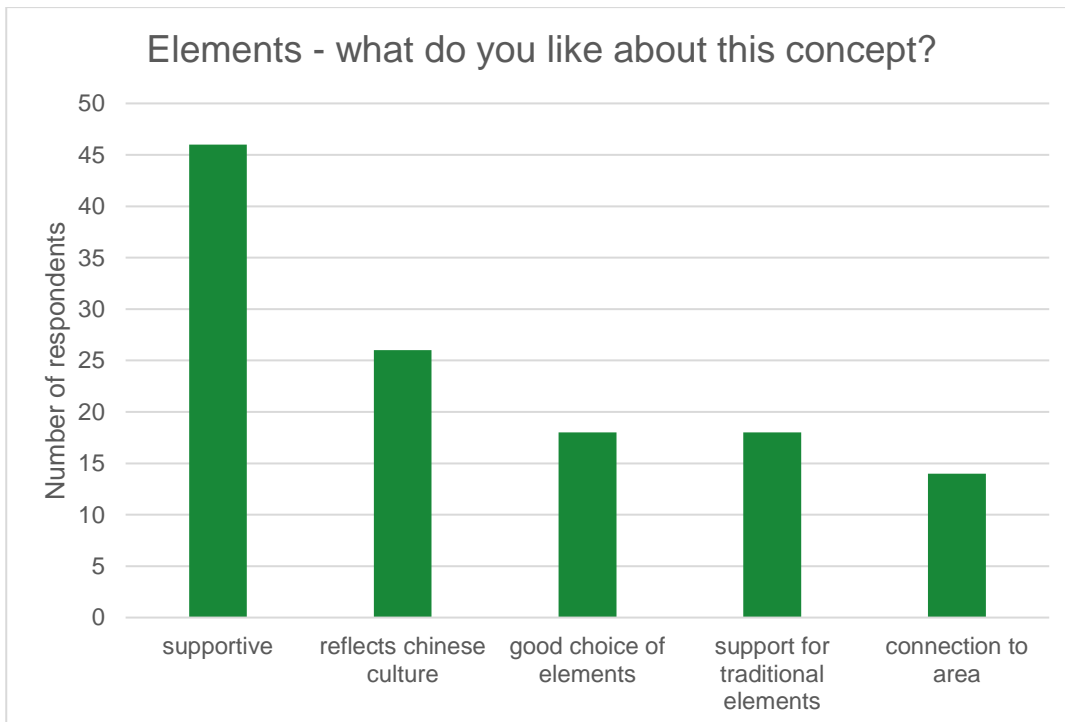
Elements

80% of people felt positive (43%) or very positive (37%) about the theme of elements in this design.



What people liked about the design

Qualitative feedback about what they liked was provided by 76 respondents.



Reflects Chinese culture

“Sounds dynamic and colourful, and in keeping with the cultural heritage of the area.”

“It's sounds like a good concept to reflect Chinese culture.”

Good choice of elements and traditional elements

“I like having these elements incorporated and each street has it's own element.”

“I like that it incorporates traditional elements in the art design,”

“Love the use of traditional symbols and elements in the street furniture and fixtures.”

How people felt the design could be improved

Qualitative feedback about what could be improved was provided by 59 respondents. Of those who responded, the most requested improvement was for educational signage which explains the meaning behind the design (20%).

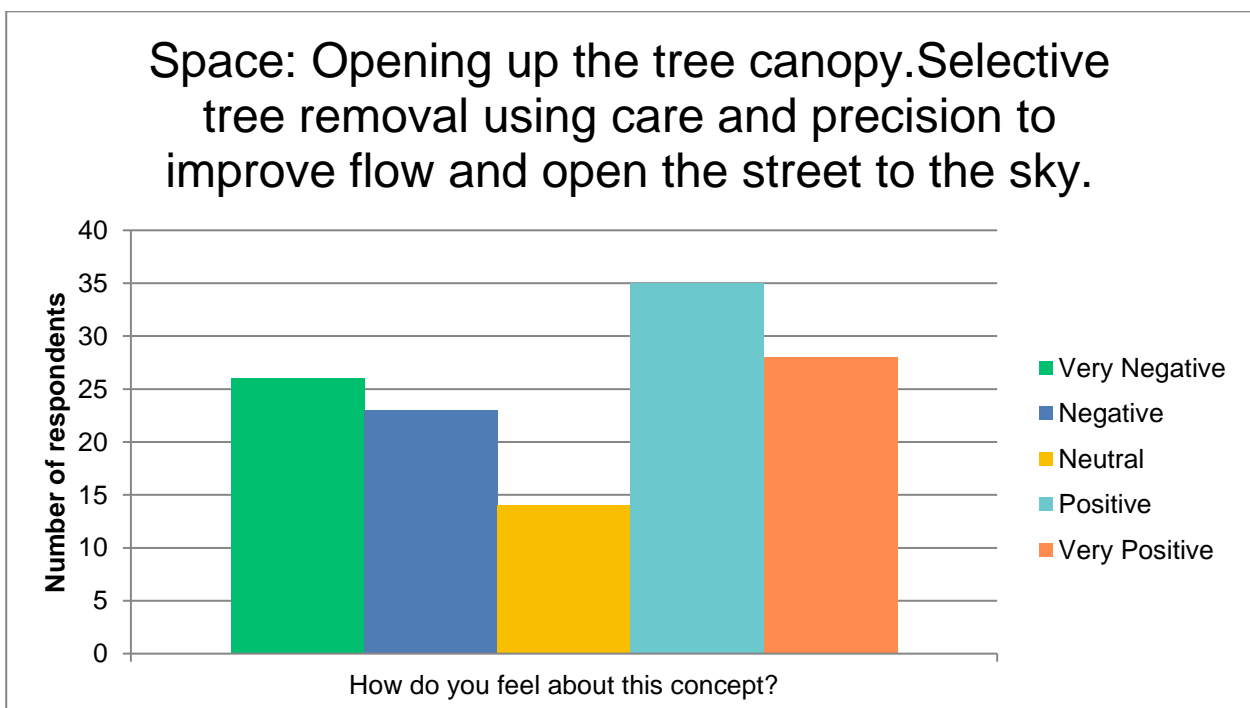
The next most requested improvement was for signage to be in both Chinese and English.

