

11.11 Creation of a new park on the corner of Charles and Mollison Streets, Abbotsford

Trim Record Number: D16/626

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

1. That Council:

- (a) notes the officer report regarding the outcomes of community consultation in relation to the trial pocket park on Mollison Street at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford, and the opportunity for the creation of a permanent new open space;
- (b) notes the options outlined in the officer report;
- (c) authorises officers to prepare a concept design for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford;
- (d) authorises officers to consult with the local community on a concept plan for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford;
- (e) requests a written update from officers on the outcome of the local consultation;
- (f) notes that funding is available in the 2015/2016 capital works budget for the preparation of a concept plan for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford (including community consultation on the concept plan); and
- (g) refer the matter of a capital budget for construction of a permanent park to the 16/17 budget process for consideration.

Public Submissions:

The following people addressed Council on this matter:

Ms Lisa Wong; and

Ms Virginia Dods, President of Collingwood and Abbotsford Residents Association.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Moved: Councillor Stone

Seconded: Councillor Barbour

1. That Council:

- (a) notes the officer report regarding the outcomes of community consultation in relation to the trial pocket park on Mollison Street at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford, and the opportunity for the creation of a permanent new open space;
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- (f) notes that funding is available in the 2015/2016 capital works budget for the preparation of a concept plan for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford (including community consultation on the concept plan); and

- (g) refer the matter of a capital budget for construction of a permanent park to the 16/17 budget process for consideration.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Councillor Gaylard left the meeting at 8.52pm

Councillor Gaylard returned to the meeting at 8.54pm

Councillor Jolly left the meeting at 8.52pm

Councillor Jolly returned to the meeting at 8.56pm

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Executive Summary

Purpose

To update Councillors on the recent trial pocket park and community consultation undertaken on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford.

To seek Council's endorsement for the creation of a new pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford.

To seek Council approval to proceed with concept design for a new pocket park and community consultation on the draft design.

Key Issues

The Yarra Open Space Strategy 2006 (YOSS) identified that a lack of Local open space in south Abbotsford (sub-precinct 3067B); together with an increase in the residential population in this area, will place additional demands on existing open space.

The YOSS recommended the creation of a new Small Local open space on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford.

Consultation on a proposed new park in this location commenced in 2015. The first stage of consultation was undertaken in March, and feedback received indicated that overall the community was interested in additional green open space at this location, but that some people had concerns. It was decided that a short-term trial (second stage of consultation) could help determine if a park at this site would benefit the neighbourhood and enjoy community support.

The trial park was implemented at the corner of Charles and Mollison Streets, Abbotsford in November 2015.

Extensive monitoring and evaluation of the space was undertaken during the trial period. This included gathering information about the community interest in the space through:

- (a) on-line engagement;
- (b) written submissions;
- (c) feedback boards;
- (d) a community day; and
- (e) direct resident meetings.

It also included measuring and monitoring the impact of the site through analysis of time lapse photography and completion of a traffic and parking impact study.

Following the implementation of the trial park, the feedback received from residents was overwhelmingly positive, with most people supporting the idea of a permanent park in this location.

The time lapse photography and traffic and parking study also indicates the space was well used and had minimal impact on traffic and parking.

While the feedback was generally positive, two households living in apartments overlooking the proposed park site expressed concerns about potential noise and loss of privacy. Another household in this apartment block indicated that they would only support the project if the issue of noise was addressed.

It is expected that these concerns can be addressed as part of a concept design for a permanent open space.

Financial Implications

There is \$90,000 allocated in the 2015/16 Capital works budget for the preparation of a concept design, detailed design and for community consultation on a design for the proposed new pocket park.

It is proposed that construction of the new park be funded through developer contributions as part of the 2016/17 capital works program (subject to budgetary processes).

Construction of the new pocket park is expected to cost approximately \$900,000.

PROPOSAL

In light of the success of the trial pocket park, and the significant support from the local community to create a permanent new open space at this location, it is recommend that Council authorise Officers to prepare a concept design for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford.

11.11 **Creation of a new park on the corner of Charles and Mollison Streets, Abbotsford**

Trim Record Number: D16/626

Responsible Officer: Director Planning and Place Making

Purpose

1. To update Councillors on the recent trial pocket park and community consultation undertaken on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford.
2. To seek Council's endorsement for the creation of a new pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford.
3. To seek Council approval to proceed with concept design for a new pocket park and community consultation on the draft design.

Background

4. The Yarra Open Space Strategy 2006 (YOSS) identified that a lack of local open space in South Abbotsford (sub-precinct 3067B); together with an increase in the residential population in this area, will place additional demands on existing open space.
5. The YOSS recommended the creation of a new small local open space by closing a section of Mollison Street at the corner of Charles Street in Abbotsford.
6. A number of alternative locations were investigated as part of this process, however were discounted due to the following factors:
 - (a) the parcel created by the closure was too small;
 - (b) poor solar amenity;
 - (c) vehicular access requirements for adjacent properties; and
 - (d) amenity issues due to proximity on busy roads.
7. The site on the corner of Charles and Mollison was preferred for the following reasons:
 - (a) the pocket park would be of an appropriate size (in excess of 500 square metres);
 - (b) there would be a lower net loss of car spaces than other options investigated;
 - (c) there would be minimal impact on traffic volumes and flows;
 - (d) it had good visual permeability;
 - (e) it had excellent pedestrian accessibility; and
 - (f) it had excellent solar amenity.
8. At the Council meeting held on 3 February 2015, it was resolved that Council:
 - (a) *notes the initial work to date on the proposal for a partial road closure at the intersection of Charles and Mollison Street, Abbotsford, for the purpose of creating a new local park; and*
 - (b) *authorises officers to proceed with commencing preliminary community consultation on the project.*
9. Officers commenced consultation on the proposal to create a public open space in this location in March 2015. The consultants, CoDesign Studios, were engaged to assist with the community engagement aspect of this project.
10. A community drop-in information session was held on site on Saturday 21 March.
11. The feedback from the information session indicated that overall the community was interested in additional green open space but that some people had concerns. Some people were strongly opposed to the idea of a new pocket park.

12. It was considered that there was enough support to proceed with a trial park to help determine if a permanent park in this location would receive community support. A trial would also provide an opportunity to properly monitor and measure the potential of a park in this space before fully committing to the idea.
13. The installation of the trial park was initially delayed when a petition containing 39 signatures was received from residents of Abbotsford requesting that Council abandon the proposed pocket park trial.
14. The trial park was in place from Friday 13th to Tuesday 25th November 2015.

External Consultation

15. Consultation on the proposal to create a new pocket park through a partial road closure on the corner of Charles and Mollison streets, Abbotsford was conducted in two stages:
 - (a) Stage 1 – Initial consultation on the proposed park idea (10 March – 10 April 2015); and
 - (b) Stage 2 - Installation of trial pocket park and extended consultation (26 October - 27 November 2015).
16. As part of the Stage 1 consultation, a flyer was distributed on 10 March 2015 to 1,000 local residents (Attachment 1). It included information on:
 - (a) the opportunity for the creation of a new pocket park through a partial road closure;
 - (b) a summary of the rationale behind the proposal;
 - (c) examples of similar projects that have been successfully completed in Yarra;
 - (d) an open question survey to find out how people might like to use a space in their local area; and
 - (e) an invitation to a drop-in information session at the site of the proposed pocket park.
17. The drop-in information session was held on Saturday 21 March 2015, and attended by approximately 80 residents. At this workshop, residents had the opportunity to talk to Council officers and CoDesign staff about the project where feedback from session attendees was documented.
18. Residents had the opportunity for further engagement with the process via:
 - (a) an online forum for people to share their ideas or concerns; and
 - (b) written submissions to Open Space Planning and Design.
19. Results of the Stage 1 consultation found that, overall, the community was interested in additional green open space but that some people had concerns. A small number of people were strongly opposed to the idea and were particularly concerned about potential loss of parking and a fear of the space being used for anti-social behaviour (Attachment 2).
20. Residents were notified of the outcomes of the first stage of consultation and the proposal to proceed with a trial park in this location. A flyer was distributed on 1 June 2015 to 1,000 residents surrounding the site providing information regarding the trial (Attachment 3) and information was also posted on Council's webpage.
21. The trial park was in place from Friday 13th to Tuesday 25th November 2015 and the consultation extended from Monday 26 October to Wednesday Friday 27 November 2015. Residents had the opportunity to provide feedback via:
 - (a) an online forum for people to share their ideas or concerns;
 - (b) written submissions to Open Space Planning and Design; and
 - (c) feedback boards in the park during the trial period for people to use the ideas/voting stickers that were distributed with each flyer.
22. A community day was held at the trial pocket park on Sunday 15 November 2015, where residents were invited to come along and experience the park. The event was attended by approximately 70 people, with the Richmond Lions Club providing a BBQ for the event.

23. Direct meetings with six of the households immediately overlooking the proposed new park were also undertaken to gather feedback, and discuss potential design considerations for a permanent park.

Outcomes of Trial Park Consultation

24. The outcomes of the community engagement via the trial pocket park are included in the monitoring and evaluation report (Attachment 4). A summary is also provided below.

On-line engagement

25. The online engagement webpage was opened from 11 to 27 November 2015 to allow feedback either side of the 10 day park trial.
26. Two discussion forums were set up, for park users and local residents to provide feedback on the trial park.
27. During this time there were 614 unique webpage views, 1657 page views, 45 contributors, and over 127 comments.
28. The first topic '*What do you like about the trial park?*' had 86 comments from 49 respondents. Of these, 40 respondents were in support of the project, 8 were opposed the project, and 1 was undecided.
29. The second topic '*If the trial park was to become permanent, what features would you like to see installed?*' had 41 comments from 18 respondents. Popular suggested features included trees, grass, lawn, greenery garden beds and seating.
30. Overall the on-line forum provided a positive and constructive discussion about the benefits and issues associated with a park in this location. A summary of the on-line forum results is provided in (Attachment 5).
31. A review of the feedback revealed only limited comment in relation to traffic and parking. Most traffic and parking related issues can be overcome through the recommendations of the traffic report prepared by Traffix (Attachment 6).

Written submissions

32. 20 written submissions were received during the consultation period. Of these, 16 supported the park, two opposed it and two were undecided (Attachment 7).

Feedback Boards

33. An ideas sticker wall was provided to help stimulate discussion amongst the local community about their ideas for a permanent pocket park. A word cloud providing a graphic representation of the key themes is provided in the Monitoring and Evaluation Report (Attachment 4).
34. A 'dotmocracy wall' was established with a range of possible park ideas (such as lawn, play equipment, garden bed, artwork etc.). People were invited to use the stickers provided as part of the letter-box-drop to indicate their preference for the uses within a permanent pocket park.
35. A total of 102 votes were recorded for the following five core themes: "Greenery" (44 votes), "*Somewhere for kids to play*" (16 votes), "*Artworks*" (16 votes), "*Places to relax*" (15 votes), "*Activities*" (11 votes).

Community Day

36. An on-site community day was held on Sunday 15 November from 10am - 2pm. The purpose of this event was to invite people down to enjoy the park and stimulate discussion on the space. People were also encouraged to provide feedback on the park via the feedback boards. The Richmond Lions Club provided a sausage sizzle for this event. The day was attended by approximately 70 people over the 4 hour period.

Direct Resident Meetings

37. Following the initial consultation period in March, it emerged that some residents of the townhouses on the south side of Mollison Street overlooking the proposed park had concerns about the project. Given their proximity to the space, an invitation was extended to these households to learn more about their concerns and discuss ways they might be addressed. Six of the seven households accepted the invitation to meet.
38. In summary, two of the households are still strongly opposed to the project, three support the project (but only on the condition that certain design issues be addressed), and one is fully supportive of the project. A summary of each of these meetings is provided in Attachment 4 (Appendix 1.1).

Concerns raised by residents and the way in which these may potentially be addressed

39. The key concerns raised by residents and the way in which these may be addressed through the design interventions are summarised below.

Community Concerns	Design Response
Noise generated by park	A passive space would be created for residents to relax and unwind amongst lawn, plants and trees. Active recreation would not be encouraged which would go some way to reducing the issue of noise. In addition, as part of the design process, advice from an acoustic specialist could be sought to determine what measures can be taken as part of the park design process to mitigate noise. Solutions may include strategic tree and garden bed planting, use of soft surface materials and placement of furniture. Community consultations on the draft design would include the Body Corporate of the Mollison Street apartment buildings.
Visual access into apartments from park	Strategic tree planting with appropriate tree species could limit views from the park into the apartments. Deciduous trees would allow summer shading and winter sunlight (Attachment 8). Seating and furniture could also be orientated away from windows of adjoining properties. Consider retrofitting balconies directly overlooking the site with further privacy elements (in consultation with body corporate).
Late night park users and anti-social behaviour	While many residents were concerned about anti-social behaviour before the trial, it did not emerge as an issue during the trial. However and design for a permanent park should incorporate crime-prevention design principles to maximise safety and reduce the appeal of the area for night time use. Also, the maintenance and management of the space should be given due consideration from the outset.
Concern around the level of maintenance that the park would receive	The upkeep of small open spaces generally requires regular maintenance visits programmed at different frequencies depending on the infrastructure type.
Park Design	Many residents had specific comments about the design of any permanent pocket park. Ensure local residents are included in the design process for a permanent space. Produce a design brief for the park that directly addresses key concerns and needs of all residents.
Request for play items or equipment for children	The park space is small, and would need to be a flexible space for all community members. The inclusion of formal play equipment is not considered appropriate as it would take up a significant amount of park space and restrict the potential use of the park. The design could incorporate multi-purpose elements

	such as custom design furniture that integrates opportunities for play.
Potential for damage to Mollison Street apartment building from tree roots	Appropriate tree species for specific locations within the pocket park would be selected in consultation with Council's Arborist, and root barriers could be provided as necessary.
Traffic	While many residents were initially concerned about the impact of the trial on traffic, this did not emerge as an issue during the trial period. There was one request to make the one-way traffic in Park Street two-way between Langridge and Mollison Streets. This would mean residents of the apartment block on Mollison Street could avoid having to drive to Gipps Street to access their basement car park from Park Street. This option could be investigated further as part of the concept design process.
The park should be relocated to another part of Abbotsford	A number of alternative locations were investigated for conversion into parkland in Abbotsford but were discounted due to a number of factors including: - parcel size was too small; - poor solar amenity; - vehicular access requirements for adjacent properties; and - amenity issues due to proximity to busy roads.
The park is unnecessary in this part of Abbotsford	This view is contrary to the open space analysis as contained in Council's Open Space Strategy, and not supported by the majority of respondents.

40. Despite the above concerns, the consultation showed that a park at Mollison Street, on the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford, would predominantly be supported by residents as a permanent feature. With that said, it is critical that the design be closely conceived working with, and for the local community. Those residents that are directly affected by the proximity of the space must be heard and closely engaged as part of the design brief and process.

Internal Consultation

41. Internal consultation on the proposal to create a new park at the corner of Charles and Mollison streets, Abbotsford was undertaken with the following Council Branches:
- (a) Community Planning and Advocacy;
 - (b) Statutory Planning;
 - (c) Strategic Transport; and
 - (d) Traffic and Transport.

Financial Implications

42. There is \$90,000 allocated in the 2015/16 Capital works budget for the preparation of a concept design, detailed design and for community consultation on a design for the proposed new pocket park.
43. It is proposed that construction of the new park be funded through open space reserve contributions as part of the 2016/17 capital works program (subject to budgetary processes).
44. Construction of the new pocket park is expected to cost approximately \$900,000 in addition to ongoing maintenance costs of \$9,000 per year for new infrastructure associated with this proposal.

Economic Implications

45. There are no economic implications associated with this project.

Sustainability Implications

46. The Park improves the environmental sustainability of this site by decreasing the area of impermeable road surface and introducing permeable, green areas which also contribute to the reduction of urban heat island effect.
47. Other sustainability initiatives (which will be resolved during the design process) may include the use of sustainable/recycled materials and the incorporation of WSUD initiatives to treat stormwater.

Social Implications

48. The new pocket park will enhance the social and community value of this neighbourhood by improving access to open space in Abbotsford and providing local space for people to gather and interact.
49. The new pocket park will result in an increased quantity of open space in this precinct, thereby reducing the inequity of open space distribution across Yarra.

Human Rights Implications

50. There are no human rights implications associated with this project.

Communications with CALD Communities Implications

51. Consultation material prepared for the information session and for the trial pocket park included a translation panel containing advisory text in eight languages: Vietnamese, Greek, Mandarin, Cantonese, Italian, Turkish, Arabic and Spanish.

Council Plan, Strategy and Policy Implications

52. The creation of a new pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford is a specific recommendation of the YOSS.
53. The proposal is consistent with the following Council Plan strategy of "*Making Yarra more liveable*":
 - (a) *Continue to identify opportunities to convert road spaces and laneways for parks or improved pedestrian spaces; and*
 - (b) *Increase amount of public and open space in areas with least access, in accordance with the Open Space Strategy.*

Legal Implications

54. The site is zoned General Residential 2, with the Charles Street Precinct Heritage Overlay (HO313) affecting the northern boundary of the site (along Mollison Street).
55. A planning permit is not required for the use of the land as public open space, as it is defined as "informal outdoor recreation", which is a section 1 use in this zone.
56. A planning permit is not required for works, as the cost of the construction works is under \$1 million and meets the State exemption for Local Government.
57. As part of the process of creating the new pocket park, Council may decide to partially close the road in the location of the park, pursuant to Clause 3 of Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989. This would be subject to a separate report to Council and be advertised under Sections 207A and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

Other Issues

Time lapse Photography

58. Time lapse photography was used to record use of the park at 5-second intervals every day during the trial period. This made it possible to capture the pattern of behaviours and provided an understanding of the likely success of a permanent park in this location.
59. The time-lapse data captured activity within the park before, during and after the trial. This revealed a snapshot of human behaviour within the park at regular intervals.

60. The data collected during the trial was analysed between 8.00am and 8.00pm at 15-minute intervals by counting the number and types of users interacting with the space. Data from Wednesday 11, Sunday 15, Wednesday 18 and Saturday 21 November was selected for analysis to gain an understanding of park user behaviour.

61. In total 61 people were counted using the space on Wednesday 11 November (prior to the installation of the trial pocket park); 299 people on Sunday 15 November*; 114 people on Wednesday 18 November, and 89 people on Saturday 21 November.

*Given the data on Sunday was captured during the community day, the number of people using the park on this day should be considered an anomaly.

62. The main activities observed during the trial period included socialising, playing and dog walking. No anti-social behaviour was observed during the trial period. A summary of the time lapse photography observations is included in the Monitoring and Evaluation Report (Attachment 4).

Traffic

63. An evaluation of the traffic and parking impacts of the temporary road closure of Mollison Street associated with the pocket park trial was undertaken by Traffix Group (Attachment 6).

64. A comparison of the 'before partial road closure' and 'after partial road closure' daily traffic volumes identified a general increase of traffic entering and exiting the local area during the period of the trial pocket park (Friday 13 November – Wednesday 25 November 2015).

65. The expected redistribution of traffic volumes (away from Mollison Street, during the road closure) did not anticipate increases in traffic volume entering and exiting the area. Accordingly, the bulk of the additional traffic volumes are likely to be associated with other sources (i.e. increase in residential housing, construction traffic and through traffic).

