

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
OUTCOMES REPORT**
MAY 2025

 City of Ryde





CITY OF RYDE | Constitution Road Infrastructure Upgrade

Community Engagement Outcomes Report

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City of Ryde

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CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Executive Summary



Purpose of this report

In February 2025, City of Ryde conducted a comprehensive community engagement process to inform our community and gauge resident views on various aspects of planned upgrades to Constitution Road in Meadowbank and, to better understand project impacts from community perspective. This report provides a summary of the key feedback and concerns that have been raised throughout the consultation process as well as Council's response to these.

Key feedback themes and issues

Council received over 300 responses during this process. The key feedback and concerns raised can be broadly categorised under the following themes:

Theme	Key concerns and issues
1. Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ increases in traffic speed arising from the upgrade▪ increased congestion and disruptions to traffic flow through stop-starts associated with signals▪ inconvenience due to detours and longer travel distance arising from turning bans
2. Pedestrian priority and safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ wait times associated with signalised crossings will force pedestrians to take risks in crossing at the intersections
3. Loss of local character	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ the planned upgrades will alter the existing local character and pedestrian amenity offered along the corridor
4. Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ loss of mature street trees and potentially wildlife▪ noise and heat impacts of constructed concrete and asphalt surfaces

These concerns are discussed in this report with details contained in the attached summary table.



Traffic - need for road reconstruction and upgrade works

Constitution Road provides primary access into Meadowbank Town Centre and rapid development along the corridor has placed significant demand on Constitution Road, however, the current traffic arrangements do not provide the capacity to service the current or the predicted future traffic demand. Approximately 13,000 vehicles use this section of Constitution Road per day. As such, a key aim of the upgrade is to adequately provide for this crucial local traffic collection and distribution function Constitution Road is performing within the precinct.

The proposed upgrades aim to enhance the overall capacity to improve traffic flow. Significant efforts are also being made to ensure that traffic needs are balanced with local amenity considerations, to create a public domain that is of high quality and character.

Pedestrian priority and safety

While Council notes the concerns regarding loss of pedestrian priority as a result of new traffic signals, by regulating pedestrian and vehicles, Council considers that signalised pedestrian crossings will provide far safer crossing opportunities and will actually improve accessibility and mobility of the local area. In particular, by improving connections between the rapidly growing residential areas, the town centre and the education precinct. Signalised crossings are statistically much safer than uncontrolled ones, particularly in high-demand areas such as at the intersections being signalised along Constitution Road. Roundabouts, while useful in some contexts, are generally less pedestrian-friendly, especially for visually impaired users.

Further, the widening of Constitution Road to provide fully accessible links is also expected to enhance both pedestrian and motorist safety. By integrating safe walking, cycling, and vehicular infrastructure, the aim is to achieve a balanced mode of transportation for both recreational and commuter travel.



Local amenity and character

In keeping with proposed West Ryde Meadowbank Masterplan and Council's Public Domain Plan, the suite of improvements that are proposed along the corridor will include the provision of street trees, native landscaping, embellishment of the public domain including new street lighting, street furniture as well as retaining walls with decorative and architectural finishes. Council considers that the visual cues these works will create, together with signalisation of key intersections, will reinforce the role of Constitution Road as an important low-speed, local road and will preserve its local character. Further, the installation of signals at key intersections along the corridor will discourage through-traffic from using Constitution Road as an alternative to Victoria Road.

Council is also collaborating with the adjoining major developers along Constitution Road and Railway Road to create high-quality and shared public spaces. Investigation works are underway to explore options for increased public domain activation, as well as options for traffic calming to create pedestrian friendly areas along Railway Road. Improvements to bicycle access by linking cycleways to the proposed north-south active transport link through to West Ryde is also being considered.

Tree impacts

Regarding tree impacts arising from the works, Council acknowledges the importance of maintaining and enhancing urban tree cover, and significant efforts will be made to minimise the impact wherever possible and provide compensatory tree planting where tree removal is necessary for project success.

The project involves the widening of Constitution Road east of Bowden Street to adequately provide for a range of crucial infrastructure including safe turning lanes, footpaths, retaining walls, and kerb and gutter for improved surface drainage. In addition to the surface infrastructure, the widening is also essential to facilitate the construction of underground infrastructure such as drainage and corridors for utilities. While most of the trees along the northern side can be retained, a large number of trees along the southern side will regrettably require removal due to the infrastructure stated above.