The project team was also asked to consider using both simplified and traditional Chinese, and signage for non-Chinese and non-English speakers (15%).

Space

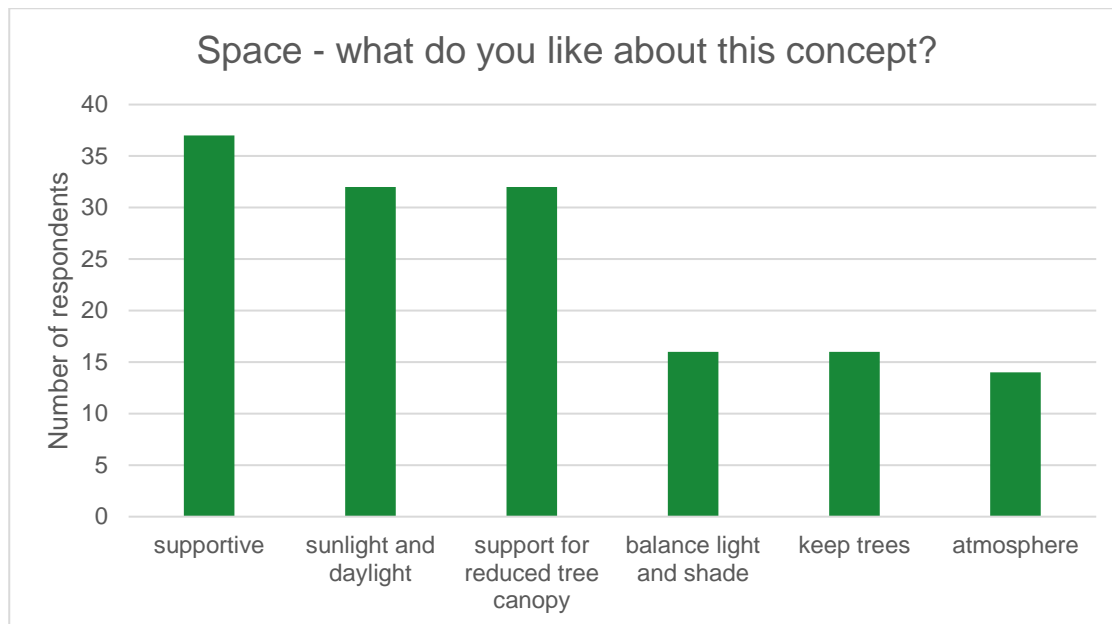
We sought feedback on opening up the tree canopy, through selective tree removal using care and precision to improve flow and open the street to the sky.

Responses were mixed about this aspect of the design with 61% of people feeling neutral or positive/very positive (28% positive & 22% very positive).



What people liked about the design

Qualitative feedback about what they liked about this design element was provided by 84 respondents.



Of these 84 respondents, 38% made specific mention of the positive impact this would have on bringing in sunlight and daylight. Related themes included lifting what is currently a “dark and dingey” stretch, as well as making the area safer, greater connection to the sky and the city’s surrounds.

“Opening up the sky for more sunlight.”

“During the day it is often dark.”

“Dixon street is too dark and gloomy, I can understand why this is being done.”

“More sun into a dark street.”

“I like the idea of opening it up to the sky and inviting more light and allowing people on the street to be connected to the city.”

Those with either neutral or mixed sentiment around the theme of space made comments such as:

“The aim of more light is a good one but don’t see removing trees as overall beneficial.”