66. The surveys of daily traffic volume during the 'after partial road closure' showed below 1,000 vehicles per day in each of the streets surveyed (Attachment 6) which is well within the acceptable limits for a local road (2,000-3,000 vehicles per day).

67. Changes to peak hour traffic volumes varied across the local area, however the maximum increase occurred on Charles Street which averaged one additional vehicle every two minutes in the peak hour. This increase in traffic volume is considered to be insignificant from an intersection capacity point of view.

68. Based on the above findings, the trial closure of Mollison Street at the corner of Charles Street did not generate any issues from a traffic point of view that would present any long-term negative impacts should the partial road closure be permanently implemented.

Parking

69. The installation of the Mollison Street road closure resulted in the temporary loss of 7 parking spaces on Mollison Street (2 on the north side and 5 on the south side).

70. A comparison between the parking demand in Mollison Street 'before partial road closure' and 'after partial road closure' identified very little change in overall parking demand (Attachment 6).

71. A review of parking availability during the trial indicated that parking spaces were in very high demand within 50m of the Mollison Street closure, with parking availability increasing further away from the closure site.

72. Parking management was considered to be warranted within 50m of the Mollison Street road closure to mitigate the loss of the 7 parking spaces. Possible options identified include:

- (a) conversion of the existing 4P parking on the east side of Charles Street (23 spaces) to 2P to provide approximately 5-10 spaces of additional parking opportunities for residents;
- (b) introduce parking along the west side of Charles Street (adjacent to the Mollison Street closure) to provide an additional 1 space (if a zebra crossing is incorporated across Charles Street) or 4 spaces (with no zebra crossing); and

- (c) modify the remaining angle parking on the south side of Mollison Street to yield an additional 3 spaces (include modification to the existing kerb extension at the Park Street intersection).

- 73. The opportunity to convert the section of Park Street between Langridge and Mollison Streets from one-way to two-way traffic (to improve access for residents of the Mollison Street apartment building) can be further investigated.

Options

- 74. Having considered the outcomes of the initial community consultation, park trial and sub-consultant reports on potential traffic and parking issues associated with a proposed new park at the corner of Charles and Mollison Streets Abbotsford, Officers believe there are two options for consideration by Council.

Option 1 – Authorise Officers to prepare a concept design for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford

Officer comments

- 75. A new open space in the south of Abbotsford would be a positive and highly worthwhile addition to the open space network and would contribute to achieving Council's objective of providing accessible open space within 400m of residents in Yarra.
- 76. The YOSS (2006) recommends the creation of a new open space in this location to address the inequity of access to open space in this precinct.
- 77. There has been strong community participation in Stages 1 and 2 of the consultation for this project. Following Stage 2 (installation of the trial pocket park); the majority of residents who provided feedback were supportive of a permanent park at the corner of Charles and Mollison Streets, Abbotsford.
- 78. Despite some clear issues which must be addressed in any given design brief for the site and the need for open and continuous dialogue with residents, the trial and consultation suggests that a permanent park would be a sound capital investment for the current and future population of Abbotsford.

Option 2 – Advise the community that Council will not proceed with the proposal to create a pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford.

Officer Comments

- 79. In highly built up areas of Yarra such as Abbotsford, the opportunities to provide new open space are limited. The corner of Charles and Mollison Street presents a unique opportunity to provide a new park in an area with an existing shortage of open space that has experienced significant population growth in recent years.
- 80. Following the implementation of the trial park, the overwhelming majority of residents who provided feedback on the proposal were supportive of the idea of a permanent park in this location.
- 81. Given the success of the trial, the opportunity this site presents, and community expectations following the consultation undertaken, Council officers do not consider Option 2 to be the preferred option.

Conclusion

- 82. An open space at this location presents a unique opportunity to provide some green space within an existing built up environment and to improve access to open space for residents in this sub-precinct of Abbotsford.
- 83. The results of Stages 1 and 2 of the consultation indicate that the majority of residents were supportive of a park at the proposed location.
- 84. There are two households living in apartments overlooking the proposed park site who have concerns about potential noise and loss of privacy. Another household in this block of apartments is only supportive of the project if the issue of noise is adequately addressed.

85. It is expected that the concerns surrounding noise and privacy can be effectively addressed as part of the concept design for the permanent open space.
86. In light of the success of the pocket park trial, and the significant support from the local community for the creation of a permanent new open space at this location, Officers recommend Option 1 to Council.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
 - (a) notes the officer report regarding the outcomes of community consultation in relation to the trial pocket park on Mollison Street at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford, and the opportunity for the creation of a permanent new open space;
 - (b) notes the options outlined in the officer report;
 - (c) authorises officers to prepare a concept design for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford;
 - (d) authorises officers to consult with the local community on a concept plan for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford;
 - (e) requests a written update from officers on the outcome of the local consultation;
 - (f) notes that funding is available in the 2015/2016 capital works budget for the preparation of a concept plan for a permanent pocket park on Mollison Street, at the corner of Charles Street, Abbotsford (including community consultation on the concept plan); and
 - (g) refer the matter of a capital budget for construction of a permanent park to the 16/17 budget process for consideration.

CONTACT OFFICER: Fiona O'Byrne
TITLE: Landscape Architect
TEL: 9205 5768

Attachments

- 1 Charles & Mollison Flyer March 2015
- 2 Stage 1 Consultation Summary May 2015
- 3 Charles & Mollison Flyer June 2015
- 4 Monitoring & Evaluation Report
- 5 Summary Online Comments
- 6 Trafix Report 2016
- 7 Written Submissions
- 8 Visual Access Diagram

CITY OF
YARRA

Charles and Mollison streets, Abbotsford

Mollison Street, Abbotsford

NEXT STEPS

This initial consultation period will be followed by future opportunities to provide feedback, including a possible extended trial of a space which would allow residents to test a temporary installations before investing in any permanent change.

MORE INFORMATION


For further information or to share your thoughts about this project, please contact **Fiona O’Byrne**, Council’s Landscape Architect, on **9205 5768** or at **OpenSpace@yarracity.vic.gov.au**

Hãy đóng góp ý kiến về dự tính sửa sang góc đường Charles và đường Mollison ở Abbotsford. Nếu muốn dự buổi hội thảo được tổ chức tại địa điểm này từ 10 giờ sáng - 12 giờ trưa, thứ Bảy ngày 21 tháng 3 (tiếp theo là buổi phổ biến thông tin tự do đến dự từ 12 giờ trưa - 2 giờ chiều) hoặc tìm hiểu thêm về dự án này, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 9280 1939 và nói cho nhân viên biết số REF 15027.

Πείτε τη γνώμη σας σχετικά με τις πιθανές βελτιώσεις της γωνίας των οδών Charles και Mollison streets, στο Abbotsford. Αν θέλετε να συμμετάσχετε στο εργαστήριο που θα πραγματοποιηθεί στην τοποθεσία το Σάββατο 21 Μαρτίου, από τις 10π.μ. έως τις 12μ.μ. (Θα ακολουθήσει μία εισερχόμενη ενημερωτική συνεδρία από τις 12μ.μ. έως τις 2μ.μ.) ή αν θέλετε να μάθετε περισσότερα για το έργο, τηλεφωνήστε στον αριθμό: 9280 1934 και αναφέρετε τον αριθμό αναφοράς: REF 15027.

請對Abbotsford區Charles和Mollison街角的潛在改善項目提出您的意見。如果您希望在三月二十一日星期六上午十點至中午十二點之間參加在现场舉行的交流會（之後從中午十二點至下午二點會有一場無需預約的信息會）或者您想了解更多關於此項目的信息，請撥打電話9280 1937並提供編號REF 15027。

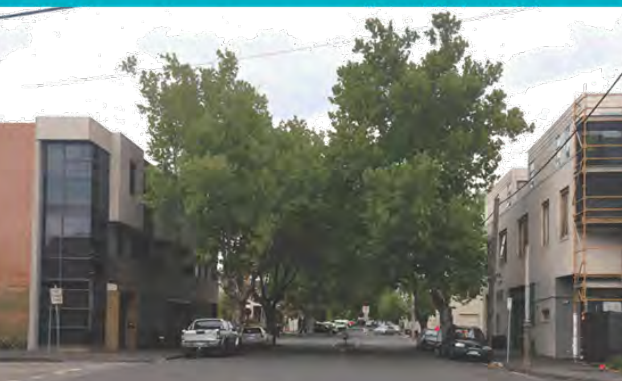
Dite la vostra sui potenziali miglioramenti all'angolo tra Charles St e Mollison St ad Abbotsford. Per partecipare al seminario che si terrà sul posto dalle ore 10 alle 12 di sabato 21 marzo (seguirà una sessione informativa libera dalla ore 12 alle 14) o per saperne di più sul progetto, chiamare il 9280 1931 e riportare il codice di riferimento 15027.



Have Your Say

A new pocket park for Abbotsford

Have your say about a possible small park space on the corner of Charles and Mollison streets, Abbotsford.



Charles Street, Abbotsford

<p>Council is investigating the creation of a new park at the intersection of Charles and Mollison streets in Abbotsford to help meet the growing need for open space in this part of Yarra. Before we get started, we would like to hear from you.</p>	<p>Council will carefully consider your input before making a decision on what these improvements could be. This publication outlines background on the project as well as ways to get involved.</p> <p>Join us for a pop-up workshop at the site from 10am–12pm on Saturday 21 March 2015 (a drop-in information session will follow at the same location from 12–2pm).</p>	<p>Share your views on the future of the site online at www.yarraconversation.com.au/charles-and-mollison</p> <p>This project responds to a key priority of the Yarra Open Space Strategy which outlines a plan to create a more livable, healthy and sustainable city.</p>
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For information in your language, please call 9280 1940 and quote the REF number below. | 欲知粵語版本的資訊，請致電9280 1932並報上下列REF號碼。 | Για πληροφορίες στο Ελληνικό, παρακολουθείτε καλέστε το 9280 1934 και αναφέρετε τον αριθμό REF παρακάτω. | Per informazioni in italiano siete pregati di chiamare il numero 9280 1931 e di citare il numero di riferimento (REF number) sottorindicato. | 欲知普通话版本的信息，请致电9280 1937并报上下列REF号码。 | Para información en castellano, llame al 9280 1935 y cite el número de REF. De más adelante. | Để biết thông tin bằng tiếng Việt, xin hãy gọi số 9280 1935 và nói REF dưới đây. | للمعلومات باللغة العربية، يرجى الاتصال معنا بالرقم 9280 1930 والإشارة إلى رقم المرجع REF أدناه. | REF 15050

Attachment 1 - Charles & Mollison Flyer March 2015

Have Your Say



A new pocket park for Abbotsford

Have your say about a possible small park space on the corner of Charles and Mollison streets, Abbotsford.



New park in Oxford Street, Collingwood

PROJECT BACKGROUND

AS CITIES GROW, AND WE LIVE AND WORK IN DENSER ENVIRONMENTS, DEMAND ALSO INCREASES FOR SHARED PUBLIC SPACES THAT CREATE COMMUNITY CONNECTION, PROVIDE GREEN OUTDOOR AREAS AND SUPPORT ACTIVE LIFESTYLES.

The Yarra Open Space Strategy guides how Council provides open space. It identifies some areas in Yarra, including Abbotsford, that are lacking in public open spaces, particularly smaller local neighbourhood parks.

This has sparked an investigation into possible design improvements to road intersections in areas where the traffic impacts would be limited.

The intersection of Charles and Mollison streets is one area that is being considered.

Over the past five years, Council has created new local parks throughout Yarra by converting roads into open space. This award winning program continues to provide environmental and social benefits to local communities.

PARTICIPATE IN A POP-UP WORKSHOP

With the help of CoDesign Studio, Council will be hosting an interactive workshop at the intersection of Charles and Mollison streets on **Saturday 21 March 2015**.

Learn more about the process and tell us about your vision for the neighbourhood.

10am–12pm:
Community workshop and information session.

12pm–2pm:
Drop-in space.

New park in Peel Street, Collingwood





New park in Richmond Terrace, Richmond

HAVE YOUR SAY ONLINE

Access additional information at www.yarra.conversation.com.au/charles-and-mollison and share your views in our moderated forums by **Friday 10 April 2015**.

CONTACT US DIRECTLY

Provide feedback to the project team by calling **9205 5768** or emailing OpenSpace@yarracity.vic.gov.au by **Friday 10 April 2015**

Abbotsford Pocket Park Investigation: Engagement Summary

May 2015



CoDesign Studio Limited

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Attachment 2 - Stage 1 Consultation Summary May 2015

/// CONSULTATION OVERVIEW:

As part of the consultation for a possible pocket park in Abbotsford, members of the community had three ways to provide input into the process:

- Attend an on-street consultation at the park site.
- Provide written submissions and comments on the Yarra Webpage.
- Provide input at an on-site community workshop.

A summary of the findings is provided as part of this report.



On-Street Engagement

A day of on-street consultation was undertaken on Saturday 21 March to enable people to have input into the investigation underway into creating a pocket park at the intersection of Charles and Mollison Streets in Abbotsford.

The session aimed to:

- Inform people about the consultation process
- Receive some general feedback on the likely preferred road closure option
- Understand what people most want the park to be used for
- Understand any design/other concerns people have with the park
- Encourage people to actively get involved in the design process and contribute ideas

Activities included

1. Providing information: about the proposal, pocket park footprint options and the co-design process including a trial.
2. Ideas and concerns sticker wall: understanding ideas and concerns via stickers 'My idea for a new pocket park is....' & 'My concern is....'
3. What should a pocket park be used for?: Voting on images representing different uses.
4. Design your own pocket park: Small maps of pocket park to draw designs on and large map provided with small scale modelling kit for people to create 3D model of their park.
5. Local area parks: Provide a large map of local area with parks mapped. People can mark in where they go, what they do there and how they get there.

“Actively involving the community in the design process”



/// Engagement Activities: Summary of Findings

Attachment 2 - Stage 1 Consultation Summary May 2015

Summary of Findings

Overall reflections from the day

The on-street consultation sessions provided a simple and easy way for locals to find out about the pocket park investigation underway and to provide their input. Many people attended because they had received and read the project flyer delivered to them, however the on-street location meant that many of the Saturday morning passers-by also contributed, broadening the scope of people who got involved in the consultation to people who would not normally have a say.

Some people spend a long time at the session having detailed conversations about the proposal, while others who were passing by just made a quick contribution. We estimate that approximately 70-80 people attended or contributed in some way.

People seemed to appreciate the time taken by Council and CoDesign Studio staff to discuss the project and the process in detail, being able to provide their initial thoughts in terms of ideas, concerns and uses of the park quickly and easily. People also seemed to appreciate there was a resident from an existing pocket park project present at the session. A number of fears were allayed for some attended by talking to him, especially about the potential issue of drug use in the park. Given the park idea was fairly new to them, the session was effective in having conversations about the concept generally, getting people up to speed and getting initial thoughts rather than detailed design considerations. The 'design your own park' modelling activity was only used by a few children.

The majority of people were supportive of the park or could imagine potential benefits of it, however a number of these people had some reservations.

They had concerns like to see addressed or see that they would not be realised before supporting the idea further, for example attracting drug use to the area. Through the trial park process, this group will be able to visualise the park and see if their concerns are realised. Small numbers of people were either wholeheartedly supportive of the park or against the park.

In terms of the park footprint, the majority seemed to support options that minimised traffic and parking disruption (design option 1 and 1A).



Feedback on the consultation session

Overall, people attending the session seemed to appreciate staff making time on the day to have conversations about the proposal and get them up to speed. Due to the changed location on the day for the workshop, the feedback board (below) was located a little further away from the other activities so not many people filled this in. However responses indicate that people found it an easy way to have a say and received useful information at the session.

Summary of Findings

Summary of findings from the consultation activities

The output from the various consultation activities have been analysed and supplemented by observations and reflections of Council and CoDesign Studio staff who facilitated on the day.

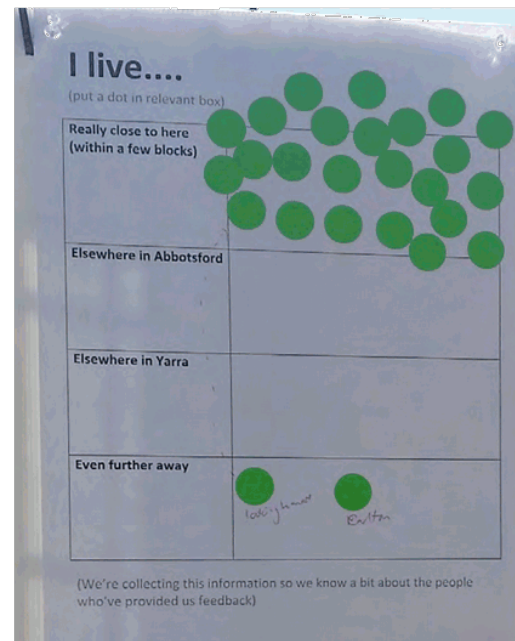
Who did we speak to?

The vast majority of people we spoke to at the session were locals. Many people lived on Charles Street and Mollison Street and in the directly surrounding streets. A few people attended who lived a little further away in Yarra or further afield in Melbourne or Victoria. For example, one attendee came from Gippsland who was looking for a house in Abbotsford, another from Carlton who was just interested in creating pocket parks and CoDesign Studio's work.

“One attendee came from Gippsland who was looking for a house in Abbotsford”

Residential status

On the day we asked community members to indicate where they live in relation to the proposed pocket park by putting a sticker on a 'where do you live' voting wall. While not everyone recorded their locations, of those that did, almost all (92 per cent or 24 respondents) indicated they live within a few blocks, with the rest (2) living outside of the City of Yarra.



“The vast majority of the people we spoke to at the session were locals”



Pocket Park: Ideas and Concerns

Ideas and concerns about a possible pocket park

A key focus of the session was to get people talking about their ideas as well as concerns about the pocket park. A quick and easy way to do this was to provide attendees with stickers to record their thoughts, resulting in a full 'ideas and concerns' wall (pictured).

Ideas

In total 32 individual ideas for the design of the pocket park were collected, with these grouped into the following 10 core themes:

- Green space
- Community garden
- Play equipment
- Water sensitive urban design
- Temporary activation
- Cultural art
- Seating
- Communal infrastructure
- Accessibility
- Shade

The most popular ideas for the pocket park included the provision of play equipment (8), green space (7), and a community garden (4). Other ideas included the provision of appropriate lighting (3), shade (3), free Wi-Fi, (2) accessibility for prams and wheelchairs (2), seating (1), water sensitive urban design (1) and interesting paving (1).

Concerns

In total, 40 individual concerns stickers were filled in. The dominant concerns were related to safety and anti-social behaviour such as drug use and loitering (13) and traffic impacts associated with the restriction of vehicular traffic (12). Other concerns included loss of car parking (5), maintenance including the removal of rubbish (5), vandalism (2), reduced property values (2) and noise (1).

Other ideas put forward

Some community members offered alternatives to the proposal put forward by Council. These alternatives include providing a pocket park at the dead-end section of Mollison Street near Nicholson Street (8) and acquiring private land in the immediate area for a park that does not restrict vehicular traffic (4).