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However, the works along this section of Constitution Road will involve replanting semi-mature trees as well as native shrubs and groundcover along the side slope. The project will also involve the provision of street trees along Constitution Road's southern footpath west of Bowden Street. At this stage, 30 new trees are expected to be planted within the road corridor. Council is also investigating available open spaces in close proximity to the site for offsite compensatory planting to ensure there is no net loss of trees.

Council acknowledges that while the road widening works will impact existing stand of trees, the project will result in significant long-term benefits to the broader community and will result in a public domain that will be of high quality and character.

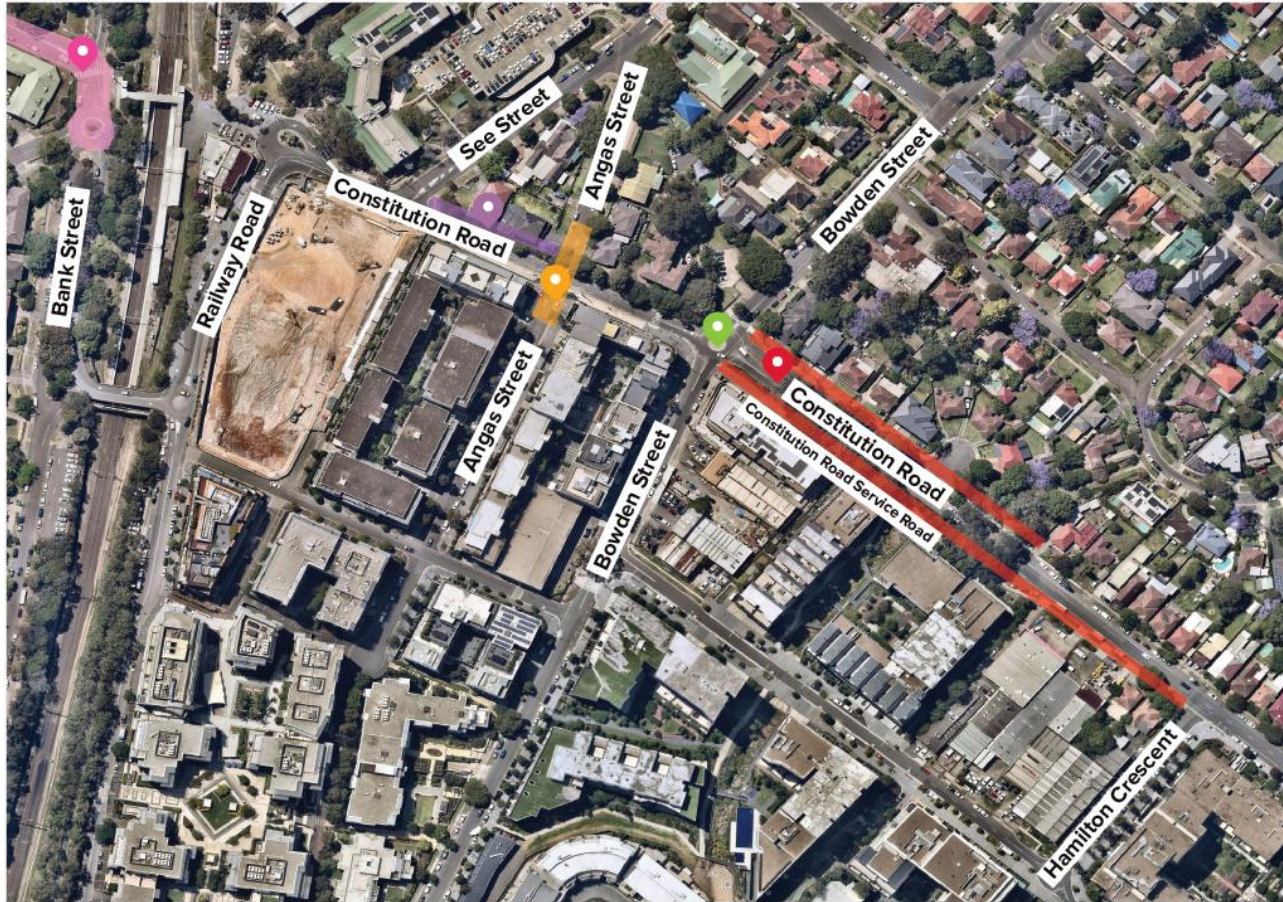
Council also thanks our community for their feedback and assures them that the current solution, which has been refined through modelling, safety audits, and community consultation, is a balanced and evidence-based response to future demand. Council will continue to integrate urban design and sustainability outcomes, and inputs from our community members to ensure best project and community outcomes are achieved.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Location of Works



The works will include activities across five separate phases on Constitution Road between Belmore Street and the western side of the Meadowbank Railway Station, near Bank Street.