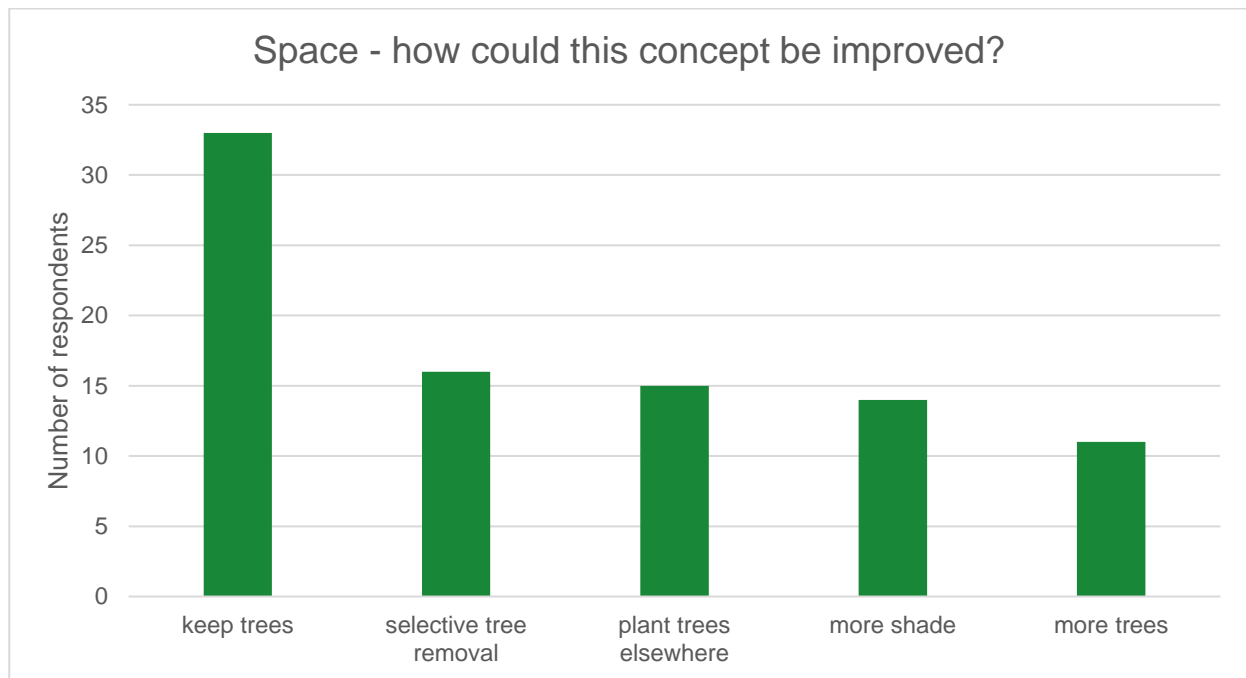
“This is one of the only streets in the city that has a lot of trees, would be a shame to reduce it. However, I do agree that at daytime it is quite dark.”

“While it’s a shame to lose some trees, they have gotten quite big and they do make the street quite dark and less inviting during the day.”

“Good if it improves things but not if it allows too much sun in on a hot day. The loss of the full canopy could be detrimental but it can look a bit dark under there. I’d need to see it at different times of the day to judge.”

How people felt the design could be improved

Qualitative feedback about what could be improved was provided by 84 respondents.



39% of respondents requested that the trees be kept.

“We need more trees.”

“The tree canopy is a strong feature of Dixon - it makes the space relaxing, humanises and softens the area - I am strongly opposed to any tree removal - and fail to see the benefit.”

Within the requests to keep trees, was a discussion around losing shade, as well as other proposed solutions. Examples include:

“...But I wouldn't want to lose too much shade, especially given the warming climate and the ever-present need for cooling, purifying greenery in Sydney's urban centre.”

“Why must every block of this city be deprived of shade? Dixon street is one of the few comfortable streets to walk around in summer.”

“I don't like the idea of removing trees as shade is incredibly important in hot summer.”

Alternative solutions were recommended:

“Plant more trees and/or add more plant beds.”

“Retain existing trees and install lights on them.”

“Keep the trees? Use other sources for more light instead (maybe something like a heliostat?).”

Tree pruning was mentioned in 7 responses, some of which were:

“The tree canopy will be needed in the summer to provide shade and reduce the wind tunnel it would create if removed. Trimming on the sides and top would be more beneficial.”

“Very careful pruning required to keep the beauty of the trees and not damage the shade provided by them i.e. not electricity wires type pruning that is purely functional with the aesthetic not considered.”

“Just cut off some branches instead.”

“I would just trim the trees that are currently there.”

The concept of selective tree removal was referenced in 15 responses, such as:

“Don’t overdo it.”

“Only remove any sick trees.”

“Just to ensure the right trees are removed, and perhaps focusing on one’s that are old, sick, or may cause damage to buildings with their roots.”

“Being careful which trees are managed.”

Some respondents requested more information to help form an opinion on the proposed concept:

“What are the selection criteria for the trees to be removed?”

“Is it necessary to remove trees. What is the justification and who did the study? further information would be welcome to make an informed decision.”

Other comments about the Dixon Street Public Domain Upgrade plan

A total of 87 respondents answered the question “do you have any other comments about the Dixon Street Public Domain Upgrade plan?”