Attachment 2 - Stage 1 Consultation Summary May 2015

Image Voting

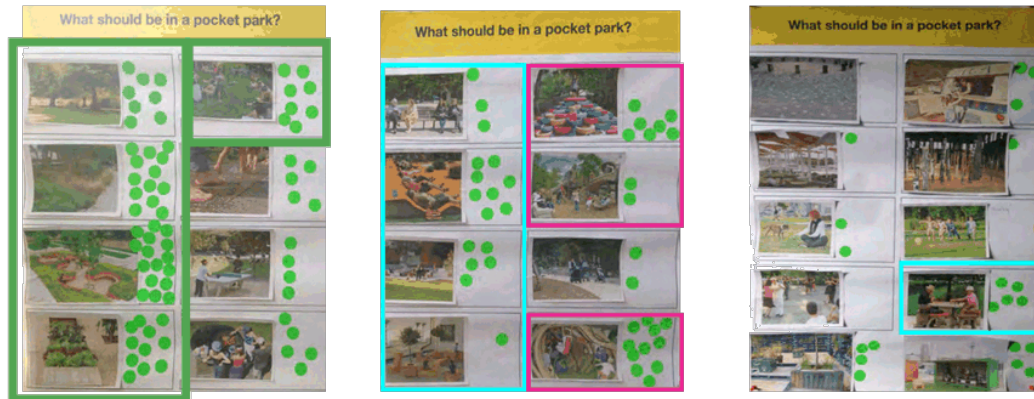
The use and look of a new pocket park

A wall of images was provided so that people would indicate their preferences for the use of a new pocket park through voting with stickers (3 per person). This activity provided some initial impressions of what is important to locals here and the types of elements that could be incorporated into a park design.

In total 117 votes were recorded and the images used reflect the following 10 core elements:

- Green space
- Community garden
- Play equipment
- Water sensitive urban design
- Temporary activation
- Cultural art
- Seating
- Communal infrastructure
- Accessibility
- Shade

The most popular elements were the provision of green space (45 votes), play equipment (24 votes) and seating (16 votes). Overall, green space was by far the most popular theme in voting images (as indicated in the images documenting the voting below). The image generated the highest amount of votes incorporating greenery with a strong graphical element (16). Elements of this could be incorporated into the pocket park design.



Play equipment and seating were the next most popular images. In terms of play equipment, voting and conversations with community members indicated that small, sculptural play elements would best suit this small space.



When considering the seating imagery, the above images generated the highest amount of votes (7). Voting coupled with discussions had on the day indicated that, most community members want to see the inclusion of seating incorporated into the design of the park, providing a meeting place for people to connect.

Attachment 2 - Stage 1 Consultation Summary May 2015

Written and Digital Feedback

In parallel with the on-street consultation, members of the community were also able to contribute through the online interactive discussion and through formal submissions.

Webpage comments

A total of 57 comments from 28 contributors were received across the 6 discussion topics on Council's online engagement site.

The discussion topic that generated the majority of contributions was Topic 1: What changes would a new park bring to your local neighbourhood?

24 forum participants contributed 42 comments, and a large number of agree/disagree votes were attributed to others comments (70 in total).

Comments ranged equally from support of the proposal of a park to objection, for a variety of reasons.

Reasons for supporting the proposal included:

- Great option for people to have access to green space
- Help reduce the local heat island effect
- Encourage greater foot traffic
- Help people connect with their community
- Great location, wide roads allow for a park
- It's needed. This area is not well served by open space
- Better to 'activate' the space (for safety reasons)
- A park could increase property values

Reasons for opposing the proposal included:

- Impact on ease of traffic flow
- Design examples ugly/unsightly/ don't fit in with the street character
- Reduced parking is an issue
- Reduced or impeded access to homes/parking
- Safety; drug-use, trade, anti-social behaviour
- Waste of money
- Not needed, other parks close by, what users need is sports activities
- Risk of detracting from the value of properties

Other comments

- Supportive of proposal with additional considerations, alternate locations, improved guttering/drains and traffic calming measures
- Opportunity to widen footpaths, better access for disability, children, etc
- Important to consult with kids directly
- Fencing vs non fencing

Other topics were also discussed on the webpage to a lesser extent.

Written submission

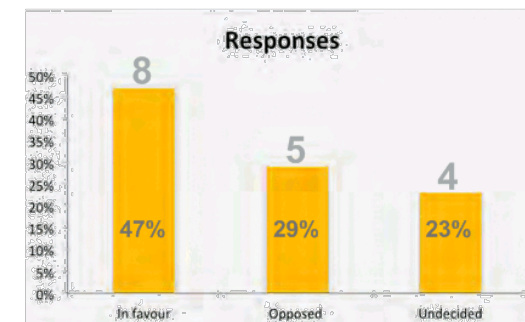
A total of 17 written submissions were received.

The main reasons people supported a pocket park were:

- Increase in the amount of green open space in the area
- Somewhere for people to meet, socialise and play
- Traffic calming to reduce the amount of 'rat running' through local back streets

The main reasons people did not support a pocket park were:

- Fear of anti-social behaviour and loitering within the park
- Potential parking loss and restriction of vehicular traffic flow
- Don't see the need for it, waste of ratepayers money.



/// RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommendations

Design considerations

The trial park should address not only ideas for the park and voting preferences for its use and look, it should also be designed to address concerns people expressed.

Other options

Investigate other options suggested by community to see if they are feasible and report back on these investigations.

Highlight developer contribution

On the day people expressed some frustration about local developers, highlight link to developer contributions more explicitly.

Key ideas for trial pocket park

The following design considerations have emerged from the consultation. Given the vocal minority of people who may oppose the park, ensuring that the trial park looks good and its design and operation address major concerns is vital.

Park use:

- Creating green space
- Space to play
- Place for people with young kids, older people, people in apartments, people with dogs (especially people with older dogs or older people with dogs)
- Community meeting and building

Design to address concerns:

- Safety and drug use: Design to keep open and clear site lines; Examine existing lighting-locate seating near this if possible, consider solar fairy lights if possible; keep two-way traffic to maintain a level of surveillance; provide safe access to the park
- Option to minimise traffic and parking impacts: keep two-way if possible and pursue design option 1 or 1A while still supporting overall traffic calming and safe pedestrian access to the park
- Noise: have quiet contemplative garden areas near the apartments and activity areas closer to Charles Street and near the centre
- Cleanliness: bins provided and council rubbish collection at site regularly throughout trial

In addition, incorporate community involvement (build/planting) and/or community community meal into the trial phase of the project to encourage community ownership.

Through the trial park process, the community will be able to visualise the park and see if their concerns are realised.



Attachment 2 - Stage 1 Consultation Summary May 2015

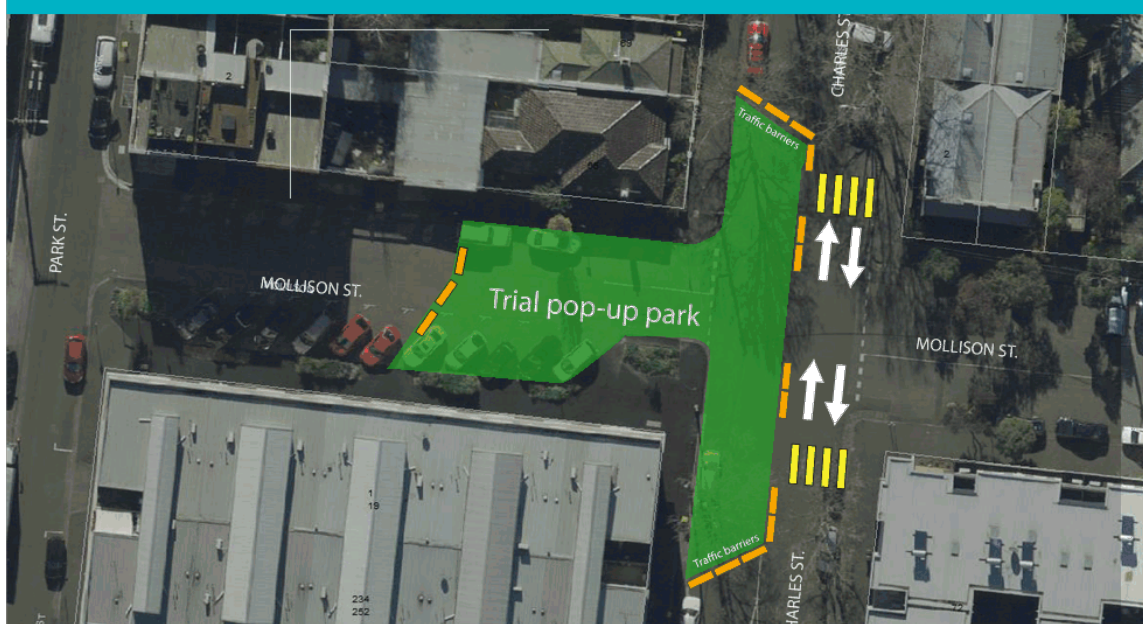


Attachment 3 - Charles & Mollison Flyer June 2015



A trial pocket park for Abbotsford

Summarising your feedback and outlining the next steps for a possible small park space on the corner of Charles and Mollison streets, Abbotsford.



On Saturday 21 March, the City of Yarra, along with CoDesign Studio, held an on-street community engagement session near the corner of Charles and Mollison streets. Our aim was to gather your input into the possible creation of a new pocket park at this location.

The session provided information about Council's Open Space Strategy and the reasons for considering this intersection as a possible park location. We were there to hear your ideas and concerns about the potential for a park in this location.

At the same time residents provided feedback through Council's dedicated online discussion forums and written submissions.

WHAT YOU TOLD US

Feedback received indicated that many of you were interested in the idea of having a pocket park at this location.

While many of you appreciated the potential benefits, you also raised concerns about possible negative impacts. A smaller number were more strongly in support of or opposed to the idea.

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REF 15125

Attachment 3 - Charles & Mollison Flyer June 2015

A trial pocket park for Abbotsford





IDEAS AND CONCERNS ABOUT A NEW POCKET PARK

There were some great suggestions about the benefits of establishing a pocket park at the corner of Charles and Mollison streets.

Some of you felt it would be good to have a small local park that is easily accessible to people with young children, older people, dog owners and people living in apartments. You suggested it could provide a green space for the area, with some small play activities or sculpture-like play equipment. Such a park could also include seats for neighbours and community members to meet. Closing part of the intersection could also reduce 'rat-running' and make the streets feel people-focused. Some of you felt that a park could encourage more walking in the area and address the local heat island effect.

We also heard your concerns about potential negative impacts of the proposal. Some of you wanted to know if it could lead to increased noise, rubbish, negative behaviour, parking and traffic congestion and whether the

park could be designed to minimise these impacts. Some questioned whether the park design would suit the area, while others suggested that the community needed additional spaces for sporting activities more than another park.

These are all things to be considered.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Overall, the message Council received is that the community is generally in favour of the positive aspects of a park in this location if it can be designed in a way that minimises potential negative impacts.

To test this, Council is proposing to set up a short-term trial park. This will test if a park can be designed to realise the good aspects and minimise the negative impacts so that people can enjoy some green space close to home. Feedback from the consultation indicated that a trial was a sensible way forward.

Council will be seeking further input from you throughout the trial and – your feedback and observations of the park use will be provided to Council.

Due to the facade works currently underway for the apartment building at the corner of Charles and Mollison streets, the trial is being planned for November 2015 and will be in place for 3-4 weeks. Council will provide an update prior to the commencement of the trial.

BE A PART OF IT

We'd love to get you involved in creating the park with us – planting, painting, building or even coming along for a sausage sizzle.

Getting involved is a great way to meet neighbours and help build your local community. With your involvement, the final outcome will better meet the needs of the local community. If you'd like to be involved or ask a question about the proposal, please contact the project team on **9205 5768** or at **OpenSpace@yarracity.vic.gov.au**



Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report



CHARLES & MOLLISON ST PARKLET TRIAL

Monitoring & Evaluation Summary Report

REVISION 1.3

January 2016

Prepared by CoDesign Studio for the City of Yarra



Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

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Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of data and findings recorded and analysed by CoDesign Studio as part of its monitoring and evaluation assessment undertaken at the Charles and Mollison Streets parklet, temporarily installed as a 1:1 trial over 10 days in November 2015.

Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) processes were employed by CoDesign Studio to capture the way people used and perceived this temporary public space before and during the parklet trial. These activities included (but were not limited to):

- > On site interviews (1:1 conversations)
- > Vox Pop interviews (quick on site questioners to establish a sense of place, user demographic, age and location. *Transcripts in Appendix 1*)
- > 'Dot Mocracy' and sticker walls (allowing residents to place stickers on picture filled boards pinned up on site, subsequently transcribed in appendix 1)
- > Time lapse recordings (capturing the site at 5 second intervals over established times in order to assess user behaviour and numbers. See appendix 2)

By monitoring behaviour throughout the trial, comprehensive data has been established to help inform whether future capital investment in this location would be in the best interest of the local community and Council in regard to a permanent park at the intersection of Charles and Mollison Streets, Abbotsford.

The M&E activities have been built around the following two pillars:

- I. Human perceptions of a place
- II. Human behaviours within a place

The first pillar drew on information gathered during 'vox pops' and or interviews conducted with people on site/ within a specified area (*along Mollison Street from the intersection of Park Street, west to Nicholson Street*) to build the overall 'place story' of the proposed site. These stories were further articulated in an initial on site community work shop (utilising 'dot-mocracy' and other means) and continued throughout the installation and subsequent one on one interviews with residents. In turn, these conversations lead to understanding a place identity and its potential as a future permanent park.

The second pillar: '*human behaviours within a place*' focused on the utilisation of more analytical data collection through the installation and collection of 'time-lapse' site photography at various points and stages of the sites pre- installation (i.e. base line data), construction and post-installation (at two points over the 10 day trial).

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

2. Background

The trial park was in place from *Friday 13th to Tuesday 25th November 2015*. The trial duration was originally intended to be three weeks, from *Friday 6 November to Wednesday 25 November*, however subsequent to notifying residents of the trial park dates, Councillors received a petition against the project this period was reduced.

As a result of the above, the time-lapse photography data collection period before the trial was reduced. Although not ideal, this data still provides a useful snapshot of how the space was used prior to the park installation summarised in this report, and provided in full in Appendix 2.

Overall, in spite of the reduced trial period, the parklet itself was still a valuable exercise. Issues emerged that were not necessarily identified as concerns at the outset of the project (eg. noise/privacy) and concerns that had been raised (eg. anti-social behaviour) did not present during the trial period. In addition some unexpected benefits were observed – especially the popularity of the space amongst young people and a number of previously concerned residents re-considering the value of the space. As noted in the conclusion, not everyone supported the space, however our evaluation finds that whilst a handful of community members have voiced negative sentiments towards the space (and its future), the overall response to the parklet trial was unquestionably positive. Further more, the issues and concerns that have been raised, present themselves as items that can be addressed and worked through given direct engagement and a continued open dialogue with residents.

2.1 CONTEXT



(Above: Charles and Mollison Streets pre parklet installation. Mollison runs east to west.)

In March 2015 CoDesign Studio delivered the first phase of a participatory engagement process to support City of Yarra with its on going program of converting underutilised road spaces into pocket parks. This initial engagement involved an on-site ‘vox-pops’ and a number of boards with images from which residents and locals could voice their opinion/ provide suggestion about a potential park in the proposed Charles and Mollison Street site. *(appendix 1)*

This engagement process provided an effective platform to provide communication, information and receive feedback on the identification of the corner of Charles and Mollison Street in Abbotsford as a suitable site for a new pocket park/ area of urban greenery.

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

2.2 SITE



(Above: Site specific location of parklet trial)

The parklet was proposed to cover an area of Mollison Street which would be temporarily closed off to traffic (where shown in the red line above). The trial park was proposed to utilise the road area of Mollison Street, one lane of Charles street and five car existing car spaces to be temporarily removed.

2.3 TIMING

- > **May 2015:** Initial on site engagement and consultation (dotmocracy, vox pops and 1:1 interviews)
- > **Tuesday 10th November:** Council approves go ahead for parklet trial (10 days)
- > **Wednesday 11th November :** Base line data (time lapse camera) recorded
- > **Thursday 12th - Friday 13th November:** Trial parklet installation (including time lapse camera and on site vox pops.)
- > **Sunday 15 November:** Community BBQ day on site (including vox pops, 1:1 interviews, time lapse, dotmocracy and sticker boards installed on site)
- > **Wednesday 18th; Sunday 21st November:** Post installation time lapse recording including collection and renewal of sticker boards
- > **Tuesday 25th November:** Trial parklet removed
- > **18th November- 9th December 2015:** 1:1 organised interviews with residents living opposite the proposed park (various dates, transcripts as per appendix 1.1)

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

3. Methodology

3.1 PERCEPTIONS OF A PLACE

Understanding human perceptions of a place is a predominantly qualitative assessment that seeks to convey a unique identity based on user experience. In this instance CoDesign utilised a story-telling approach to gather the necessary data by conducting 1:1 and 'vox pop' style interviews with people who use (or are directly impacted) by the space.

This methodology is useful for two primary reasons. Firstly, storytelling lends itself to participatory change processes because it relies on people to make sense of their own experiences and environments. Secondly, stories can be used to focus on particular interventions and help inform design briefs and outcomes for improvement works.

Stories were collected by CoDesign staff and interns, directly speaking with users on site in short periods of 5-10 minutes. Interviews were recorded by pen and paper and subsequently transcribed (appendix 1). Users were asked a number of questions regarding perceptions of place, their user behaviour, their ideas and considerations for the space. Users were also requested to provide information on their locality to site, age range and gender.

Longer term interviews were conducted with some residents directly overlooking the site (appendix 1.1). All interviews took place on site unless otherwise arranged to be conducted elsewhere, as per the wishes of the given resident.

This story-telling approach, whilst subjective, has also been supplemented by quantitative data recorded through an activity known as 'dot-mocracy.' This is a process that allows the community to indicate their preference for particular design element(s) by placing coloured stickers on pictures that present a possible future design outcome for the site (see pg. 14). Community members were also asked to fill in stickers to place on boards installed on site (during the trial) stating:

'Today I came to the parklet to...' and;

'My idea for this space is...'

These stickers are transcribed in appendix 1.2. An example of this event is pictured on pg. 8

3.2 BEHAVIOURS WITHIN A PLACE

The following observational methods were used via time-lapse photography to collect behavioural data for analysis and evaluation:

- > Counting the number of people using the space.
- > Identifying site user-groups, including children, dog walkers and transient users (i.e. those who move directly through the space), as well as people alone and in groups.

Time-lapse photography was used to record the Charles and Mollison St Parklet Trial at 5-second intervals every day during the trial period. This has made it possible to capture the use pattern of behaviours in a manner that may be easily compared over time.

Overall the behavioural data has helped to illustrate the number and type of users that interacted with the site in some way, and provided an understanding of the likely success of a permanent park in this location (appendix 2).

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4. Summary

4.1 SUMMARY OF INPUTS

In total CoDesign Studio led **33 in-depth conversations** with users of the park about how they currently perceive and engage with the site, including **five 1:1 interviews** involving local residents. In total **102 votes** were cast on various park design elements. These conversations were initiated prior to the trial and continued during and post- installation.

Time-lapse photography captured the behaviour of **563 people** across four days (one day pre-install and three days post-install). There was a notable **174% increase** in activity (average daily usage) following the installation of the park. A number of other emerging themes and insights have been drawn from the M&E data and are summarised below.

Full data sets can be viewed in the appendix documents 01- 03.