- Phase 1** – Installation of traffic lights at Bank Street and Meadow Crescent.
- Phase 2** – Construction of retaining wall and widening of the northern footpath on Constitution Road between Bowden Street and See Street.
- Phase 3** – Upgrade to the Angas Street Bridge.
- Phase 4** – Installation of traffic lights at Bowden Street and Constitution Road.
- Phase 5** – Widening of Constitution Road between Bowden Street and Hamilton Crescent (including Service Road).

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Engagement Overview



The Have Your Say was open from Wednesday 29 January 2025 to Wednesday 5 March 2025 during which our community provided feedback via the online survey, email, post, and at the drop-in sessions.

It was promoted through the City of Ryde's Have Your Say webpage, flyers to surrounding residents, signs along the Constitution Road corridor, social media, and listings in the local newspaper and the Your City News e-newsletter.

There were 160 online survey responses (of which 104 were completed responses and 56 partially completed responses), 24 email submissions and 293 attendees across the three drop-in sessions.

Council engaged WSP to lead design work for the upgrade, including providing community and stakeholder engagement support. This report provides a summary of the engagement themes presented by community and stakeholder feedback.



Drop-in Session: Sunday 9 February 2025 at Anderson Park



Drop-in Session: Monday 10 February 2025 at Shepherds Bay Centre



Drop-in Session: Saturday 15 February 2025 at Ann Thorn Park



CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Timeline



February 2024 – May 2024

Stage 1 Works Completed

Construction of the footpath connection between Bowden St and See St and new pedestrian crossing on Constitution Rd (near See Street).



HAVE YOUR SAY

29 January 2025 – 5 March 2025

Have Your Say

Council invites community feedback on proposed upgrades for the Constitution Road Corridor.

April – May 2025

Final Design

Community feedback considered by Council and the technical consultants to finalise the design.



CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Timeline



July - August 2025

Council Appoints Contractor

Council will appoint a construction contractor through the tender process.



May 2025

Procurement of Contractor and REF

Council will advertise tender to select construction contractor. Council will also publish the Review of Environmental Factors (REF) pursuant to EP&A Act.



September 2025 - December 2026

Construction

Construction of various elements of the project.



Late 2026

Construction Completion

Construction anticipated to be completed.



*Note: Dates may be subject to change.
The final schedule for phasing the works will be determined by the successful contractor.*

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



The following tables provides a summary of key feedback identified across the online survey, drop-in sessions, one-on-one meetings, and email submissions for Constitution Road Infrastructure Upgrade (CRIU). The Table is separated by the five phases of work and general feedback, as well as into key areas of support, concerns and suggestions as expressed by the community. The table also provides Council response to the key concerns and suggestions that were raised by the community during the engagement activities.

General Feedback

Key Theme

There were several areas of feedback that were raised during consultation that apply to the CRIU project more broadly.

Key areas of support included:

Support for the upgrades taking place over five phases
The work is required and will benefit Meadowbank

Key concerns included:

- Constitution Road becoming a thoroughfare to avoid Victoria Road and the desire for Meadowbank to become more of a destination rather than a connecting suburb.
- Bus movement through the area and whether buses have been considered enough during both construction and operation of the project.
- A perceived lack of consideration for community feedback in planning processes with a number of respondents expressing a desire for more transparency and community involvement in the planning and execution of the project.
- Project delays and impacts to overall construction time and resulting disruptions for the community

Council Response

Community consultation is a key priority for the CRIU project as demonstrated by comprehensive engagement process that have been recently completed. We are committed to effective communication and engagement with our community and stakeholders to foster positive outcomes for all parties. Our approach includes ongoing engagement and necessary processes for the transparent management of all issues identified during the consultation period, These issues will be used by Council and its technical consultants to inform the final design.

Council is committed to continuous community engagement and updates throughout the lifecycle of the project as required to ensure that the community is well-informed on project progress. This extends to all relevant stakeholders to ensure minimal impacts to their operations. In relation to Busways in particular, there will be no changes required to the existing bus routes at the completion of the CRIU project.