Support for the concept plan

14 people expressed explicit support for the upgrade plan:

“This is an excellent initiative to revitalise Chinatown.”

“It looks very welcoming and inviting.”

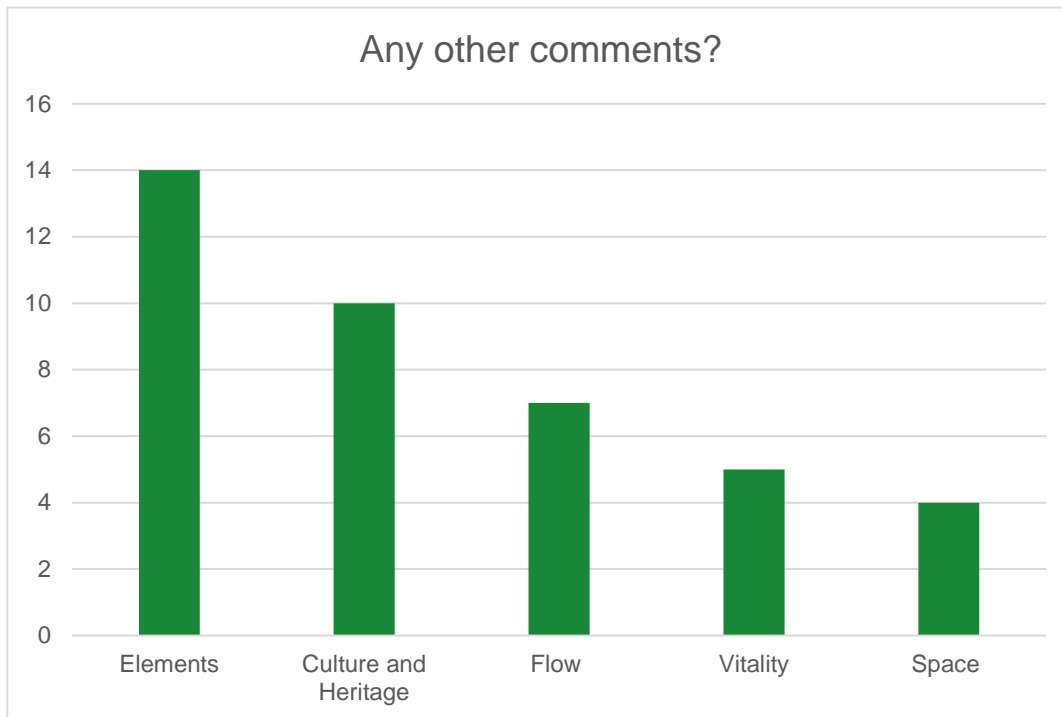
“Very excited for it!! Plan looks gorgeous.”

1 person did not support the plan:

“Overall, disappointed. For the money proposed, there seems to be not many improvements.”

Comments made, relating specifically to concept plan focus areas

People made a range of comments that related to specific areas of the upgrade concept plan.



Elements

Paving:

People were supportive of upgrading the paving.

“New paving should consider potential uneven ground and build in power points for events.”

“The paving needs to be cleaned or replaced with slip proof surface, which is suitable for all weather conditions.”

“If budget allows - larger stone slabs for flooring will help to make a cleaner and more spacious look.”

Seating/furniture:

8 people commented on the seating / furniture. 6 people were supportive, mentioning the need for more seating / furniture of high quality so people can spend longer in the area, and that seating should be coordinated with food outlets

“I appreciate the way to circulate and move, and also the opportunity to seat for lunch or pause.”

“Make sure there’s enough seating and places to allow people to linger. Encourage more Al fresco dining. Check out HK’s sitting out areas for inspiration.”

2 people were opposed to the furniture/seating depicted in the concept design:

“The furniture depicted looks cheap and nasty like outdoor furniture from Ikea.”

“The seating will not work with the Friday Night Market operations, logistics and flow through of Market visitors.”

Kiosk:

People were in support of renovating the kiosk, either upgrading the existing structure and lighting it or converting back into seating. Concern was expressed about homeless people monopolising its use.

Culture and Heritage

The preservation of buildings and landmarks with heritage or cultural significance was important to respondents. Specific mention was made of the following landmarks:

82-84 Dixon Street (Kwong War Chong building):

“82-84 Dixon Street, for example, is a culturally sensitive site which embodies important aspects of the history of the Chinese in Dixon Street. Like some of the neighbouring shopfronts, the former Kwong War Chong Building shows alarming signs of neglect despite being heritage-listed. It is important that the heritage of this site is not lost due to unsympathetic development or no development at all.”

Australian Chinese Ex-Services Reunion Memorial:

“Highly recommend that Dixon Street north be fully upgraded with the Australian Chinese Ex Services war memorial playing a significant part in the design.”

Harbour City Cinema:

“If you could open up the old cinema for some old Cantonese films, and Chinese films on a regular basis would be great. There was a brief opening recently where the space was used but didn't have any cultural or historical significance.”

Chinatown Gates:

Support was expressed for the lighting of the gates.