4.2 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Users

- > The majority of park-users described themselves as 'local' (97%) (as recorded through on-site interviews and vox pops),
- > There was an even split between male (53%) and females (47%) (based on vox pop feedback / on site interviews)
- > There was a significant elderly representation (17%) (as per the time lapse footage)
- > Most people held a positive perception of the park (70%) after it had been installed (based on conducted interviews and online feedback mechanisms). It should be noted that before the trial, CoDesign recorded more conversations voicing concerns and negativity towards the installation of a parklet (hence its initial pause toward install).
- > There was an average of 57 children in the space per day following the installation (as per the time lapse footage). Whilst not a conclusive finding (due to the short time period of pre-recorded data), prior to the install the time lapse showed no children using the site.

Place Stories (Perceptions of place)

- > People felt safe during the day and talked about the friendly atmosphere, however they felt less safe at night due to a lack of lighting and perceptions of anti-social behaviour present around the site. This perception was exacerbated by inappropriate behaviour (namely, the use of drugs) near the site (along Victoria Street). Prior to the parks installation, there was a common concern that the 'drug problem' would migrate to the new park. During the trial, no evidence was found to suggest that the parklet encouraged and/or increased this behaviour. In fact, based on the time lapse footage gathered, 'anti-social' behaviour was arguably reduced on-site, with the greater increase of children and families present over the trial period.
- > A number of immediate residents were concerned that the parklet will conflict with privacy, create excessive noise and inappropriate behaviour. During the parklet period, some residents concluded that the park was in fact a benefit. However associations with noise and privacy were still critical issues for some residents directly overlooking the park.

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*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
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- > Prior to the parklet installation some residents voiced that a green space here will provide an additional, and much needed increase to otherwise lacking green area within the neighbourhood especially for children and dog users. Others suggested that this kind of space would simply drawn in anti social behaviour and rubbish. The initial comments appeared to be the case during the trial, rather than the latter.
- > Through on site interviews, a number of residents talked about a lack of direct community in the area. There was a strong sense of 'gathering' that occurred after the park had been installed with residents forming new neighbourly connections due to the proximity of the space and the sense of an urban front yard.

Usage Patterns (Behaviours)

- > People were more likely to visit the site in groups following the installation of the park (96%) compared to only 44% before the installation (as per the time lapse footage).
- > A large number of children and adolescents were observed using the parklet, often in small groups (as per the time lapse footage and on site observations). On site interviews with parents suggested that they were confident to allow their children to go and use the space after its installation during the daytime (i.e. without fear of safety).
- > Groups of children were observed to be having meals (breakfast) on two mornings in the site (as per the time lapse footage and on site interviews)
- > Adolescents were seen to sit in small groups in the site before dusk (on two occasions, as per the time lapse footage) before leaving the site at nightfall.
- > Some residents voiced concerns about the noise of children using the site in the mornings (on site interviews)
- > Many individual users were observed laying down within the space/ stopping and sitting in the space (as per the time lapse footage)
- > No users were observed to be conducting anti-social behaviour (as per the time lapse footage)
- > Generally, people stopped in the space for 5-10 minutes unless in a group of 3 or more where they were seen to linger for an average of 20-35 minutes (as per the time lapse footage).



(Above: Initial on site engagement employing dotmocracy and vox pop interviews prior to the trial, May 2015)

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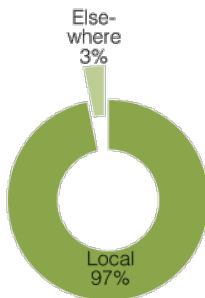
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5. Findings

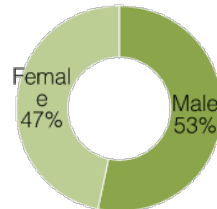
5.1 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The following demographic data was collected to capture a broad snapshot of the site user-groups. This data was gathered through our on site interviews and engagement.

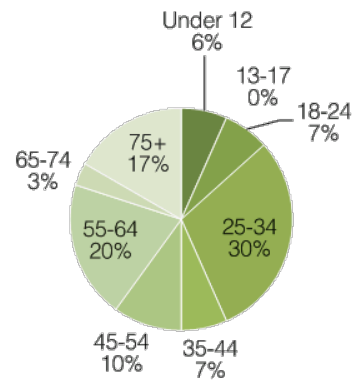
The location of users was gathered during on site consultation, the community BBQ day and all received feedback whereby community members were asked to identify their location as either 'local' or from elsewhere. Overall, respondents were local and evenly split between males and females with the greatest percentage (30%) of interviewees between 25-34.



Location



Gender



Age

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5.2 PERCEPTIONS

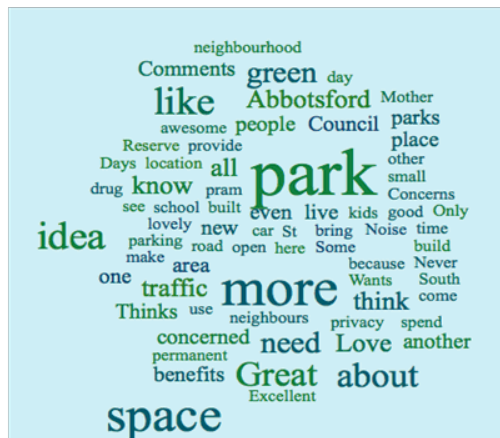
Vox Pops

In total CoDesign Studio led **33 in-depth conversations** with users of the Charles & Mollison St Parklet Trial regarding how they currently perceive and engage with the temporary space. These conversations were held at four critical points in the project time line:

- > Once before the installation (Wednesday November 11 2015),
- > Twice during the install (Thursday 12 and Friday 13), and
- > Once after the installation was complete ('post install') (Sunday 15 November). A full transcript of these interviews is in *Appendix 1*.

Analysis from the conducted interviews and dotmocracy surveys, shows that **70% of these comments were positive** (or mostly positive), with **30% negative** (or mostly negative). This combined figure suggests that despite a level of negative perception/ opinion toward the parklet, the majority of users were not adverse to the possibility of a park at this site.

A general snapshot of the key comments are listed below, and graphical representation of the most dominant words are shown in the diagram, right.



Wednesday 11 November [Pre-Trial]

"It's a good spot for a park. I'm new to the area and a park here will provide an opportunity to get to know the neighbours and build a sense of community."

"(The space) is too small and won't provide enough benefits."

"There's a lack of spaces in Abbotsford where you can spend time and connect with neighbours."

"I appreciate the need for green space in Abbotsford, but there are a number of concerns relating to a park in this location".

Thursday 12 November and Friday 13 November [During Installation]

"I love the idea. Why is it only in for 10 days? How do I make sure it can be made permanent?"

"I've been a resident here for 74 years! More green space is excellent."

"The noise bounces around due to hardscape."

"It's a great idea! I'll tell lots of people about it."

"Parks should be built on vacant sites. Never take road and car parking for green space."

"I'm disappointed it's not in for longer."

Sunday 15 November [During Trial]

"It's so lovely. I live around the corner and I have a bad knee. This is a perfect place to stop on my way to the station."

"Yesterday we had our breakfast here."

"I like this place because I get to meet kids that I didn't know live in the area."

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*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

1:1 Interviews with Residents

Effective stakeholder communication was supported through a number of **1:1 interviews** with residents immediately adjoining the Charles and Mollison Streets Parklet Trial. These interviews (between 20-60 minutes) provided a valuable opportunity to gather feedback on the trial as well as potential design considerations for a permanent park, and discuss any particular concerns held. A full list of these comments have been recorded and provided as an appendix to this report (appendix 1), with a summary of key concerns listed below.

Invitations were extended to all residents who lived in direct proximity (i.e. overlooking) the parklet, and in total, **six meetings** were undertaken with **eight community members** between 18th November and 9th December 2015. The key issues obtained from these consultations are summarised below:

KEY ISSUE	NOTES	POSSIBLE ACTION
Noise and privacy	<p>This was the main concern raised by two of the residents.</p> <p>Children using the space for ball games and 'active' play was seen as the primary noise generator. Some concern was also raised about groups of people using the space for picnics and BBQs/ 'parties'.</p> <p>Users of the park had the ability to 'look directly' into balconies of overlooking apartments on Mollison Street. This was a concern for two residents in particular.</p> <p>It should be noted that the residents were split on this issues of noise and privacy. Several of the residents noted that it was 'not as bad' as they had expected, and were not concerned about the impact of the permanent park, despite previously petitioning against it.</p> <p>However, for some residents (2), the park directly adjacent to their property posed an immediate threat in terms of their privacy. It is critical that these concerns be observed as per the 'suggested actions.'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider engagement of acoustic engineer in permanent park design. - Consider retrofitting balconies directly overlooking the site with further privacy elements. - Increase 'softscape' to ameliorate noise - Encourage use of the space for 'passive' uses such as sitting and relaxing, deterring activities such as ball games within the space.
Design	<p>Most residents had specific comments about the design of any permanent park. Generally there was a consensus among residents that play equipment would not be appropriate for this space due to the issue of noise. Safety aspects such as lighting, permanent trees affecting building foundations, sight lines of privacy and increased rubbish were also key concerns.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure local residents are included in the design process of any permanent park. - Produce a design brief for the park that directly addresses key concerns and needs of all residents
Community Connectedness	<p>Many residents made positive comments about meeting their neighbours for the first time in the parklet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Engage with these new connections in future engagement. -

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<p><i>(continued from overleaf)</i></p> <p>Community Connectedness</p>	<p>Those with children felt safe to allow their kids to use the space, encouraging such behaviour.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with new connections to help mitigate and facilitate any future consultations for the design of a permanent park. - Ensure community inclusiveness (in any further design/ installations) in order to instil ownership of the space.
<p>Traffic & parking</p>	<p>There was mixed feedback regarding traffic and parking. Some residents commented that additional pedestrian amenity was good, while others were concerned about vehicle access to Mollison Street and the danger of cars speeding down Charles Street.</p> <p>There was generally a negative response to the loss of parking (six spaces in total on Mollison Street).</p> <p>There were concerns among residents that the installed trial did not exactly reflect the proposed design (which removed an entire lane on Charles Street). The installed parklet only partially took up a lane along Charles Street.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider making Park Street two-way between Mollison and Langridge to enable easy access to Mollison Street. - Consider further road signage and speed controls in any further park proposals - Where possible, compensate parking as part of any future proposal(s). - Employ traffic management processes
<p>Greenery and planting</p>	<p>There was a strong sentiment of the space being a relaxing space, with lots of greenery.</p> <p>Some residents were concerned about the impact of new trees on their building foundations. This has been an issue in the past.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider impact of new trees on Mollison Street building foundations and methods to mitigate this through species type and low (non tapping) root systems. Use native plants where possible
<p>Anti-social behaviour</p>	<p>Many residents noted that while anti-social behaviour was a previous concern, it was not an issue during the trial. Some residents viewed the use of the park as negative due to noise and issues of privacy, not anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Some residents suggested that a lack of anti social behaviour was due to the presence of timelapse photography. Others felt it was due to the beautification, colour and overall 'positive feeling' of the space.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consider maintenance and management of the space over time to deter anti-social behaviour. - Monitor the space by creating 'neighbourhood watch' style groups directly invested in the space.

The images below are of the stickers provided by CoDesign Studio as a method of collecting ideas, concerns and thoughts regarding the parklet installation and future site potential:



Above Stickers provided to residents and visitors on the Community BBQ day (Sunday 25-)

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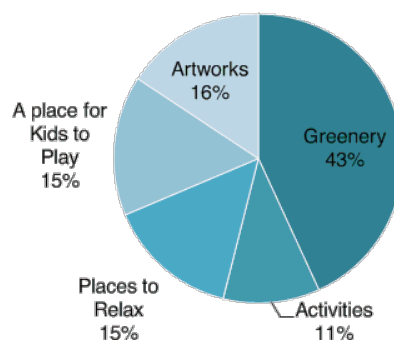
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Dotmocracy

A wall of images (pictured below) was provided to allow community members to indicate their preference for the use of a permanent pocket park. This activity has provided an impression of what is important to locals and the types of elements that could be incorporated into a future park design.

In total **102 votes** were recorded for the following five core themes:

- > Greenery (44 votes)
- > Somewhere for kids to play (16 votes)
- > Artworks (16 votes)
- > Places to relax (15 votes)
- > Activities (11 votes)



The most popular theme was the provision of **green space** (44 votes).

Within this theme the following elements received votes, a space for dogs (12), a veggie patch (13), green walls (2) and a flower garden (10).

Space for kids to play received 16 votes. Within this theme the playground was the most popular element (9), followed by a seesaw (4), climbing wall (2) and interactive equipment (1).

The integration of artwork in the space also received 16 votes. Within this theme murals received 9 votes, followed by hanging lights (4) and sculptures (3).

Places for people to relax received 15 votes. Within this theme temporary seating received the most votes (10), followed by a grassed area (3) and the wooden benches seen at the Oxford Street pocket park in Collingwood received 2 votes.



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5.3 BEHAVIOURS

Time-lapse Data

The time-lapse data captured activity within the Charles St Parklet Trial before, during and after the trial, revealing a snapshot of human behaviour within the park on the following dates:

Pre-Trial

- > Wednesday 11th November (*Note: the pre-trial data is limited due to the project being deferred pending a Council Meeting.*)

During Trial

- > Sunday 15th November (Community BBQ day)
- > Wednesday 18th November
- > Saturday 21st November

The time lapse camera takes a photo every 5 seconds. Individuals cannot be recognised through this form of recording, however use patterns and numbers can be assessed. Further details of behavioural patterns on site during the recorded periods, can be found in *Appendix 03*.

The data during the trial has been analysed between 8.00am and 8.00pm at 15-minute intervals by counting the number and types of users interacting with the space (*appendix 2*). In total **61 people** were counted using the space on the Wednesday prior to installation, with **299 people on Sunday 15th, 114 people on Wednesday 1st and 89 on Saturday 21st**. Given the data on Sunday was captured during the community working bee, the amount of people using the park on this day should be considered an anomaly.

Please note, as transient users are defined as people who walk through the space without stopping, these numbers are not included in the total people figures (except for the pre trial analysis whereby all users are arguably transient)

Graphs and tables of recorded data follows overleaf...

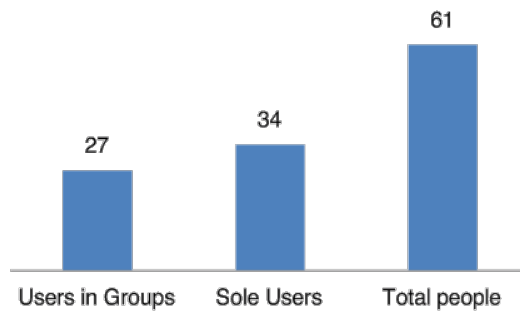
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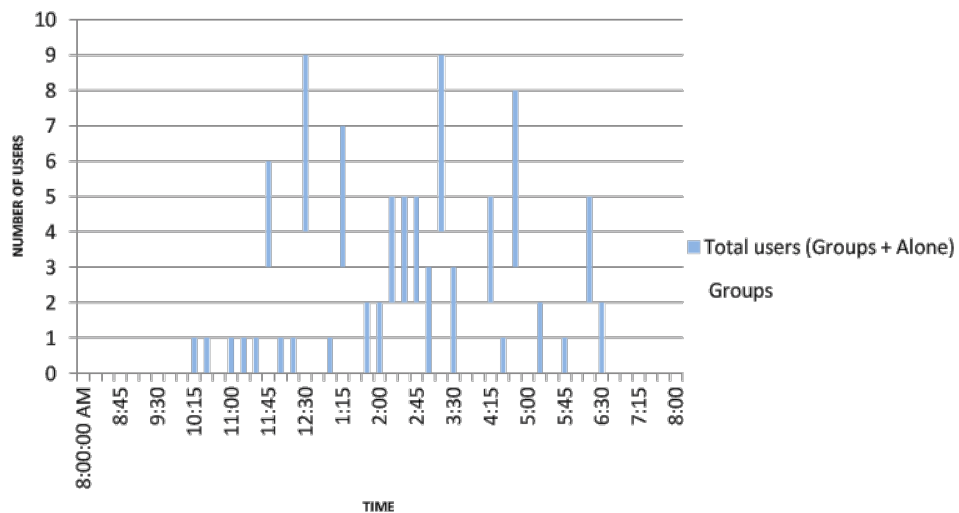
PRE-TRIAL:

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

Under 18	0
Users with Dogs	1
Users with prams	2
Transient users	61
Users in Groups	27
Sole Users	34
Total people	61



TOTAL USERS (PRE INSTALL) WEDNESDAY 11th NOVEMBER



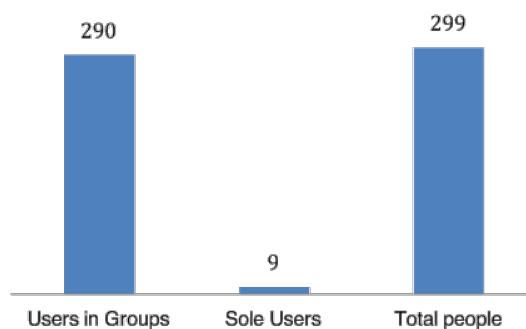
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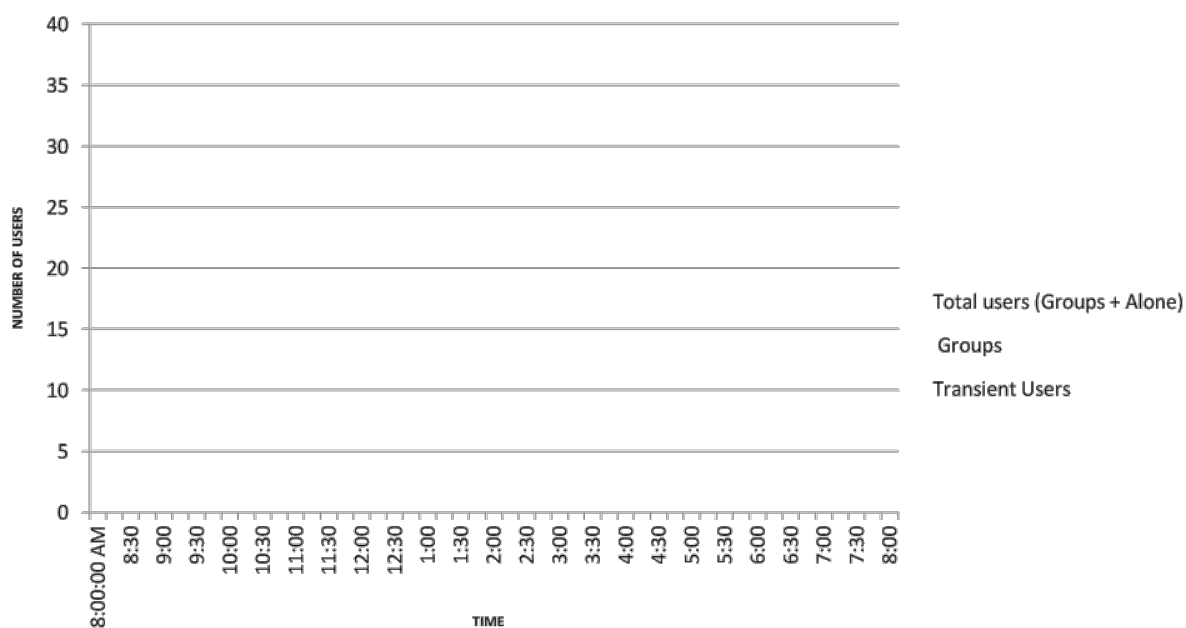
DURING TRIAL:

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER (COMMUNITY BBQ DAY)

Under 18	122
Users with Dogs	10
With prams	3
Transient users	48
Users in Groups	290
Sole Users	9
Total people	299



TOTAL USERS (BBQ DAY) SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER

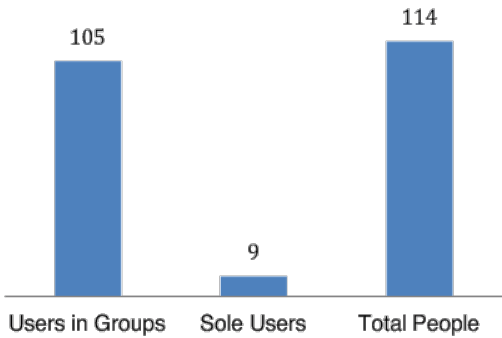


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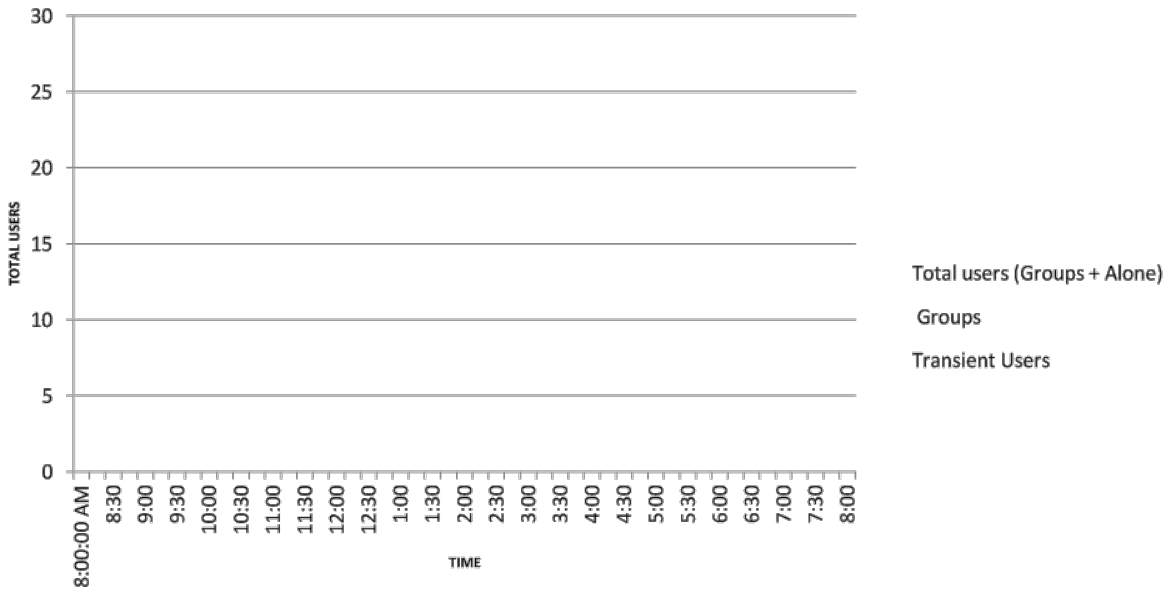
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DURING TRIAL:
WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER

Under 18	29
Users with Dogs	8
Users with Prams	3
Transient Users	41
Users in Groups	105
Sole Users	9
Total People	114



TOTAL USERS (POST INSTALL) WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER



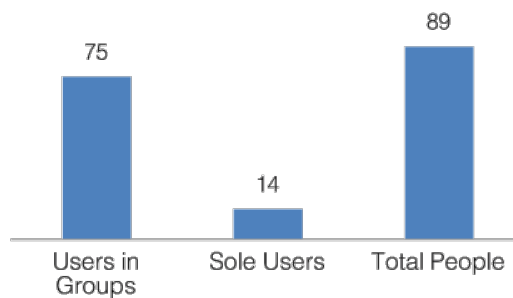
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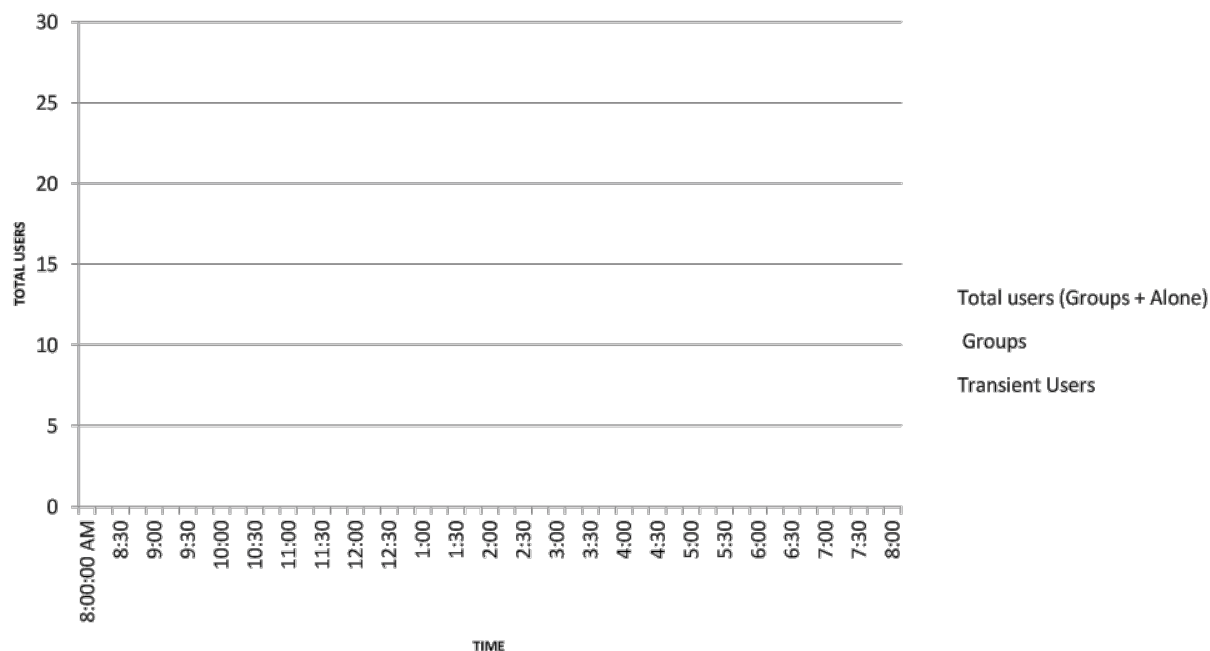
DURING TRIAL:

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

Under 18	21
Users with Dogs	8
Users with Prams	6
Transient Users	82
Users in Groups	75
Sole Users	14
Total People	89



TOTAL USERS (POST TRIAL) SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER



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5.4 FINDINGS

Time-lapse conclusions

The time-lapse data captured provides evidence that throughout the recorded time periods, the site had:

- > More users on site than previously (during the recorded pre trial analysis) with 563 people recorded over the observation period
- > A notable 174% increase in site usage following the trial installation
- > No anti-social behaviour
- > Highest use during the middle of the day/ lunchtimes as well as breakfast times on the weekends
- > Minor use during late afternoon/ nightfall
- > Joggers, walkers, people with dogs, cyclists using the site/ moving through the site.
- > Elderly (predominantly) sitting and utilising benches as a pause point
- > Children frequently playing on the pallet structures in the afternoons
- > Users laying/ relaxing and reading on site during afternoon periods
- > Children eating breakfast on site (on the weekend data recorded)
- > Groups sitting in circles on the pallet structures and socialising during afternoons and early evenings.

Full recordings of the time lapse data is available on

6. Conclusions

6.1 SUMMARY

This report has provided a summary of the monitoring and evaluation conducted by CoDesign Studio through various means to assess:

- I. Human perceptions of a place, and,
- II. Human behaviours within a place,

at the 10 day parklet trial site in Abbotsford along Mollison street intersecting with Charles Street.

Through methods of 1:1 on site interviews, dotmocracy, time lapse recording and other means summarised, this report has provided data to aid in qualifying whether or not a permanent park at this site is an appropriate future capital works investment for Council.

6.2 QUESTIONS OF PERMANENCY

The summary concludes that despite some key concerns, a park at Charles and Mollison would predominately be supported by locals if put forward as a permanent design. With that said, it is critical that the design and subsequent install of any permanent intervention on site be closely conceived working with, and for the affected local residents. Those residents that are directly affected by the proximity of the space must be heard and closely engaged with as part of the design brief and process.

The trial has assisted in fostering a greater sense of community, which in turn should be utilised as a base to leverage further design and consultation. Working with existing relationships, Council can mitigate conflict and issues that may arise during a design proposal. It is critical that the concerns of all residents be heard, but also that the positive responses (70%) to the trial be noted and not supplanted by negative criticisms (30%).



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It is imperative that *any* design for the site continue with the initiated 1:1 engagement, and that the design brief take into consideration the key issues identified, including (but not limited to):

- > Noise and privacy
- > Planting palette and root structures
- > Traffic regulation (speed, safety and access); parking

- > Site behaviour and the promotion of the site as a pocket park (i.e. not a playground/ busy picnic area)
- > Site safety (lighting, site lines, pedestrian and user flow)
- > Site management & maintenance (including waste and site monitoring)

In conclusion, based on this evaluation summary and all other inclusive findings of the project (including the initial engagement, the design and installation of the trial parklet, and subsequent evaluation), that a permanent park at the intersection of Charles and Mollison Streets Abbotsford would be a positive, and highly worthwhile additional green space in the City of Yarra.

Despite some clear issues which must be addressed in any given design brief for the site, and the need for open and continuous dialogue with residents, the overall conclusions from the 10 day installation and this report, suggest that a permanent park can, and should be a future capital investment for Council.

7. Appendix

The following documents are available as attachments to this report:

APPENDIX 01

- > 1.1 1:1 interviews with residents (*transcripts overleaf in word format*)
- > 1.2 Dotmocracy survey (*excel pdf insert*)
- > 1.3 Vox Pop Surveys (*excel pdf insert*)
- > 1.4 Sticker Wall (*excel pdf insert*)
- > 1.5 Miscellaneous comments (*excel pdf insert*)

APPENDIX 02

- > Charles and Mollison St Timelapse Data (excel spread sheet including timelapse data recordings.
NB this file in (excel format) is available on request and not included in this document due to size. Time lapse recordings (mp4 format) are also available on request but are not included in this document due to size)

Appendix overleaf

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APPENDIX 1.1

1:1 INTERVIEWS

Note:

Following the initial consultation period for the Charles & Mollison street project, it emerged that some of residents in the townhouses on the south side of Mollison Street, that overlook the proposed park location, had concerns about the project. Given their proximity to the space, individual meetings were held with these households to learn more about their concerns and discuss ways they might be addressed. Below is a summary of each of these meetings.

MOLLISON STREET HOUSEHOLD MEETING # 1

Date: 18 Nov 2015

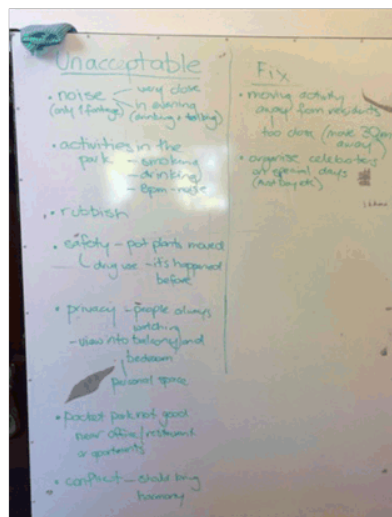
Meeting venue: Collingwood Town Hall (Margaret Oates Room)

Unacceptable aspects of project include:

- Noise – very close in evening (drinking & talking)
- Activities in the park – smoking, drinking, noise at 8pm
- Rubbish
- Safety – pot plants moved (drug use – it's happened before)
- Privacy- people always watching
- View into balcony and bedroom/personal space
- Pocket parks not good near office/restaurant or apartments
- Trial park has brought conflict (should have brought harmony)

Fix

- Move activity away from residents (too close – move 30m away)
- Organise celebrations of special days (Australia Day etc)



(above: meeting discussion white board notes)

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MOLLISON STREET HOUSEHOLD MEETING # 2

Date: 23 Nov 2015

Meting venue: Collingwood Town Hall (Margaret Oates Room)

Unacceptable aspects of project include:

Noted trial length had been reduced

Street closure

Trees destabilised foundations

Have observed anti-social behaviour over the years: things have been stolen from front doorstep, camera is a deterrent

Lennox/Victoria Street is an example of anti-social behaviour. Getting worse, Police don't seem to be doing anything

Noise levels – sometimes work from home. Have been people in the space until sunset; dogs, party's in the park (two kids parties on Sunday).

Privacy (front door and balconies open up). All rooms face the park – cannot open windows

Park has been used for activities including: basketball, football, bikes, scooters, badminton). This could cause broken windows and there have been children playing on the footpath.

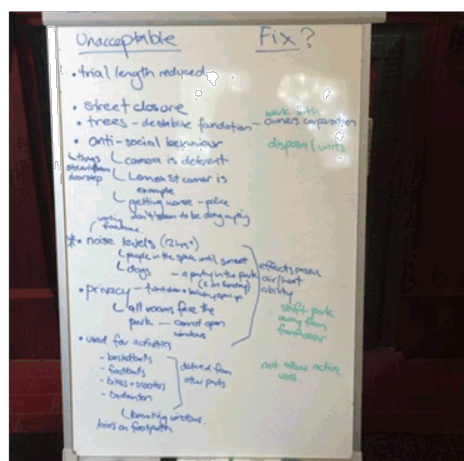
Fix

Work with owners corporation

Include syringe disposal units

Shift park away from front door

Do not allow active uses



(above: meeting discussion white board notes)

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

MOLLISON STREET HOUSEHOLD MEETING # 3

Date: 24 Nov 2015

Meting venue: Three Bags Full, Abbotsford

Melaleuca tree removed years ago – would like any new trees to be natives

Oak trees in Mollison Street that were planted years ago caused property damage and have since been removed. Were an inappropriate species choice

The noise generated from the trial park is mainly from children, doesn't really affect Eamon so much (more of an issue for Cindy and Anne)

Strongly feel that the park doesn't need to be a children's playground, but rather a place of meditation/tranquillity

Don't want the space to encourage ball games etc.

People with prams etc. using the space

Noise is mainly generated by kids

Privacy not so much an issue for Eamon

Likes the idea of a place for serenity

Haven't noticed an increase in anti-social behaviour since park has gone in. Police have strong presence in Abbotsford

Would like access from Park Street (between Langridge and Mollison Streets to be made two-way). Could be achieved, some loss of parking required).

CCTV cameras would deter drug activity

Request that Council let residents know that there would be a consultant engaged to design the park

MOLLISON STREET HOUSEHOLD MEETING # 4

Date: 25 Nov 2015

Meting venue: Three Bags Full, Abbotsford

Has not experienced privacy issues

In favour of park, likes being able to see it, sees a use for it

Comfortable that privacy/.noise issues can be mitigated

Against playground equipment

Likes that it is not a big intersection that no-one uses

Enjoys view from living area (especially given that Hoddle Street is 300m away)

Good to have somewhere close by to relax outside, where you don't have to walk too far

Enjoys seeing kids in the area

Good community gathering space

Recommended watching the Human Effect (a Jan Gehl documentary)

Enjoys that cars are dominating the space

Drug use hasn't gotten worse. Two separate communities (not impacted by drug users). Mostly happens on Victoria Street.



24 of 30

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

MOLLISON STREET HOUSEHOLD MEETING # 5

Date: 2 Dec 2015

Meting venue: Mavis the Grocer, Vere Street, Abbotsford

The recent construction in the street (not park related) has caused a lot of disruption to residents. The scaffolding that was in place as part of the building render took longer than expected and then residents only had a three week period of no works before the park was constructed. So there has been a lot of disruption in their immediate environment

Has observed the space a lot as a result of doing some work from home. Has seen lots of young mums with toddlers using the space

Has also used the space of an evening. Has talked to mums and feels that the trial worked well because it was a clean space, very safe, well maintained etc.

Is concerned that other parks in Yarra are not well maintained and is not confident in Council's capacity to maintain this space over time

Also thinks that nearby parks are not well used

Would like to see a ten point plan to address issues. For example, work with experts to determine things such as:

How to delineate park from building

Noise abatement

Privacy issues

MOLLISON STREET HOUSEHOLD MEETING # 6

Date: 9 Dec 2015

Meting venue: Collingwood Town Hall (Margaret Oates Room)

The noise has been intolerable

Most of the noise has been generated by children playing and it travels up to windows

Neighbour (Eamon Veaney) has an awning and this serves as a sound lessening device

Would only support project if the noise issue was addressed (ie. Council paid for an awning, shutters etc.)