The proposed works on Constitution Road are intended to improve safety for all road users, increase capacity at key pinch points and improve walking and cycling connections to key destinations in the precinct.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council’s response



General Feedback (continued)

Key Theme	Council Response
<p>Key suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Continuing to consult with the community in the design phases of the upgrades, particularly those residents who will be directly impacted by the changes.Resolving parking issues in the area which may be exacerbated as a result of the planned upgrades.Considering broader improvement for active transport (pedestrian and cyclists) including shading and trees, seating, cycling options.	<p>The upgrades proposed on Constitution Road are not designed to replace the function of Victoria Road.</p> <p>Instead, the purpose is to achieve desired place and movement outcomes within Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct (MEEP) that is aligned with key planning strategies such as Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy 2041 and the Greater City Commission’s MEEP Master Plan.</p> <p>Council appreciates the community’s input throughout the consultation. These inputs have helped to refine designs to balance safety, function, and character based on evidence and community priorities. Council remains committed to integrating community feedback and delivering a safe, connected, and high-quality public domain as part of the Constitution Road Infrastructure Upgrade.</p>

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 1 - Installation of the traffic lights at Bank Street and Meadow Crescent

Key Theme

Overall, there were balanced views regarding Phase 1 of CRIU. Many respondents expressed support for the proposed signalisation, given the benefits of reduced queue lengths and increased pedestrian and driver safety. Equally however, many respondents expressed concerns, including increased congestion and impact of proposed turning bans. Comprehensive feedback received via individual submissions highlighted the great community interest in Phase 1. A summary of what was heard across all engagement activities for Phase 1 is provided below.

Key areas of support included:

- The installation of traffic lights will make the area safer for pedestrians and drivers.

Key concerns included:

- Increased congestion on Constitution Road due to traffic lights disrupting traffic flow, with some respondents considering the current pedestrian crossing and roundabout as sufficient for directing the existing traffic.
- Inconvenience to Bank Street and Constitution Road residents caused by longer commute times as result of removing the roundabout and no planned right turn from Bank Street (North) onto Constitution Road and vice-versa.

Council Response

Constitution Road is a busy sub-arterial road that carries considerable volume of traffic and requires upgrades to meet current and future traffic demands. The upgrades are designed to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety supported by structural assessments and traffic modelling for required infrastructure works as part of CRIU. Key findings from these assessments are provided below:

- Constitution Road intersection at Bank Street/Meadow Crescent has been identified to be an existing 'pinch point' which currently involves the following at afternoon/evening peak:
 - a) Long traffic queues that extend over the railway overbridge and disrupt operations at the Bank Street / Railway Road / Bay Drive intersection as well as impacting the broader traffic and transport network.
 - b) Operating capacity can't cater for future increases in traffic demands.
- The provision of traffic lights at this intersection is expected to reduce queue lengths and better accommodate existing and future traffic demands in the precinct.



Phase 1 - Installation of the traffic lights at Bank Street and Meadow Crescent (continued)

Key Theme

Key concerns (continued):

- Impact on pedestrian safety from replacing the pedestrian crossing with a signalled light crossing - many respondents feel that pedestrians will illegally cross the road to catch departing trains or due to impatience waiting for the light.
- The design should be reconsidered to ensure clear visibility, improved pedestrian safety, and logical connectivity. Bank Street (south) has been identified as the more heavily used access route.
- Issues for delivery and service vehicles accessing businesses at the corner of Meadow Crescent and Bank Street.
- Reductions to already limited parking availability in the area
- Ensuring continued access during the construction phase.

Key suggestions included:

- Installation of lights at the current crosswalk location only and retaining of the four-arm roundabout.
- Ensuring the synchronisation of traffic lights to allow for efficient traffic flow during peak hours and use smart traffic light systems that respond to at-the-time traffic conditions.
- Extending the current pedestrian bridge the railway line to the shops on the opposite side of Bank Street to avoid vehicle and pedestrian interactions