Cultural heritage and historical stories:

People wanted to see cultural heritage and historical stories present in the street including via plaques with information and links to “QR codes of past stories relating to the area and positive contribution of the community/neighbourhood”.

People felt that the use of traditional Chinese characters was an important way to honour the Cantonese heritage of Sydney Chinatown, rather than the use of simplified Chinese.

Flow

People supported the removal of digital billboards and payphones:

“The plan also mentioned repositioning advertising boards. I am very much in favour of this, and would be even happier having them removed entirely - these boards seriously impede pedestrian movement and are visual pollution all over the city, obstructing sightlines, commercialising public space and too frequently advertising alcohol or other things people should be able to choose to avoid.”

2 people mentioned the importance of Feng Shui:

“Forgiving me for being a bit superstitious, I would suggest to consult a fengshui master to get a reading. Because business owners, investors and visitors may believe it, and it has been a normal practice for major projects in places matter to Chinese people around the world. Should be considered as part of proper cultural consultation to make sure the ideas appropriate.”

1 person questioned the removal of the bollards, suggesting that they helped protect pedestrians from cars.

Vitality

People were broadly supportive of the Auspicious Cloud lighting design and that the particular choice of colours would be important.

“I think the lighting has the potential to be really beautiful and evocative.”

1 person suggested red or colourful solar powered lanterns would be a good alternative to the clouds.

1 person suggested that the lantern display across Goulburn Street should be “a more organic multi-layered ensemble of floating lanterns (like the birdcages in Angel Place) rather than a flat ceiling of light.”

Space

3 people were against tree removal:

“Happy for more amenity/art but not at the expense of trees.”

1 person supported removal:

“Also the trees will still continue to grow - maybe replace with different greenery e.g, those bush planter things that City of Sydney likes so much.”

Comments related to Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy

A proportion of the comments (36%) fell outside the scope of the public domain plan and relate to initiatives within the Haymarket and Chinatown Revitalisation Strategy. The most common themes mentioned were as follows:



Revitalise shops and businesses

People felt that businesses play an important role in revitalisation and should be supported. It was felt that shop vacancy was an issue and that a diversity of business offerings in Dixon Street was important. This includes small, local businesses, new businesses as well as late night bars and clubs, night markets and food courts.

“I think the main issue is the closure of businesses along Dixon St. Several iconic spots have disappeared, and there is not much attracting the public to Chinatown these days. Perhaps there could be initiatives offered to those businesses who are looking to move to the street.”

“Dixon St is now quiet, dark, grimy and feels like there are more shopfronts closed or vacant than open.”

“Very supportive of it being a true night food market - model it on the Raohe night market in Taipei. Lots of small vendors with cheap rents able to serve up a wide variety of options. Don't over regulate it with security and fences and staff, just let it happen.”

Traffic and pedestrians

People primarily supported pedestrianisation but were concerned about the safety of pedestrians from both cars and delivery bikes. 1 person suggested pedestrianising the area of Little Hay Street between South and North Dixon Street.

“You need to look at other global / famous cities for inspiration. One common denominator is that most of these pleasant and bustling cities have become pedestrianised.”

“Please require and enforce all food delivery bikes to dismounted and push their bikes within the pedestrian zone. We've been hit and seen others injured by them.”

People felt it was important to consider how people flow into and out of Dixon Street from the rest of the City.

“In addition to the works being done, think of the flow of people and how they get there, ensuring it connects with the rest of the city”.

1 person suggested more parking spots should be considered.

“The number one thing council could do which would improve vibrancy by attracting more people is more street parking. That has been a huge reason people who used to come here no longer bother.”

Cleanliness and maintenance

People felt that ongoing cleaning of Dixon Street and ongoing maintenance of any new public domain components was essential.

“The area currently looks a bit dirty and needs a facelift.”

“Yes, that all plans when completed and works complete that an on-going plan of monitoring and care be implemented. As so often good improvements are made and then left to deteriorate over following year”

“Whilst the plan has some nice components, it fails to address the main issue plaguing the street; tired, dirty facades. A good pressure wash is needed.”

Dixon Street popup and Haymarket forum

Summary

The Dixon Street upgrade concept plans were displayed at a consultation pop-up at the Dixon Street markets on Friday 8 September 2023 and at the Community forum at Sydney Town Hall on the 19th of September 2023.

13 people made comments and feedback was in line with the survey results. People were generally supportive of the plans with specific reference to the inclusion of cultural motifs, and the creative lighting proposal. People made specific mention of support for the red lanterns and expressed a desire to see the removal of digital billboards from the street.

In line with the survey results, views on opening the tree canopy were mixed. There were people for and against their removal. Instead of removal it was suggested that they could be retained but better managed. Justifications for removal included the excessive shade they cast and maintenance issues they cause for landowners.

Written submissions

Overview

We received 10 written submissions (emails) during the consultation period: 4 institutions/societies/collectives, 2 businesses and 4 individuals submitted.