Overall was not opposed to the idea of a park, provided noise issue could be addressed

End of appendix 1.1

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

APPENDIX 1.2

DOTMOCRACY

APPENDIX 1.2 DOTMOCRACY			
Greenery	44	Dog Park	12
		Veggie Patch	13
		Green Wall	2
		Tree	7
		Flower Garden	10
		Skip Seating	0
		Trees and Path	0
Activities	11	Books	2
		Giant Monopoly	5
		Fusbal	3
		Table Tennis	1
Places to Relax	15	Beach Chairs	1
		Beanbag	9
		Curved Wooden Bench	2
		Concrete Bench	0
		Grassed Area	3
Somewhere For Kids to Play	16	Xylophone (Interactive)	1
		Log Seesaw	4
		Playground	9
		Climbing Wall	2
		Colourful Block Playground	0
Artworks	16	Greenery mural	2
		Stream Mural on Road	7
		Banana Sculpture	2
		Hanging Lights	4
		Yellow Ribbon Sculpture	1

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report

APPENDIX 1.3

VOX POP INTERVIEW

(NB THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE AS A SEPARATE ATTACHMENT ON REQUEST AT LARGER SIZE)

APPENDIX 1.3 VOX POP INTERVIEWS						
Wednesday 11 November --- Pre-Install						
Interview	Age	Gender	Residence Type	Street	Comments	
1	25-34	Male	Local	Positive	Unknown	"It's a good spot for a park. I'm new to the area and a park here will provide an opportunity to get to know the neighbours and build a sense of community. **The loss of car parking is minimal when compared to the benefits gained from a park."
2	55-64	Male	Local	Negative	Mollison St	"It's too small and won't provide enough benefits. **I'm concerned about drug addicts using the park". I love the neighbourhood and already use other parks in the area."
3	55-64	Male	Local	Negative	Unknown	Expressed concerns relating to negative impacts on traffic flow
4	55-64	Male	Local	Negative	Mollison St	Wasn't happy with the process leading up to the installation. Concerns relate to anti-social behaviour, traffic safety and privacy, but appreciates the need for more open space in Abbotford
5	35-44	Male	Local	Positive	Unknown	Thinks benefits of the park would include calming traffic. Currently spends time in Gairn Reserve, but notes that this space is at capacity and there is a general lack of space in Abbotford to spend time and connect with neighbours. Loves Abbotford, especially the connectivity it provides by being able to 'walk everywhere'.
6	35-44	Female	Local	Positive	Mollison St	"I'm all for the park."
Thursday 12 November and Friday 13 November --- During Install						
Interview	Age	Gender	Residence Type	Street	Comments	
7	45-54	Male	Local	Positive	Park St	"Only 10 Days? What a shame. I think it's a great idea and I'll go on the council website to let them know."
8	55-64	Male	Unknown	Negative	Unknown	"I think it's a travesty! There is a park just over there, what do you need another one for?"
9	25-34	Female	Local	Positive	Mollison St	"More greenspace! Excellent! We need more of this."
10	55-64	Male	Local	Negative	Charles St	Concerned about parking. Concerned about the crowd it will bring.
11	75+	Female	Local	Positive	Park St	Resident for 74 years! More green space is excellent. I live opposite the reserve and we never have problems with drug use even at New Year's Eve. They play basketball and music and it's really lovely.
12	75+	Female	Local	Negative	Mollison St	"My tree needs cutting. Has been planting up the median strip on Mollison St but the plants disappear"
13	25-34	Male	Local	Positive	Mollison St	"Love the idea. Why is it only 10 Days? How do I make sure it can be made permanent?"
14	18-24	Female	Richmond	Positive	Unknown	"Great idea. We need more green."
15	25-34	Male	Local	Positive	Charles St	"I am an architect. Love the idea. Disappointed it's not for longer"
16	25-34	Female	Unknown	Positive	Unknown	Mother with pram: "This is awesome."
17	Unknown	Female	Unknown	Positive	Unknown	Mother and son on bikes: "Fantastic, well come on Sunday! 2 older toddlers? Great to see our rates going to something."
18	65-74	Female	Local	Negative	Unknown	"Don't like to lose our parks. It will affect through traffic. Its something different. Council have to spend money somehow. The City of Yarra is a strange place". Overall ambivalent
19	25-34	Male	Local	Positive	Unknown	"It's a great idea! I'll tell lots of people about it."
20	25-34	Female	Local	Positive	Unknown	"We need more of this. I'm a local school teacher"
21	45-54	Female	Local	Negative	Unknown	"Noise bounce in hardscapes. Needle bin needed."
22	25-34	Male	Local	Negative	Mollison St	"Will attract junkies. Too small for my dog"
23	Unknown	Female	Local	Negative	Mollison St	Lives in apartment 11. Very concerned. Invasion of privacy. Noise. Wants to organise a meeting with Council. "We are totally against to set up this park, even temporarily, even for one day. We can't sleep for at day. We get mad!"
24	75+	Unknown	Local	Positive	Unknown	"Parks should be built on vacant sites. Never take road and car parking for green space. More green space is important but make developers build them."
25	75+	Female	Local	Positive	Unknown	Previously suspicious about the success of a park in this location. Prefers park not to intrude onto the Charles St road space. Thinks the trial imprint is better. "I think it looks nice."
26	45-54	Male	Local	Positive	Unknown	Likes the idea of the park. Thinks nobody else wants it.
27	18-24	Female	Local	Positive	Unknown	"The flowers are pretty. Some of my neighbours are upset that a park wasn't built in another location. I think it should be permanent"
28	25-34	Female	Local	Positive	Park St	Couple with 2 new babies: "More green space is good. I know some of the other residents are angry"
29	75+	Male	Local	Positive	Unknown	"I love it. I wish that people would shut up because it is a great idea. We need more like this. Put another one near 3 Bags Full cafe."
Sunday 15 November --- Post-Install						
Interview	Age	Gender	Residence Type	Street	Comments	
30	55-64	Male	Local	Positive	Unknown	"It's so lovely. I live around the corner and I have a bad knee. This is a perfect place to stop on my way to the station."
31	Under 12	Unknown	Local	Positive	Unknown	Having their pancakes in the park for breakfast. "Yesterday we had our toast here. We're so excited about the BGO. We told all our friends at primary school. We have games of hide and seek and jungle tiggly."
32	Under 12	Unknown	Local	Positive	Unknown	"I like this place because I get to meet kids that I didn't know live in the area."
33	45-54	Male	Local	Positive	Unknown	"I like it. Great to have open space. Strong neighbourhood but there is not a space where people come together in South Abbotford. All positive for me. Would like to see further active roads on the next like it. South Korea."

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report

APPENDIX 1.4 STICKER WALL

APPENDIX 1.4 STICKER WALL	
Today I came to this parklet to...	My idea for this space is...
Play	Dog Park
Give my support for this wonderful green space in our neighbourhood. Please make it permanent.	A fun area for kids to enjoy playing and meeting people. A green space for everyone
Read!	To be part of community.
Love a picnic!	Hang out and meet other people in a relaxing place.
To have a look at what was happening	To turn the temporary park into a permanent one - good for the kids.
Support the wonderful idea of a new park. I love it!!	A green space to hang out, relax + enjoy a quiet moment.
Enjoy some greenery with the local community.	Space for games and playing and greenery for relaxing.
Check it out.	Seating, shade, community activity.
See the space... and meet people.	Permanent park - we love it!!
Fantastic go ahead	Permanent!
Show my support, meet some neighbours, sit in the sun.	Permanent, dig up the asphalt and grow more plants, close off more streets
Enjoy some greenery with the local community.	Concrete table tennis table (like Paris) and hopscotch squares
Show my support for the great space	Well lit, family friendly (playground)
Love it!	Fun
To have breakfast	A mini playground, somewhere to play
Sit in sun	Keep it! Nice + quiet
Hang out + see the park	I like this made park. I like the way it changes the street dynamic + traffic
To check it out and kids activities	As is nice - good to see more green
Meet neighbours, watch my kids have a great time, pat dogs and relax	As is, but permanent
Support councils great initiative	Toddler playspace, puppy friendly
Express my dissatisfaction with the whole proposal	Leave it as it was
Support the proposal! (Common sense!) Meet neighbours	Farmers market! Christmas BBQ!
Fun	Plants
Meet the community!	Port-a-loo?
Hang with local hipster personality Rob	Pool, bar, DJ, Lego
Enjoy being outside	Permanent park!
Play	Seesaw
Hang out	Green
Meet others and be part of my local community.	Seats, BBQ.
Because it's awesome	Nothing, it's awesome
Eat my lunch	No through traffic
We totally against this park.	We totally expose this public watching us.
Have fun :)	Green
Hang out in the sun	Do it because it rocks!!!!
Support the idea of a permanent park	A permanent park for all to enjoy
Play	A vegetable garden
Spend time with my girlfriend	Shade cloth, or more shade. Aboriginal artwork
To have fun	Legos a swimming pool
Bring the kids somewhere close to home to play and meet neighbours	Swings + slide + play equipment, shade creation
Relax + meet new people	Keep it!!
I love this park	Fun
Meet the neighbours	A friendly community space
Enjoy this space	A shared community space that is green and welcoming
Play with my friend	Play ground, keep it
Enjoy the sunshine with people!	Drink tap, water for dogs
Have lunch and relax	More shade, fruit trees, veggie garden, Aboriginal art work
To meet people!	Keep it! Just add some play equip.
Have fun	To enjoy myself
Have fun	To have a play ground! Permanent
Relax in the sun	Green space and places to hang out
Read	More shade
Support the City of Yarra in trialling innovative ideas to improve the lives of residents.	Make it bigger! Make it greener! Create 10 more!
Picnic with friends to meet neighbours	A little track for kids to ride their scooters around
Play with my toddler outside. It's a wonderful space	Lawn and playground, trees and bushes
Study	A place I can sit outside and work without having to buy coffee in a cafe
Very good for kids, children and safe	Good spaces, very nice
Strangers were watching the properties	Not good for human rights. No privacy for neighbours
People watch	An exercise station
Enjoy the open space	Communal veggie patch
Meet the neighbours, sit outside, read	Street entertainment at appropriate times, busking, magio, jugglers
Have a picnic with my next door neighbours	Enjoy the outdoors with friends, sport, yoga
Enjoy the parklet	No playground, well lit, hopscotch, 4 Square, trampoline, a bar on wheels, community garden, food trucks, BBQ, Basketball Bar on wheels, skate park, market
Check it out, play with my friend, chillax	Keep it looking the same, no too much concrete, wildflowers, pallets, soft fake grass
Understand the possibilities	Greenery, relaxation
Enjoy the outside, talk to neighbours	Would love a park in the space, open communal space
Read, chill	Community veggie garden, basketball, exercise equipment
Read, nap	Coffee caravan, exercise equipment
Chill	Basketball, BBQ
Relax, be in touch with nature	Serve families, pets, space to enjoy
Meet neighbours, sit, chat, enjoy lovely space	A place to feel refreshed from watching children play, talking with people, sitting for a while

(NB this document is available as a separate attachment on request)

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*

APPENDIX 1.5

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Comment	Positive	Negative	Person X	Person Y
This is the best thing that happened to the neighbourhood - Unity and Harmony	x			
We have not been so busy since this park set up!		x		
This is not your backyard!		x		x
Why do you block opinion? You want to broken (sic) people's life		x		x
Where do you live? Can we go to your noise play? (sic)		x		x
Stop the park		x		x
We cannot sleep during night!		x		x
We cannot work during day as we tired! (sic)		x		
Open space	x			
No park!		x		
Get sun	x			
Yes, please leave it here!	x			x
Can we ship this park back your home?		x		
Resilient parks = resilient people	x			
Yes, very nice	x			
This park must stay!!!	x			
No park!		x		x
No privacy for people watching in front of the park		x		x
The property developers handballed the problem to council. Who put this here?		x		x
There was no proper consultation!		x		
We live in front of this park, it is very disturbed (sic)		x		
You can set up this park if front of office, not residential.		x		
Edible Garden!!	x			x
Strangers just looking us privacy. We live like prisoners! We will oppose this park.		x		
Sustainable communities	x			
Resilient communities	x		x	
This is not Town Hall		x	x	
Can we shift this park in front of your house? It's free!		x	x	
No park!		x		
Breathe in fresh air. Its free!	x			
Let's get debate going	x			
This is funded by developers not your rates!	x			
This is not a new idea, just a great idea!	x			x
Get back my peaceful life - Cindy		x		
Wrong Spot!		x		
Lack of open space = obesity and other health issues	x		x	
NO park forever		x		
Should be in a big park, not here		x		
The best cities have these open spaces	x		x	
Our home has been opened also		x		
Shut it!		x		
Move this away!		x		x
We oppose this park! Give back my peaceful life! Cindy		x		
This is city!	x			x
Too close my home. Too many noise. We cannot open the window! Cindy		x	x	
This is restaurant!		x		
Not so close		x		
A space for everyone	x			
TOTAL	18	30	6	13

(NB this document is available as a separate attachment on request)

Attachment 4 - Monitoring & Evaluation Report

*Charles & Mollison Streets Parklet
Monitoring and Evaluation summary report*



Parklet trial community BBQ day Sunday 15 November

END OF REPORT

Attachment 5 - Summary Online Comments

Charles and Mollison Streets Park Trial On-line Forum						
Q1: What do you like about the trial park?						
Post No.	Support	Neither	Oppose	No. of Posts	Reasons	Post Name
1	1				Met neighbours, quiet spot.	Local resident EmilyB
2	1			2	Great asset for the community; proactively creating green space	Local resident Tim
3			1	4	The space is too narrow; noisy for residents, too close to the building. Previous street trees too close to building.	Mollison St resident Mollison St resident
4	1			3	Park is fantastic	Resident of the building? iheartabbs
5	1				Great initiative; a space for local people to come together	Local resident wombat
6	2				More relaxed, community connection, meeting neighbours. Manage antisocial behaviour	Local resident FunnyJ
7	1				Meet neighbours, young children in a 'low key recreational space'. Make it permanent	Local resident Elizabeth
8			1	2	Council won't address resident's concerns; no forum for dissenting voices.	Mollison St resident PAC
9	1			2	Keep the park until Council decision is made. Love the park, met new neighbours, family oriented.	Resident of the building Happy Resident
10	1			6	Design/implementation phase could take 18 mnths. Do not support children's playground. Need a design which enhances rather than detracts from the area. Wants further consultation in design process. Need to address noise & antisocial behaviour.	Resident with overlooking balcony eamonveaney
11			1	3	Why wasn't park built in big development nearby? Large park across Gipps Street bridge. Poll the local residents!	Resident of the building Michael
12			1	5	As per Michael; loss of car parking. How many parks do we need?	Resident of the building mmcguire
13	1				Loved it - would like more established plantings, exercise or play equipment; extend to other side of Charles also; enhances experience of the community.	Local resident addyapple
14	1			2	Agree, Gipps St residents would like one too. Love plants, quiet & tranquility. Great place to meet people.	Local resident Abbotsford rocks
15	1				Great space for her toddler to play in; not enough public spaces in this area.	Local resident Kimi
16	1			4	More parks the better; other nearby parks are well used. Trees, shade, less traffic, unstructured public space.	Local resident Daniel
17			1	3	No-one using it; make better use of existing parks. There are parks everywhere.	Local resident Louise

Attachment 5 - Summary Online Comments

18	1				Nice having another break from concrete	Local resident	John Gayler
19	1				Her pre-schooler enjoyed the space. Liked the plants & mature trees.	Local resident	vicoz
20	1				Makes good use of a small area. Loves the garden beds & benches.	Local resident	Dontstopthepop
21			1	5	Noisy, intrudes on privacy.	Resident of the building	resident
22			1	2	Nasty strangers in area. Noisy.	Resident of the building?	Steve
23			1	6	Parks all over the place. Petition ignored by Council. Lost peace & quiet. Trees have caused damage. Loud drinkers in park.	Resident of the building	anne01
24		1			Consultation closes 27th Nov		Yarra administrator
25	1				Trees & plantings, peaceful & private.	Local resident	Christine
26	1				Great idea; one in Cremorne too.	Local resident	Alyson
27	1				Great for toddler. Never chatted with so many locals. Need plan to minimise unsociable behaviour.	Local resident	Park St
28	1				Builds a sense of community.	Local resident	lo
29	1				Good in high density area; leg-stretching spot for toddlers.	Local resident	Sceno
30	1				Far exceeded his expectations. Connects the community, greens our suburb, promotes liveability.	Local resident - lives nearby	jbutter
31	1				Inspiring for what our urban spaces could be - linking families & communities.	Local resident	raphael
32	1				Love it, make permanent.	Local resident	Chris234
33	1				Meet neighbours, feel more connected, sit in sun & relax.	Local resident	Go Abbotsford
34	1				Met many local residents; everyone enjoying themselves	Local resident	DS
35	1			2	Live very close, kids love it; meeting, play, comunal space.	Local resident - lives nearby	Bugalugs
36	1			2	Agrees with Bugalugs. Lovely community day; a little green oasis.	Local resident	urbangirl
37	1				Shared open space for sunshine, outdoors, meeting neighbours in a relaxed setting.	Local resident	abbotsford_adam
38	1			4	Many families enjoying park. Make space for toddlers to play. Include sun lounges. Mature trees on north side to ensure privacy & noise mitigation.	Local resident	ollie
39	1				Connect with local community, nearby & safe. Bench seats & everlasting flowers good. Maybe a physical barrier at each end for kids.	Local resident	Kirsten
40	1				Awesome	Local resident	Keith
	1				A place to retreat & relax, for children to play, & provides a green space.	Local resident	GDSyarra
	1				Meeting neighbours, sitting in sun, coming together as a community.	Mollison St resident	Brett Eastwood

Attachment 5 - Summary Online Comments

	1				Support the park, but some people not addressing 'What do you like about the trial park?'	Live opposite the park	James73
	2				Local residents, want to see it made permanent.	Local residents	John and Judy
	2				Mollison St residents, fully support proposed park.	Mollison St residents	D and J
	1				Really excited about park.	Local resident	Raphaelites
Totals	40	1	8	86			
					Q2: If the trial park was to become permanent, what features would you like to see installed?		
					A tranquil place for relaxation & meditation rather than a children's playground	Resident with overlooking	eamonveaney (1)
					Agrees. No need for additional play equipment. Wifi hotspot & small exercise set.		Abbotsford rocks
					AgreesNon-structured equipment better in relatively small space.		Park St
					No play equipment - make a relaxed & calm space. Ped crossing access at Gipps & Charles Streets.		FunnyJ
					Privacy issues can be addressed with smart design. Discourage a 'party space' - maybe not tables. Create a clear ped & cyclist thru-path. Good space to take some 'respite'.		Elizabeth
					1. Replace corrugated fence opposite, or commission street art on it. 2. For deliveries, open up Park St to 2 way traffic between Langridge & Park / Mollison. (3) Plant trees only with great care.		eamonveaney (2)
					Remove parking on left side between Mollison & Langridge for access to properties - stop sign at intersection Park/Mollison, no-entry on other side.		eamonveaney (3)
					Change the remaining car park spots on Mollison from Charles to Park to permit holders only, for guest parks.		eamonveaney (4)
					Provide some sort of removable shade cloth & bicycle parking, water station & doggy bag with bin. Support artwork on corrugated fence		iheartabbs
					Agree, but green shade better - provide smaller trees. Also other greeneryeg) edible plants (herbs, fruit) & flowers. Comfy seating,		urbangirl
					Epworth hospital has a wooden table, bench seating & a shaded canopy - shade doesn't need to be green. If plant trees that don't impact on foundations, then select natives to attract birds.		eamonveaney (5,6,7,8,9)

Attachment 5 - Summary Online Comments

				Install herb / vegie gardens. If possible, mark out space for hopscotch.		Dontstopthepop
				Don't support a veggie patch.		Abbotsford rocks
				Lawn, play area for kids, trees/bushes.		Kimi
				Noise reduction/privacy devices eg) awnings & shutters for Mollison St residences. No noisy play area.		Steve
				Larger trees. More soft surfaces to lie or sit on.		Daniel
				As per now - trees, flowers, places to sit. Pond? Tinted windows for nearby apartment owners or plant trees opposite their balcony spaces.		Christine
				Make it bigger, from Charles to Park Sts! More trees for shade & screening, & real grass.		lo
				Can't extend, Need to access garages. Install CCTV cameras to deter antisocial behaviour.		eamonveaney (10, 11)
				Keep the multi-purpose style crates. Install picnic tables, and shade.		Park st
				Fenced off toddler play area (baby boom in area). Provide shade.		Sceno
				Play equipment for younger kids, exercise facilities, raised garden beds.		DS
				Exercise station, somewhere to read & relax, green space.		addyapple
				Play items for kids, seating benches, trees & gardens.		GDSyarra
				Trees & flower beds.		Brent Eastwood
				Seating, attractive sculpture garden areas, lawn.		John and Judy
				Summary of Suggested Features:		
				1. Play equipment oppose 5	- support 5	Includes play sculpture; fence off for toddlers
				2. Exercise station	- support 3	
				3. Provide tables/benches oppose 1	-support 3	
				4. Provide seating	-support 5	
				5. Provide lawn/grass	-support 5	
				6. Plant trees maybe 1	-support 8	Some suggest smaller species to prevent damage; one for natives
				7. Removable shade cloth or shade canopy	- support 2	

Attachment 5 - Summary Online Comments

					8. Other greenery / garden beds -support 6		
					9. Herb/veggie garden -support 1 oppose 1		
					10. Create tranquil place forrelaxation -support 4		
					11. Replace corrugated fence or implement artwork -support 3		
					12. Miscellaneous - Wifi hot spot; bike parking; water station; doggy bag; ped/cyclist thru-path; hopskotch; keep crates; pond; awnings/shutters/tinted windows; CCTV cameras.		