Council Response

- There are existing roundabouts on Constitution Road at Station Street and Railway Road / Bay Drive to the west and, to the east of Bank Street and Meadow Crescent to accommodate turnaround movements. These roundabouts will assist with access to Bank Street and Meadow Crescent, following the installation of traffic lights at the intersection of Constitution Road / Bank Street / Meadow Crescent. Drivers are also able use other local roads such as Union Street, Maxim Street and Station Street to avoid the turning bans proposed at the junction of Constitution Road and Bank Street. Given the low volume of the existing movements that are proposed to be prohibited (generally less than one vehicle every two minutes during weekday commuter peak hours), there won't be a noticeable impact to the surrounding local network.
- The detour routes are expected to comfortably service emergency vehicles and waste collection vehicles, with no measurable impacts. Emergency vehicles can also, if deemed necessary, manoeuvre over the low median to undertake right turn movements from Constitution Road (west) to Bank Street (north). Similarly, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) maintenance and emergency vehicles have an alternative access gate along Bank St (Southbound). City of Ryde will be engaging with TfNSW and Sydney Trains throughout the project and all required approvals will be obtained.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 1 - Installation of the traffic lights at Bank Street and Meadow Crescent (continued)

Key Theme	Council Response
<p>Key suggestions (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changing the area surrounding the train station and education precinct to be a High Pedestrian Activity Area (HPAA) or shared zone.• Considering ripple effects of the proposed traffic lights on adjacent back streets and surrounding neighbourhoods.• Ensuring that traffic signal noise is dimmed in the evenings to limit noise pollution for residents.• Allowing for right turns at the proposed traffic lights.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The proposed traffic lights at the intersection of Constitution Road / Bank Street / Meadow Crescent will provide for more orderly pedestrian crossing behaviour, thereby improving pedestrian safety at this busy location. <p>Pedestrian connectivity to Bank Street (South) is also made safer via the formal, signalised pedestrian crossing proposed across Meadow Crescent. To ensure clear sight lines for motorists and to ensure pedestrian safety, vegetation removal/trimming will be undertaken during construction.</p> <p>There is no impact to the movements currently being undertaken by delivery and service vehicles accessing the businesses at the corner of Meadow Crescent and Bank Street via the existing driveways. Similarly, there is no impact to the existing parking arrangements, with the exception of Kiss and Ride zone, proposed to be relocated, retain the drop-off opportunities for commuters using public transport.</p> <p>Council will ensure pedestrian safety (in particular, school-aged children) by implementing safe pedestrian accesses, signage, and as required during construction, traffic controllers.</p> <p>Council acknowledges concerns about signal wait times, but signalised crossings statistically offer safer conditions, especially in high-traffic areas such as the railway stations and bus interchange.</p>

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 1 - Installation of the traffic lights at Bank Street and Meadow Crescent (continued)

Key Theme

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Council Response

Enhancements to the public domain is a key element of the proposed works and will include, native landscaping, street trees, architectural finishes on retaining walls, new street lighting, and furniture. These improvements aim to maintain the local character and reinforce Constitution Road as a local, pedestrian-friendly corridor while discouraging commuter traffic from using it as a bypass to Victoria Road.

Updates key suggestions:

- **Timing, coordination, phasing and noise pollution associated the proposed traffic lights:** The operations of the traffic lights fall under the care and control of TfNSW. Council will liaise with TfNSW on the community suggestions for their consideration and action.
- **Extending the current pedestrian bridge over the railway line to the shops on the opposite side of Bank Street to avoid vehicle and pedestrian interactions:** This initiative has been previously explored by TfNSW. However, it is understood that this project is not feasible due to the high cost involved. Council is further exploring improved pedestrian connections across the railway line as part of the Meadowbank/West Ryde Masterplan.
- **Changing the area surrounding the train station and education precinct to be a High Pedestrian Activity Areas (HPAA) or a Shared Zone. TfNSW reviews and approves HPAA:** Council put forward a HPAA proposal for the Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct (MEEP) in 2022 for approval by TfNSW. Unfortunately, Council did not receive support from TfNSW to further progress with this initiative. Council is currently exploring further 'place and movement' improvements in the area as part of the Meadowbank/West Ryde Master Plan.



Phase 2 - Construction of retaining wall and widening and releveling of the northern footpath

Key Theme

Overall, there was strong community support towards Phase 2 of CRIU, attributed to the improved pedestrian safety as the result of the works. A summary of what was heard across all engagement activities for Phase 2 is provided below.