Institutions / societies / collectives:

- Soul of Chinatown
- Institute for Culture and Society at Western Sydney University
- Chinese Australian Historical Society
- Collective of community stakeholders and cultural leaders

Business:

- Banna Property Group
 - Blue Sky Markets
-

Sentiment

Overall sentiment amongst the email responses was favourable with 7 respondents expressing positivity that the plans to upgrade Dixon Street are progressing. Many of the submitters suggested adjustments or identified what they see as gaps in the current proposed plans.

The point was made that Chinatowns around the world –

“...still thrive and remain important to the local Asian and migrants communities because there are reasons for them to visit often because of diversity of businesses. Locals go to Chinatown to shops, buy food and ingredients, to pay bills, to dine, have a haircut, to meet, social and play. Overly ‘themed’ Chinatown will only serve tourists well, including once-a-year visitors to Chinatown from Sydney metropolitan.”

Key themes

Heritage

8 respondents

Heritage was the most commonly mentioned issue and considered a central design driver for the upgrade for those supplying written submissions. The point was made that supporting business and preserving Chinatown's unique heritage and original character are complementary aspects to revitalising the area.

Chinatown gates

Support for the restoration of the Chinatown gates (4 respondents)

There was support for the preservation of the Chinatown gates and for supplying historical context and interpretation on site, including the dynamic nature of Sydney Chinatown's history. It was noted that the lighting of the gates could be more pronounced and feature the entire structure.

Other historic buildings

People also wanted other historic buildings and sites preserved and their history made known to visitors to Chinatown by way of signage, QR codes to digital material (images / oral histories) and onsite plaques. It was felt that the Kwong War Chong building (82-84 Dixon Street) in particular has potential to be used as a living history space and community centre.

It was suggested that "Council integrate heritage planning, and promote more heritage listing, update its cultural asset mapping and work actively with local property owners to understand the value of identification and recognition of heritage values and historic places and to conserve and maintain their heritage buildings accordingly."

The buildings specifically mentioned were:

- Kwong War Chong building - 82-84 Dixon Street (5 respondents)
- the two clan association buildings c.1910 at 50-54 Dixon Street (2 respondents)
- Dixon House c.1910 at 80 Dixon Street - formerly an Anthony Hordern warehouse (1 respondent)
- the building c.1910 at 90-100 Hay Street- which houses the Emperor's Garden restaurant (1 respondent)

Pagoda / Kiosk / Pergola

There were differing views on the future of the Pagoda / Pergola / Kiosk:

- the existing pergola is a great adaptive reuse of the original structure and is visually appealing at night. Not supportive of returning to its original design. (1 respondent)
- maintain and repurpose the existing Information Kiosk into a multipurpose, day and night facility that becomes a landmark in Chinatown where people can meet and gather. (1 respondent)

Public Art

It was suggested that more recent public art by Chinese artists (Lindy Lee's 'New Century Garden' and Jason Wing's 'In Between Two Worlds') also be preserved as heritage items – offering a link between 'tradition' and the 'contemporary'. (1 respondent)

Comments about specific aspects of the existing plan

Vitality: Regenerate Dixon Street with light

7 respondents

The majority of respondents who commented on the Auspicious clouds lighting concept were not supportive of the design and made a range of suggestions on how it could be improved.

Auspicious clouds

Opposed to Auspicious clouds (5 respondents)

"While the concept of 'auspicious clouds illuminated by the moon' is an inspiring

one, the proposed design seems too abstract and contemporary.”

“Auspicious clouds theme may not be relevant to the Chinese community, both recent immigrants and older generations.”

“Adding the cloud lighting above would overcrowd the space, adding too much "yang" energy here - especially with all the other neon lights around.”

“Questions have been raised around the scale and proportion of the proposal against the existing tree canopies. Can the proposal be reduced in bulk and designed to complement the existing trees and proposed canopies. We understand the need to improve lighting along the street and would like to understand how this being achieved and if it can be without a significant overhead artistic lighting element.”

Suggestions:

- How will the installation look during the day, what is its scale and impact when not operational? e.g., will fixings and supports be more dominant and apparent? Could the next presentation depict daytime views as well as presenting alternative content creations that demonstrate how the lighting installation works, i.e.: an animated rather than a static image.
- Lanterns have been something the community has been asking for years. Suggest modern, programmable LED lanterns throughout Dixon Street.
- Highlight the contrast between the "green" trees (the wood) and the lanterns/or other kinds of lamps (the fire element). The number of lanterns and how they can be organized should be carefully planned.
- Lighting the facades of heritage buildings in a subtle and imaginative way will promote greater public awareness and further engagement.
- Thematic lighting on buildings and signage to create atmosphere (Xi'an, China night market).
- Install good quality functional lighting. Aesthetic lighting to happen organically over time and potentially in relation to events.
- Will Auspicious clouds feature be valid into the future and could the technology be obsolete in the short term? Would a simpler interpretation and/or cultural icons like physical lanterns be more relevant and consistent into the future?
- Need for stakeholder/landowner and Council design collaboration/discussion: creative lighting above Dixon Street, led by the Council, will be seen divorced from new characterless vertical elements (façade) or wouldn't achieve the maximum effect as intended in the Concept Plan if private landowners themselves don't use the new façades for new creative/neon lighting.