Attachment 6 - Traffix Report 2016



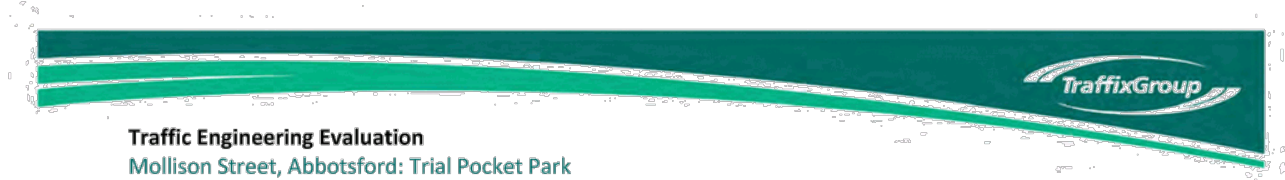
Traffic Engineering Evaluation

Trial Pocket Park
at
Mollison Street, Abbotsford

Prepared For
City of Yarra

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Traffic Engineering Evaluation

**Trial Pocket Park
at
Mollison Street, Abbotsford**

Document Control

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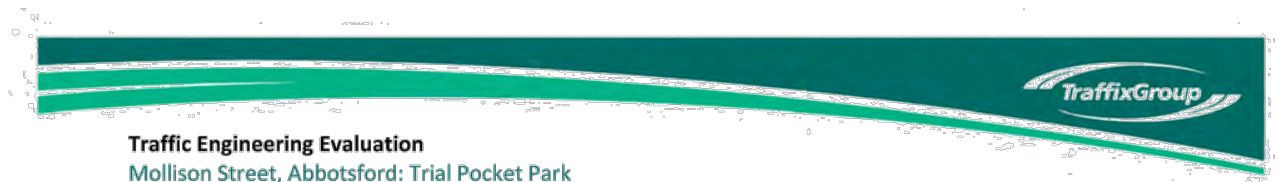
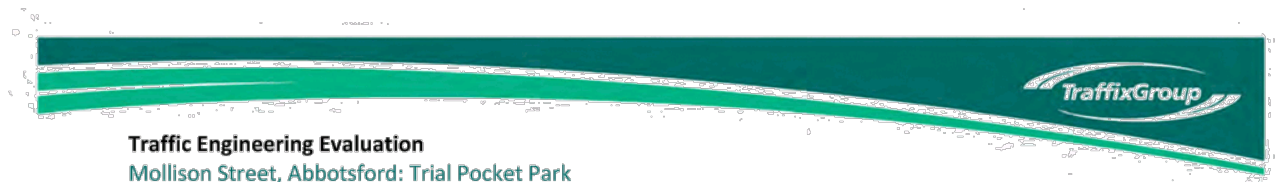


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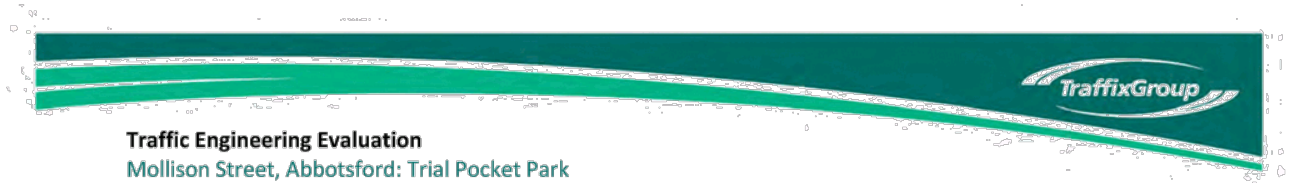
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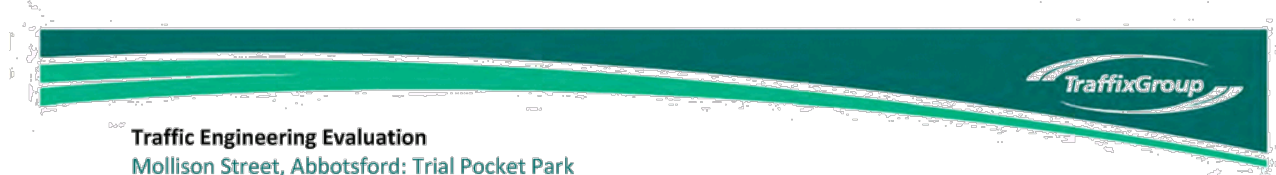
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1 Introduction

Traffix Group has been engaged by City of Yarra to evaluate the traffic and parking impacts of a temporary road closure of Mollison Street associated with a trial pocket park.

This report considers the traffic and parking impacts resulting from the road closure during the trial period on Mollison Street between Park Street and Charles Street.

2 Background

The Yarra Open Space Strategy identified the intersection of Mollison Street / Charles Street in Abbotsford as a potential future open space location. The strategy identified that the installation of a park would involve either the full or partial closure of Mollison Street and/or Charles Street at the intersection.

In July 2014, Council's Open Space Planning and Design department commenced preliminary design for the potential park at Mollison Street / Charles Street. Four (4) preliminary options were developed that involved various traffic modifications at the Mollison Street / Charles Street intersection.

In August 2014, Council engaged Traffix Group to undertake a traffic engineering review of the four options considering the traffic and parking impacts. The assessment identified an alternative park layout which involved a road closure on Mollison Street west of Charles Street as the preferred option from a traffic and parking perspective.

Based on the traffic engineering input, Council further developed the preferred layout and in early 2015 Council undertook consultation with the local community. The community feedback indicated that many residents were interested in a park at this locations, however, there were a number of concerns in relation to noise, negative behaviour, parking and traffic congestion.

Based on the above, Council proposed to develop a trial pocket park for a short period to allow the local community to experience the park and allow for the evaluation of the potential impacts.

3 Trial Pocket Park

The trial pocket park was developed based on the preferred option of a full road closure of Mollison Street on the west approach to the Charles Street intersection. An aerial photograph showing the indicative area of the road closure is provided in Figure 1 below, with a photograph of the Charles Street closure provided at Figure 2.

The temporary road closure was implemented for a trial period between Friday, 13th November, 2015 and Wednesday 25th November 2015.

The closure was physically implemented through the installation of water filled barriers at each end of the closure with temporary road works signage. A pedestrian crossing (zebra) was also installed on the Charles Street north approach to the Mollison Street intersection.

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A total of seven (7) parking spaces were removed on Mollison Street to accommodate the trial pocket park, including five (5) angle parking spaces on the south side of the road and two (2) parallel parking spaces on the north side of the road. No parking spaces were affected on Charles Street, with all temporary barriers located within existing 'No Stopping' areas.

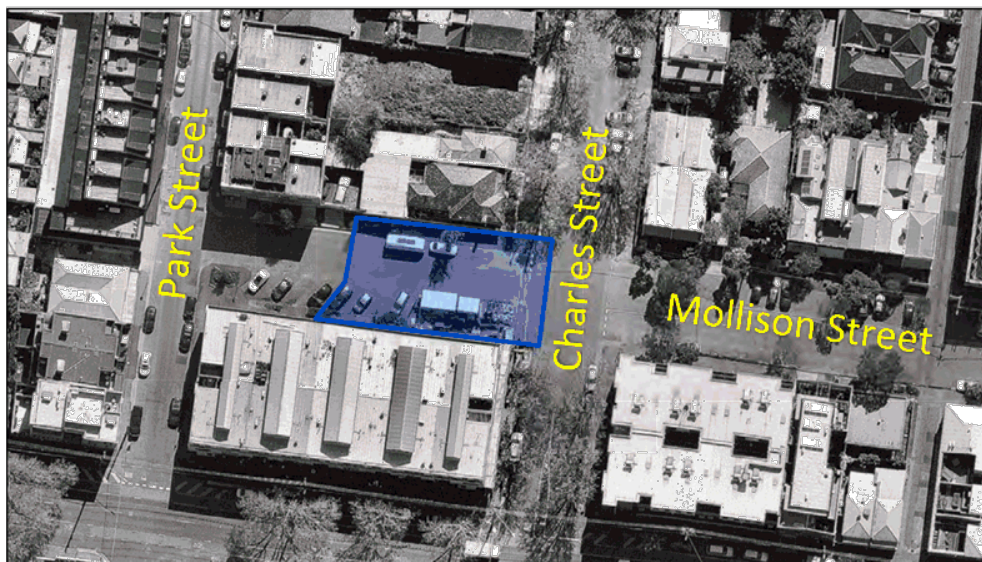
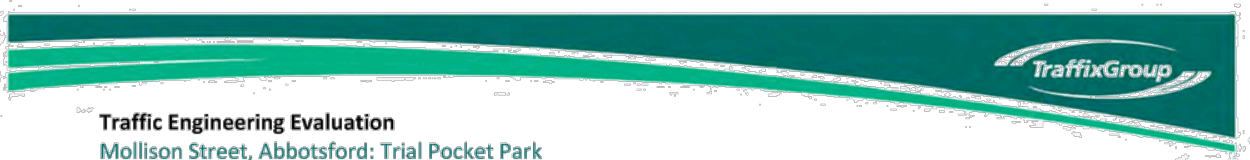


Figure 1: Trial Pocket Park – Area Affected



Figure 2: Trial Pocket Park – Mollison Street Road Closure at Charles Street

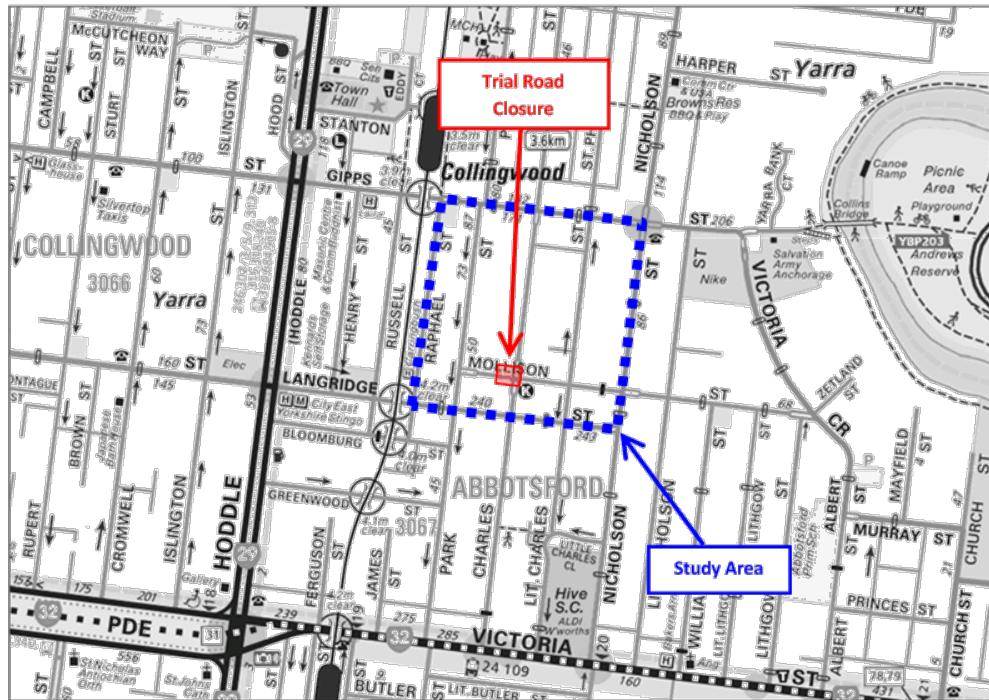
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4 Study Area

The study area generally incorporates the local road network bounded by Gipps Street, Nicholson Street, Langridge Street and Raphael Street.

The locality plan of the study area and location of the potential road closure is shown in Figure 3.



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Figure 3: Study Area Locality Plan

A description of the road network in the study area is provided in the following sections.

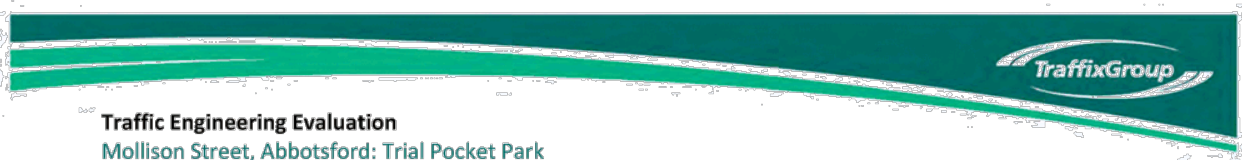
5 Road Network

5.1 Mollison Street

Mollison Street is a Council local road that extends east-west between Nicholson Street in the east and Park Street in the west.

Mollison Street generally consists of a 14.5m wide carriageway (accommodating one traffic lane in either direction) to the east of Charles Street, with 90° angled parking on the north side of the street and kerbside parallel parking on the south side of the street. To the west of Charles Street, Mollison Street consists of a 14m wide carriageway (accommodating one traffic lane in either direction) and

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indented 60° angled parking on the south side of the street and kerbside parallel parking on the north side of the street. There is an existing full road closure at Nicholson Street.

A 'Give Way' control applies at the intersection with Charles Street. It is noted that the east-west alignment at the Mollison Street and Charles Street cross intersection is slightly offset due to the angle parking switching between the north and south sides.

A speed limit of 40km/h applies to Mollison Street in the vicinity of Charles Street.

Photographs of Mollison Street are shown below.

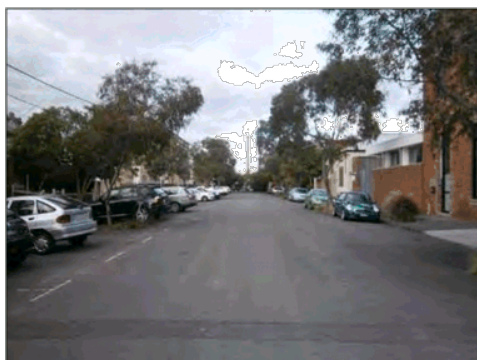


Figure 4: Mollison Street (Charles Street to Lt Charles Street, view east)



Figure 5: Mollison Street (Charles Street to Park Street, view west)

5.2 Charles Street

Charles Street is a Council local road that extends north-south between Vere Street in the north and Victoria Street in the south.

Charles Street generally consists of a 14m wide carriageway with a single traffic lane in each direction. Parking is permitted on both sides of the street with kerbside parallel parking on the west side and 90° angled parking on the east side.

Splitter islands are located at the approaches to Gipps Street and Langridge Street. A 'Stop' control applies at the intersection with Langridge Street, and a 'Give Way' control applies at the intersection with Gipps Street.

A speed limit of 40km/h applies to Charles Street in the vicinity of Mollison Street.

Photographs of Charles Street are shown below.

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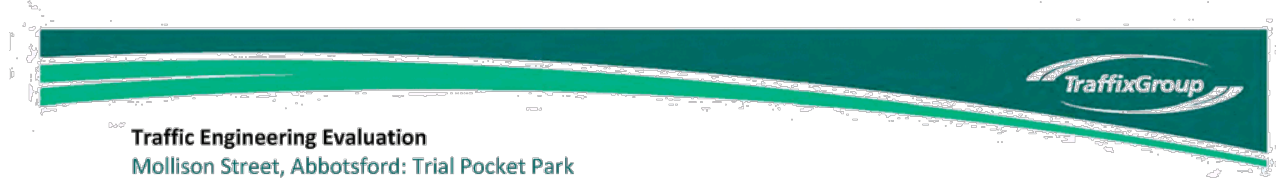


Figure 6: Charles Street (Mollison Street to Gipps Street, view north)



Figure 7: Charles Street (Gipps Street to Mollison Street, view south)

5.3 Park Street

Park Street is a Council local road that extends north-south between Johnston Street in the north and Victoria Street in the south.

Park Street generally consists of an 8m wide carriageway with a single traffic lane permitting southbound traffic flow only. Kerbside parallel parking is permitted on both sides of the street.

A 'Give Way' control applies at the intersection with Langridge Street.

A speed limit of 40km/h applies on Park Street in the study area.

Photographs of Park Street are shown below.

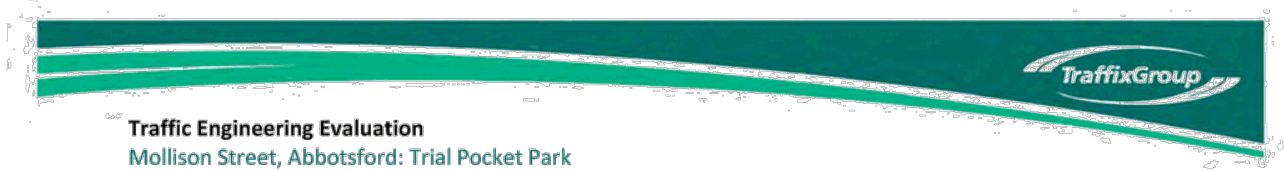


Figure 8: Park Street (Langridge Street to Mollison Street, view north)



Figure 9: Park Street (Gipps Street to Mollison Street, view south)

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5.4 Gipps Street

Gipps Street is a Council collector road that extends east-west between Victoria Crescent in the east and Wellington Street in the west.

Gipps Street generally consists of a 14.7m wide carriageway which includes 2.7m-3.0m wide parking lanes and 1.8m wide bicycle lanes on both sides of the street. Gipps Street consists of a 2.7m wide traffic lane in each direction. Kerbside parallel parking is permitted on both sides of the street.

Road humps are located on Gipps Street between Park Street and Charles Street and between Charles Street and Little Charles Street. The Gipps Street and Nicholson Street intersection is a signalised cross intersection.

A speed limit of 40km/h applies on Gipps Street in the study area.

Photographs of Gipps Street are shown below.



Gipps Street (at Park Street, view east)



Gipps Street (at Charles Street, view west)

5.5 Langridge Street

Langridge Street is a Council major road that extends east-west between Nicholson Street in the east and Smith Street in the west.

Langridge Street generally consists of a 14.6m wide carriageway which includes 2.7m wide parking lanes and 1.8m wide bicycle lanes on both sides of the street. Langridge Street consists of a 2.8m wide traffic lane in each direction. Kerbside parallel parking is permitted on both sides of the street.

Road humps are located on Langridge Street between Raphael Street and Park Street and between Charles Street and Little Charles Street. 'Stop' controls and a pedestrian crossing are located at the Langridge Street approach to the Langridge Street and Nicholson Street T-intersection.

A speed limit of 40km/h applies to Langridge Street in the study area.

Photographs of Langridge Street are shown below.