Key areas of support included:

- The proposed changes will make the area safer for pedestrians and drivers, particularly at Constitution Road and See Street for young children walking to the public school and high school.
- The widening of the northern footpath will allow accommodate a greater number of pedestrians
- Key concerns included:
- Impacts related to the retaining wall included heat and UV, noise, stormwater drainage and the removal of vegetation from above the retaining wall
- Pedestrian safety when accessing the footpath, particularly at night
- Lack of cycle ways

Key suggestions included:

- Conducting a noise study, measuring UV in the area prior to design and consideration of shading and planting of (e.g. vines on wires, native vegetation) to reduce impacts of heat and noise
- Ensuring the footpath is wide enough to accommodate prams and wheelchairs

Council Response

As reflected by the strong support from the community, Phase 2 includes elements which will bring significant improvements to pedestrian access and safety. Council acknowledges the community suggestions and feedback which are addressed via the two sections below:

Retaining Wall

Council is undertaking a comprehensive environmental assessment for the project. The scope of this assessment includes reviewing the impacts that the proposed retaining wall will have on the heat and UV radiation and noise levels to the surrounding residents. Once completed, the outcomes of the environmental assessment (Review of Environmental Factors) will be publicly available in line with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021 and forms part of the project requirements which Council will address. Any recommendations resulting from the environmental assessment report will be implemented.

Notwithstanding, preliminary calculations indicate that noise level increases associated with a reflective barrier surface vs the irregular surface and vegetation of the existing sandstone cutting may be in the order of 1 dB only, which is barely perceptible to the average person.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 2 - Construction of retaining wall and widening and releveling of the northern footpath (continued)

Key Theme

Key suggestions (continued):

- Ensuring the footpath is wide enough to accommodate prams and wheelchairs
- Considering safety design measures in the footpath design, including appropriate lighting, ensuring pedestrian and driver sight lines and visibility and traffic slowing measures e.g. speed bumps
- Making sure that the area is designed in a way that is aesthetically pleasing and the retaining wall is durable, safe and integrated with the surrounding environment, e.g. public art or using natural materials.
- Ensuring that the wall is designed in a way that will discourage children from climbing it.

Council Response

Maintenance access and associated fencing are required along the top of the retaining wall and therefore, planting of vegetation in this area isn't feasible. However, Council will ensure that the high-quality materials are used for the retaining wall which are durable and integrate with the surrounding environment, while ensuring that all necessary measures such as anti-graffiti coating and climbing deterrents are in place.

Footpath on the Northern side of Constitution Road

Council will provide a footpath that will span the full width of available space, noting the constraints associated with the adjacent property boundary and proposed retaining wall. Adequate lighting will be provided along Constitution Road in line with Australian Standards for Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces. Safety in Design principles have been incorporated to address pedestrian safety, sight lines, and visibility.

The retaining wall and footpath will be designed to integrate with the surrounding environment while ensuring public safety. Improvements will include native landscaping, architectural finishes on retaining walls, new lighting, and street furniture, enhancing the public domain and reinforcing Constitution Road's role as a pedestrian-friendly, low-speed local road.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 3 - Upgrade to the Angas Street Bridge for pedestrian and cycle use only

Key Theme

Overall, there were balanced views across the community regarding the upgrade of Angas Street Bridge to be pedestrian and cycle access only. Respondents expressed support, highlighting the safety benefits for pedestrians, particularly for children travelling to and from schools. Equally however, many respondents expressed concerns about the increased traffic congestion on surrounding streets and inconvenience for residents. A summary of what was heard across all engagement activities for Phase 3 is provided below.

Key areas of support included:

Making the Angas Bridge pedestrian only will make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists.

Key concerns included:

- The impact that restricting vehicle access will have on surrounding residents and people accessing schools and childcare as the road is currently frequently used by vehicles.
- Pedestrian access during the construction phase of the project

Key suggestions included:

- Widening the bridge to allow for vehicle access as well as a cycle and pedestrian pathway.

Council Response

Council is proposing to prohibit vehicular traffic on Angas Street bridge and convert it into an active travel link exclusively for pedestrians and cyclists, in view of the below findings:

- An independent assessment undertaken by a structural consultant found the Angas Street Bridge structure to be in a very poor condition with significant renewal and upgrade required to restore serviceability.

There have been several traffic studies undertaken to assess the impact of closing Angas Street bridge to vehicular traffic. The redistribution of traffic has been assessed to have negligible impact on the operations of the surrounding public road network, as the traffic volumes using Angas Street bridge are low.

Further, there is currently no scope or funding available for widening of the bridge.