Support for Auspicious Clouds lighting elements (1 respondent)

“Artistic lighting elements are welcome. To create a better nighttime environment, there also needs to be sufficient functional lighting that provides greater illumination than what is there currently.”

Lantern Display

Support for Lantern display at corner of Goulburn Street and Dixon Street (4 respondents)

“The lanterns at the Goulburn St ends are welcomed - how this will integrate with the modern lighting installation? Potential to work with building owners to expand this vision.”

Neon Lighting

Opposition to neon lighting (1 respondent)

One respondent also noted that development proposals for properties in the area don't retain or include neon lighting. Council should be collaborating with landowners to realise a unified vision (properties: 96-100 Hay Street ('Emperor's Garden'), 417-419 Sussex Street, 82-84 Dixon Street).

Public Art

There was opposition to the Heaven and Earth lighting installation:

"The removal of the 'Heaven' art installation at the intersection of Dixon & Little Hay St provides an opportunity to feature and integrate a new iconic installation representing Chinatown which could therefore reduce the need to have the "Auspicious Cloud "along the length of the street."

Elements

6 Respondents

High quality functional amenities were seen as very important for the revitalisation of Dixon Street. "Our community strongly advocates for a larger portion of the limited budget to be allocated to the improving the physical amenities such a quality paving, bins, seating, signage, services, power..., over the artistic light installation. We are keen to establish a high-quality public realm that sets the standard for the remaining revitalisation of Haymarket."

Traditional Symbols

Support for the use of traditional symbols (3 respondents)

- Further consultation on the traditional symbols, their location, extent and quality
- Ensure that the paving material is a consistent high quality along the street.
- Reference the iconic families and individuals of Chinatown
- Reference stories including: the Kwong War Chong building, Billy Kee, King Fong, the clan houses, King Fong, Stanley Yee, Mei Quong Tart etc.

Support for cultural design of wayfinding (3 respondents)

Support for creative and cultural design of wayfinding signage around the precinct as part of the Public Domain Upgrade.

Support for dual naming of streets in Chinese language (2 respondents)

- need to consider Cantonese pronunciation and the Chinese characters should be the traditional and not the simplified version

Seating

3 submitters support for more seating. 1 submitter was concerned that the current placement of seating may affect the operation of the Chinatown Market.

Supporting events and activations

5 Respondents

Access to power

The improved provision of power for public events like markets was seen as a very important aspect of the Dixon Street upgrade and was raised by 4 of the respondents:

“For many years the Market’s major problem has been the difficulty in accessing power along the length of Dixon Street. The Markets desperately require more power outlets along the length of Dixon Street.”

“Additional services to facilitate weekly markets and potential future events is required along the street. The activation is a key driver generating foot traffic day and night. The upgrade of power should be integrated with new furniture planning and services to be located underground instead of on the elevations of the buildings. Our group is keen to assist Council in working with individual building owners to establish an improved network of access and concealed services.”

Support for events and activations

- Continue to support events like Neon Playground of Chinatown
- Create uninterrupted space for live performances (buskers, musicians, dancers etc) in Dixon Street. It would assist if Little Hay Street was closed to vehicular traffic and allow more table and chairs to be placed in the precinct.
- Night markets can be overly congested at times so would support spreading these out into different areas of Chinatown.

Space – opening the canopy

4 Respondents

It was suggested that caring for Country should be a feature of the ‘Space’ design driver. There be an acknowledgement of the Gadigal traditional custodians of the land where Dixon Street is located.

Removal of trees not supported (2 respondents)

It was suggested, with reference to Chinese numerology, that the trees being in pairs is significant and symbolises ‘bonding’ and to remove trees would symbolise ‘loneliness’.

The aim of improving solar access could also be undone by tower developments (417-419 Sussex Street, 82-84 Dixon Street, 96-100 Hay Street) in the area and this needs to be taken into account.

Suggested alternatives:

- Selective pruning to improve air flow and natural light
- Regular trimming to prevent overgrowing over building roofs
- Arborist information on the health of all trees
- Focus on fostering biodiversity (plants / animals)

Support for tree removal (2 respondents)

Healthy trees should be pruned and maintained and only a select few need to be removed.

Flow – removing blockages

2 Respondents

- Support removal of blockages in Dixon Street including benches, bollards and digital signage boards
- Request removal of digital billboards and payphones (Soul of Chinatown has been advocating for the removal of these eyesores and pedestrian obstacles from Dixon Street with our petition being signed by more than 1,000 people.)

Appendices

Appendix A: Communications overview

The following is a snapshot of outcomes from marketing and communications activities undertaken to support the consultation. Activities reached a range of audience segments existing City of Sydney channels.

Activity	Outcome
Sydney Your Say webpage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1693 views• 683 survey link clicks
Haymarket Precinct Page	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 717 views
CoS News story	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 614 views
Lord Mayor letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To 8266 properties (Owners / Businesses / residents) on 27 October
Notification email to key stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To 494 unique recipients on 26 October
eNewsletters Sydney Your Say November edition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6760 subscribers sent on 2 November 2023

Appendix B: Communications activities

Sydney Your Sat webpage

Proposed works & maintenance

Your feedback on proposed plans to improve Dixon Street, Haymarket

Haymarket Chinatown

Open for feedback

We invite your feedback on the draft concept plans to improve Dixon Street.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD
18 October 2023 to 15 November 2023

Why we're doing this

In August and September 2022, more than 1,150 people shared their ideas for the future of Haymarket. This helped build a [community vision for Haymarket](#).

In August and September 2023, we invited feedback on our [proposed Haymarket and Chinatown revitalisation strategy](#) and [Haymarket public domain plan](#). We developed the strategy and plan from the community vision.

What we're doing

Dixon Street is at the heart of Chinatown and is highly valued by the community, especially for multiple generations of the Chinese community who have many memories of the area.

Our planned improvements reflect what the community told us and balance a respect for the past with contemporary cultural expression.

Complete our online survey

Consultation closes at 5pm on Wednesday 15 November.

- [Take our survey](#)
- [填寫我們的調查表](#)
- [填寫我們的調查表](#)
- [SURVEY DRAFTING](#)
- [설문조사 참여하기](#)
- [Visit our website](#)

Gareth Jenkins

SENIOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR - CITY ENGAGEMENT

02 9265 9333

sydneyyourcity@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
COPY EMAIL ADDRESS

The proposed improvements include restoring the Chinatown Ceremonial Gates, which were realised in 1980 by the Dixon Street Chinese Committee and the City of Sydney. The gates were designed by the Hon. Henry Tsang.

The draft plans include Dixon Street north, which runs between Goulburn and Liverpool streets, an area not owned by the City of Sydney. We will upgrade Dixon Street south and continue to support the NSW Government to review any needs for improvements in the northern section.

We want to hear your views on our proposed concepts to improve Dixon Street. Your feedback will help shape the revitalisation of this area.

We want to hear your views on our proposed concepts to improve Dixon Street. Your feedback will help shape the revitalisation of this area.

- 工作简介
- 措施简介
- สิ่งที่เรากำลังทำ
- 우리가 하고 있는 일
- Apa yang sedang kami lakukan

Dixon street public upgrades concept plan

PDF - 10.19 MB - Last modified 18 October 2023



© Concept design: Dixon street public domain upgrade

Notification via eNews

Inclusion in Sydney Your Say eNewsletter on 6th of September

Sydney Your Say

CITY OF SYDNEY 



Our plans to improve Dixon Street, Haymarket

We want to hear your views on our proposed concepts to improve Dixon Street. Your feedback will help shape the revitalisation of this area.

These plans are part of our Haymarket and Chinatown revitalisation strategy and Haymarket public domain plan.

Provide your feedback by Wednesday 15 November.

[Read more](#)

Social media: Instagram / facebook / linkedin

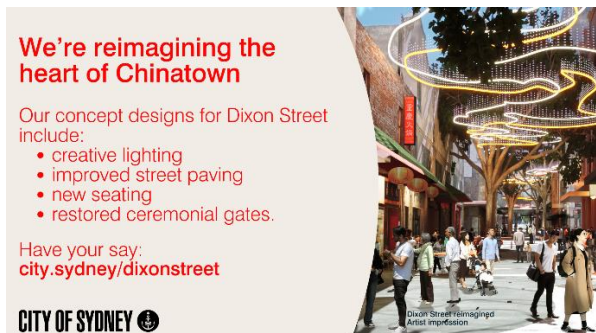


QMS panels

Dual language artwork on rotation:



Digital screens at Darling Square library:



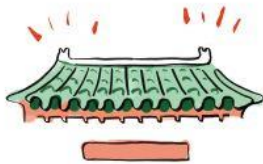
Appendix C: Consultation materials

The Dixon Street Public Domain Upgrades 24-page plan was available on the Sydney Your Say webpage for download.

Design Drivers - Dixon St South

Culture

Embrace the history/cultural identity of China Town



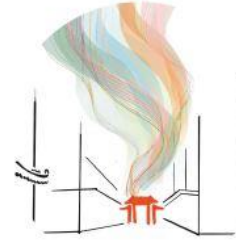
Space

Enhance the unique qualities of Dixon Street



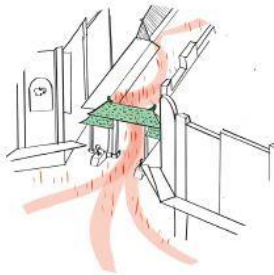
Vitality

Regenerate Dixon Street with light



Flow

Reveal and celebrate its ebb and flow



Elements

Embed identity of place in the public domain elements



Public Life

Create a space for all people, all of the time



Appendix D: Photos from the consultation popups

Popup at Dixon Street



Haymarket Forum