While the suggestion for a shared pedestrian zone is noted, Council will meet this intent by providing an off-road solution, consisting of a continuous and accessible footpath with a width of 2.5m (width of a typical shared user path), where possible.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 3 - Upgrade to the Angas Street Bridge for pedestrian and cycle use only (continued)

Key Theme

Key suggestions (continued):

- Making the northern part of Angas Street a shared pedestrian zone noting that this is already the case for the southern section of Angas Street.
- Changing the location of the turning circle or turning head to the southern end of the kiss and ride area near the Italian Bilingual School
- Considering place-based upgrades to the bridge, including additional and feature lighting and/or sculptural adornment to make the bridge more appealing to the public.

Council Response

Feedback regarding the location of the turning circle/head on the southern end of the kiss and ride area is acknowledged. Council will investigate this option with consideration of the safety requirements for waste collection vehicles.

Council will ensure pedestrian safety (in particular, school-aged children) by implementing safe pedestrian accesses, signage, and traffic controllers during construction (as required). The widened footpaths and formal crossings will enhance accessibility and safety for pedestrians, especially children and visually impaired users.

Feedback from the community regarding place-based upgrades is acknowledged and will be incorporated where feasible, considering project fit, funding availability, and overall purpose. Design elements such as feature lighting or sculptural adornments will be explored where they align with the project's objectives and constraints.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 4 - Installation of traffic lights at Bowden Street and Constitution Road

Key Theme

Overall, there was mixed feedback from the community regarding Phase 4 and the replacement of the existing roundabout at Bowden Street and Constitution Road with traffic lights. Respondents expressed support, highlighting the safety benefits for pedestrians. Equally however, many respondents expressed concerns, including potential of increased traffic congestion on surrounding streets. A summary of what was heard across all engagement activities for Phase 4 is provided below.

Key areas of support included:

- The proposed changes will make the area safer for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers.
- The proposed traffic lights will improve congestion on the roads.

Key concerns included:

- Increased traffic congestion and inconvenience to neighbouring residents from the removal of the right turning lane heading north on Bowden Street.
- Concern that Meadowbank will become more of a thoroughfare than it currently is with vehicles using it to escape the congestion of Victoria Street.
- Concerns that traffic lights will create unnecessary delays during off-peak times.
- Concerns around the impacts to traffic on the road during construction.

Council Response

Constitution Road currently carries over 13,000 vehicles per day and requires upgrades to meet current and future traffic demands. The upgrades are designed to improve flow while balancing amenity, supported by structural assessments and traffic modelling undertaken by transport and civil consultants for the required infrastructure works as part of CRIU.

There have been several studies undertaken by transport and civil consultants on the infrastructure works to be undertaken as part of the CRIU project. The assessment found that with the signalised upgrade, the Bowden Street/Constitution Road intersection will improve operation during both AM and PM peak hours and meets the standard requirements set by TfNSW and the relevant industry guidelines.

The proposed intersection configuration has received Agreement in Principle from TfNSW, and no additional modifications are required for the intersection of Bowden Street/Constitution Road intersection.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 4 - Installation of traffic lights at Bowden Street and Constitution Road (continued)

Key Theme	Council Response
<p>Key suggestions included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensuring the synchronisation of traffic lights to allow for efficient traffic flow during peak hours and use smart traffic light systems that respond to at-the-time traffic conditions• Considering ripple effects of the proposed traffic lights on adjacent back streets and surrounding neighbourhoods.• Ensuring that traffic signal noise is dimmed in the evenings to limit noise pollution for residents.	<p>As with Phase 1, the operations of the traffic lights fall under the care and control of TfNSW. Council will liaise with TfNSW so they take into consideration the community suggestions regarding timing, coordination, phasing and noise pollution associated the proposed traffic lights and take appropriate actions.</p> <p>Council will ensure that during the construction phase, approved traffic controls are implemented and monitored to ensure efficient movement of traffic.</p>

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 5 - Widening of Constitution Road between Bowden Street and Hamilton Crescent (including Service Road)

Key Theme

Overall, many respondents showed general support for the widening of Constitution Road and felt that it would improve the area. The main points of concerns were relating to the proposed changes to the service road and importance of maintaining green corridors by not removing mature trees. A summary of what was heard across all engagement activities for Phase 5 is provided below.

Key areas of support included:

- Improvements to pedestrian journeys to and from Meadowbank Station
- Improve car access to the Constitution Road service road

Key concerns included:

- The service road creating a blind spot when exiting onto Constitution Road due to the gradient and fears around merging back onto Constitution Road from the service road
- The potential for the road widening to increase traffic, particularly relating to the impact of one-way sections on traffic flow
- Impacts on accessing to the train station and ferry wharf for residents who live on the service road
- Pedestrian safety risks resulting from the service road allowing one-way traffic, the widening of the road allowing for increased vehicle speeds and as a result of the proposed level changes reducing driver visibility of pedestrians

Council Response

Extending the Service Road on the Northern side of Constitution Road to the east of Bowden Street and converting it into one-way traffic isn't expected to result in any significant changes to the traffic demands on this laneway. The main reason is that there is no 'advantage' for drivers to use this Service Road over the eastbound Constitution Road traffic lane, since vehicles on the Service Road would have to rejoin Constitution Road at the eastern end of the Service Road. These vehicles would also have to 'Give Way' to the through traffic while entering back onto Constitution Road. Council will ensure that adequate sightlines to vehicles exiting the service roads onto Constitution Road are maintained.

The replacement of the painted pedestrian (zebra) crossings with signalised crossings across Constitution Road and Bowden Street will improve pedestrian safety at this location, including for the residents along the service roads accessing Meadowbank station and ferry wharf.

The widening of the Service Road on the Southern side of Constitution Road is not expected to increase the traffic of the occasional maintenance vehicles which use the Service Road. Notwithstanding, Council is providing the following to further improve pedestrian connectivity and safety:

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 5 - Widening of Constitution Road between Bowden Street and Hamilton Crescent (including Service Road) (continued)

Key Theme

Key concerns (continued):

- Biodiversity and wildlife in the area, particularly the old stringy bark trees which are native to the area and have owls nesting in the trees and mature trees located in Ann Thorn Park.
- Removal of a portion of Ann Thorn Park for the extension of service road, and opportunities to integrate this recreational space into the precinct given the premium placed on green spaces.
- Privacy and noise impacts for residents resulting from the removal of vegetation and trees and increased pedestrian and vehicle access on the service road.
- The extent to which the walkway may obstruct property access.

Key suggestions included:

- Improving pedestrian and cycle infrastructure.
- Consider upgrading the southern service road to meet a standard that is safer for pedestrians, for example by resurfacing the road and providing additional pedestrian lighting, instead of creating a new footpath on the southern side of Constitution Road (east of Bowden St).
- Creating a continuous sidewalk for pedestrian priority, joining the footpath alongside the widened Constitution Road to make it easier for residents walking to the station.

Council Response

- A continuous and accessible footpath (minimum width of 2m) along the Southern side of Constitution Road. This provides an additional option for pedestrians without the risk of vehicle/pedestrian conflict that currently exists at the Service Road.
- Adequate lighting along both the abovementioned footpath and the Service Road in line with Australian Standards for Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces to ensure driver visibility of pedestrians.
- 25km/h sign will be installed at the entrance of the Service Road to slow vehicles using the Service Road.

Council acknowledges the community concerns of the environmental, biodiversity/wildlife, privacy and noise impacts associated with the removal of vegetation and trees as well as the community concerns regarding the loss of shade and cooling in the area as a result.

Council acknowledges the environmental value of local trees and vegetation and is committed to minimising tree loss where possible. Unfortunately, some trees—mainly along the southern side of Constitution Road must be removed to safely install footpaths, underground services, and other required infrastructure. However as compensatory planting about 30 new semi mature trees as well as native shrubs and ground covers will be planted along the corridor. Council is also investigating nearby areas for off-site planting to ensure no net loss in canopy cover due to the proposed works.

CONSTITUTION ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Summary of feedback and Council's response



Phase 5 - Widening of Constitution Road between Bowden Street and Hamilton Crescent (including Service Road) (continued)

Key Theme

Key suggestions (continued):

- Improving pedestrian and cyclist safety by reducing the speed limit to 40 km/h, introducing speed bumps and traffic mirrors.
- Potential realignments or modifications that allow for a more seamless pedestrian experience without excessive detours.

Council Response

Council is undertaking a comprehensive environmental assessment for the project, where the scope includes reviewing the impacts such as those mentioned by the community.

Once completed, the outcomes of the environmental assessment (Review of Environmental Factors) will be made publicly available in line with the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2021. The REF will provide details of the environmental impact mitigation actions proposed by the Council.

Across all elements of the project scope, Council will endeavour to minimise the removal of vegetation and trees while maximise its planting.

Due to careful planning and design undertaken by the Council and the design consultants only 6% of Ann Thorn Park will be impacted by this phase of the project.