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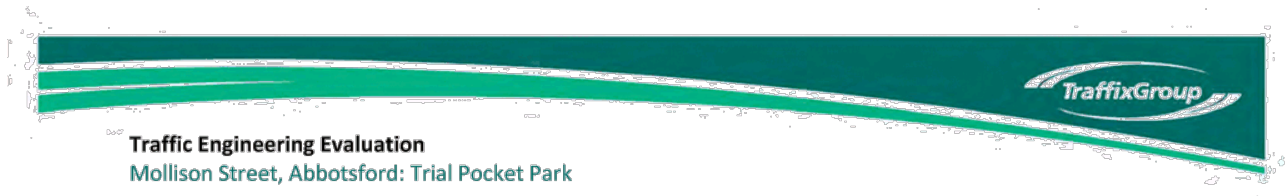
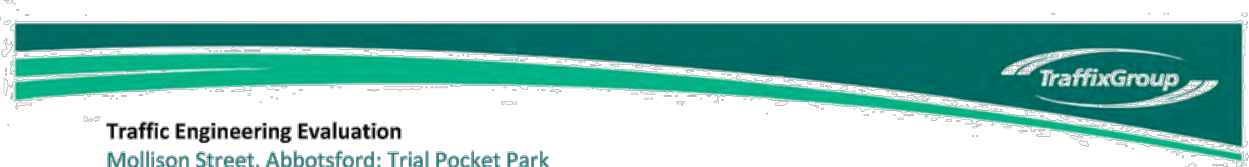


Figure 10: Langridge Street (Charles Street to Lt Charles Street, view east)



Figure 11: Langridge Street (Charles Street to Park Street, view west)

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6 Traffic and Parking Conditions

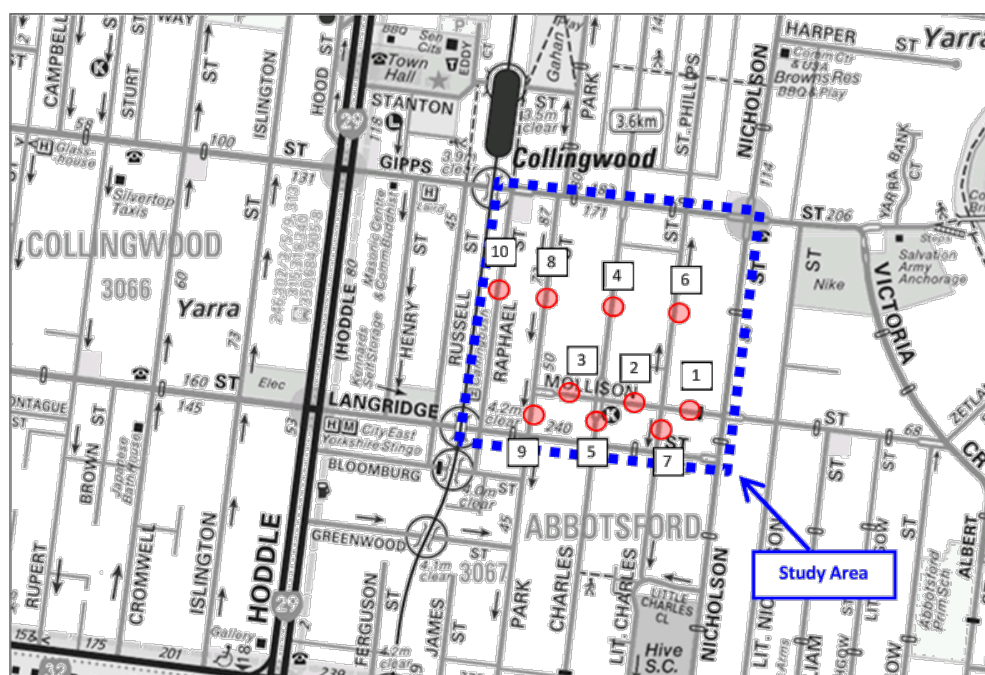
Traffix Group has undertaken data collection of the traffic and parking conditions on streets in the study area during the temporary road closure associated with trial pocket park. This has generally replicated the data collection prior to the temporary road closure to allow for direct comparisons of the data sets.

A summary of traffic and parking conditions based on the data collected is presented in the following sections.

6.1 Traffic Conditions

6.1.1 Traffic Volumes

Traffic volumes were obtained from seven-day (i.e. one week) automatic tube counts at ten (10) locations in the study area as shown in Figure 12.

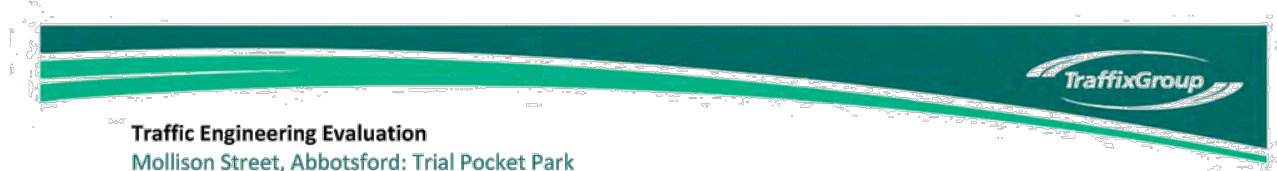


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Tube #	Location	Tube #	Location
1	Mollison St btw Lt. Charles St and Nicholson St	6	Lt. Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St
2	Mollison St btw Charles St & Lt. Charles St	7	Lt. Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St
3	Mollison St btw Park St & Charles St	8	Park St btw Gipps St & Mollison St
4	Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	9	Park St btw Mollison St & Langridge St
5	Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	10	Raphael St btw Gipps St & Langridge St

Figure 12: Tube Count Location Map

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The counts were undertaken across the following dates:

- 'Before' Counts (August 2014) – 21st August 2014 to 27th August 2014.
- 'After' Counts (November 2015) – 16th November 2015 to 22nd November 2015.

Traffic volume data from the seven-day tube counts was averaged over five weekdays to obtain the average weekday traffic volumes at each of the ten locations. Full results of traffic counts are provided at Appendix A.

Diagrams showing the average weekday daily traffic volumes 'before' and 'after' the Mollison Street road closure is shown in Figure 13 (August 2014) and Figure 14 (November 2015) below.

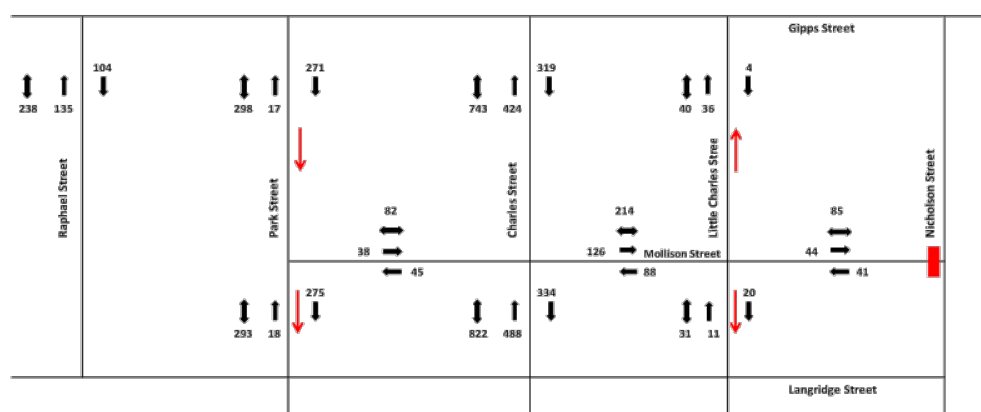


Figure 13: Average Weekday Daily Traffic Volumes – 'Before' August 2014

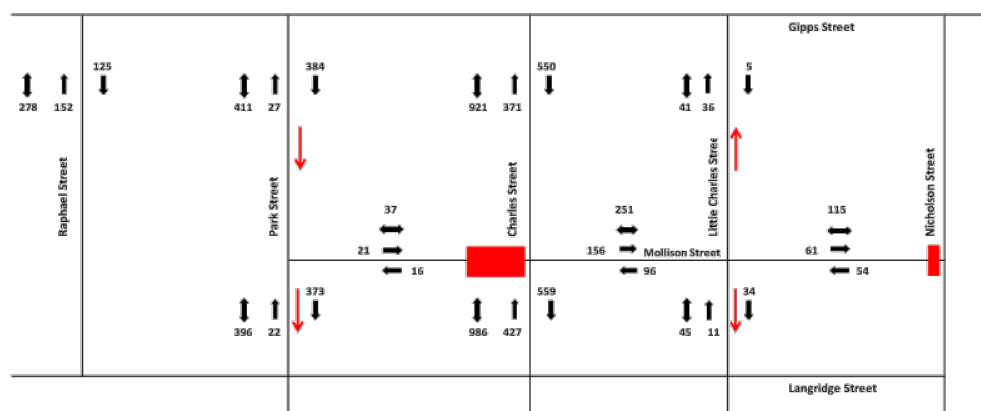


Figure 14: Average Weekday Daily Traffic Volumes – 'After' November 2015

Diagrams showing the AM and PM peak hour traffic volumes in the study area are shown in Figure 15 for the 'before' data and Figure 16 for the 'after' data. It is noted that the peak hours vary across the tube count locations and for simplicity, the peak hour for each count has been shown in the diagram.

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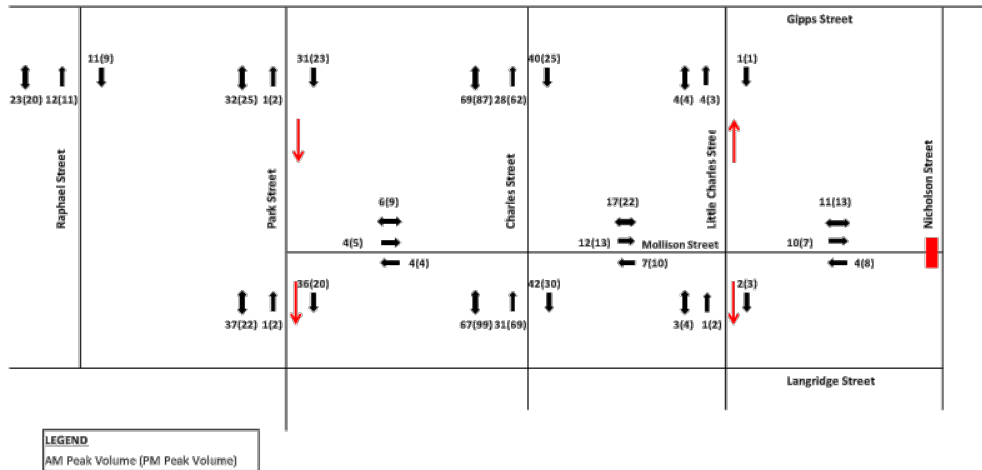
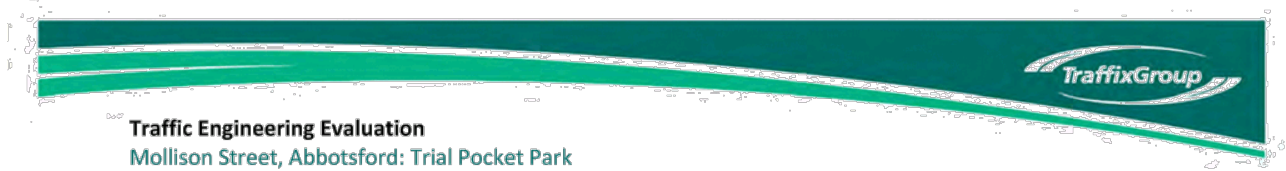


Figure 15: Average Weekday Peak Hour Traffic Volumes – 'Before' August 2014

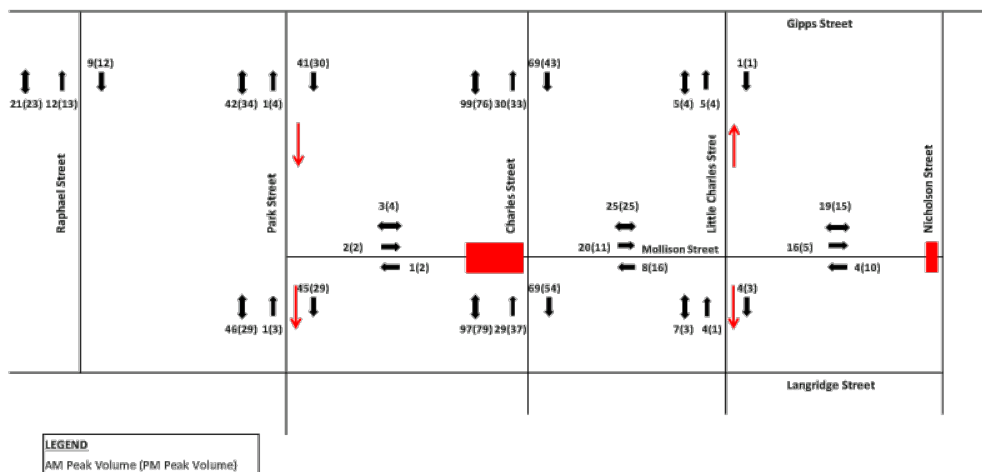
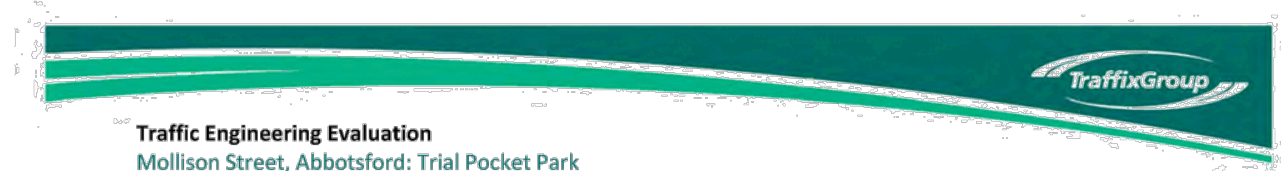


Figure 16: Average Weekday Peak Hour Traffic Volumes – 'After' November 2015

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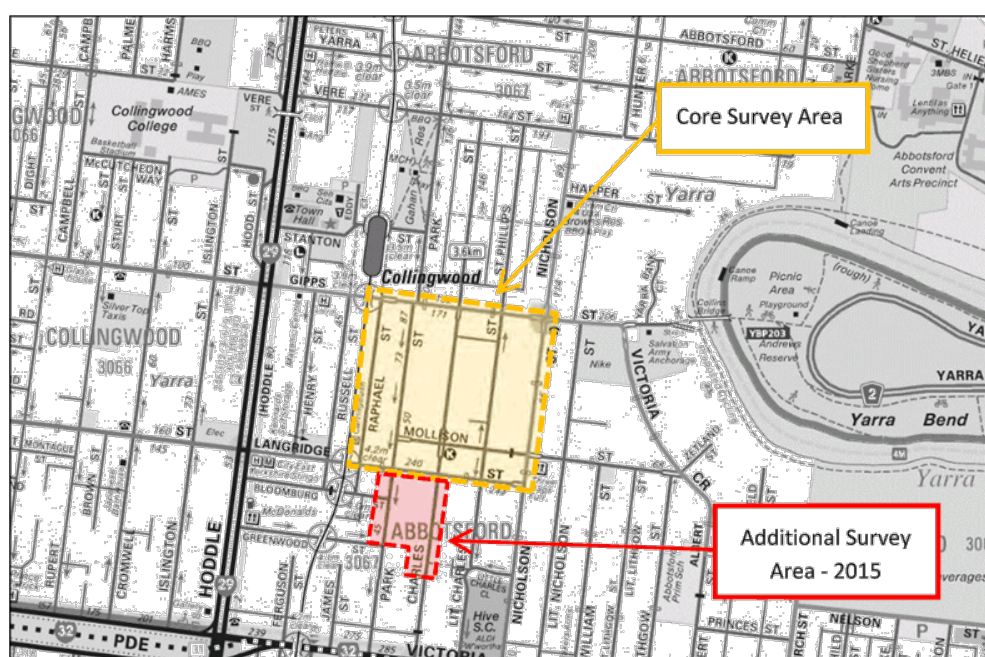


6.2 Parking Conditions

6.2.1 Parking Survey Area

Parking occupancy surveys were conducted in the study area for both the 'before' (August 2014) and 'after' (November 2015) conditions.

The parking surveys for the 'before' conditions were undertaken in the area bounded by Gipps Street, Nicholson Street, Langridge Street and Raphael Street. The survey area for the 'after' surveys was expanded to include sections of Charles Street and Park Street to the south of Langridge Street as identified in Figure 17 below.



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Figure 17: 'Before' and 'After' Parking Survey Area

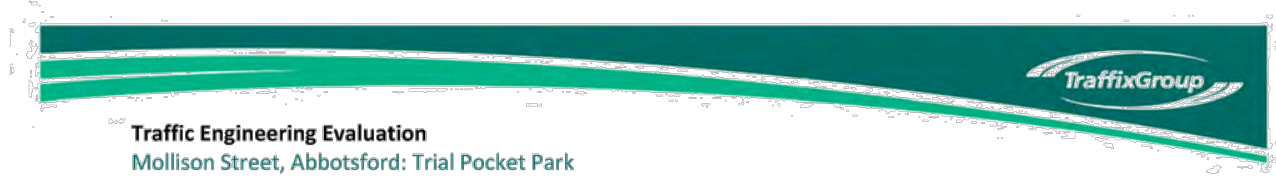
6.2.2 Parking Supply

Table 1 below presents the parking supply recorded at the 'before' and 'after' parking surveys.

Table 1: Parking Supply

Street	'Before' – August 2014	'After' – November 2015	Change	Comments
Core Survey Area				
Mollison Street	49	42	-7	7 spaces lost as a result of the trial pocket park.

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Street	'Before' – August 2014	'After' – November 2015	Change	Comments
Park Street	52	51	-1	1 space lost between Langridge Street and Mollison Street due to construction activity in November 2015.
Charles Street	62	62	-	-
Langridge Street	32	32	-	-
Little Charles Street	0	0	-	-
Nicholson Street	38	38	-	-
Gipps Street	40	40	-	-
Raphael Street	57	57	-	-
Sub-Total	330	322	-8	-
Additional Survey Area				
Charles Street	-	48	-	Additional survey area collected in November 2015.
Park Street	-	25	-	
Sub-Total	-	73	-	
	330	395	+65	

Overall the 'core' survey area had a reduction in 8 spaces, with 7 associated with the trial pocket park and 1 associated with construction activity in the area.

6.2.3 Parking Demand

Parking occupancy surveys were conducted by Traffic Group in the study area at the following dates and times:

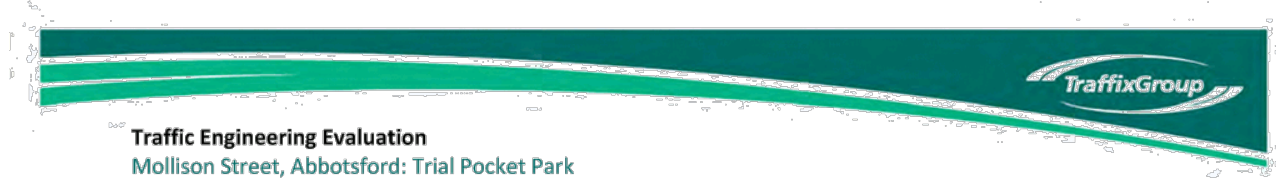
'Before' Surveys – August 2014:

- Thursday, 14th August, 2014 between 10:00am and 2:00pm (at hourly intervals) and 6:00pm and 8:00pm (at hourly intervals), and
- Saturday, 16th August, 2014 between 10:00am and 2:00pm (at hourly intervals) and 6:00pm and 8:00pm (at hourly intervals).

'After' Surveys – November 2015:

- Thursday, 19th November, 2015 between 10:00am and 2:00pm (at hourly intervals) and 6:00pm and 8:00pm (at hourly intervals), and
- Saturday, 21st November, 2015 between 10:00am and 2:00pm (at hourly intervals) and 6:00pm and 8:00pm (at hourly intervals).

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The dates and times were chosen to capture the typical daytime and evening parking demands in the study area across a weekday and a weekend. Figure 18 below shows the overall parking occupancies observed across the parking surveys on typical Thursdays and typical Saturdays. For the purposes of direct comparison, the 'after' surveys have been split into the 'core' survey area parking demands and the total (core plus additional) parking demands.

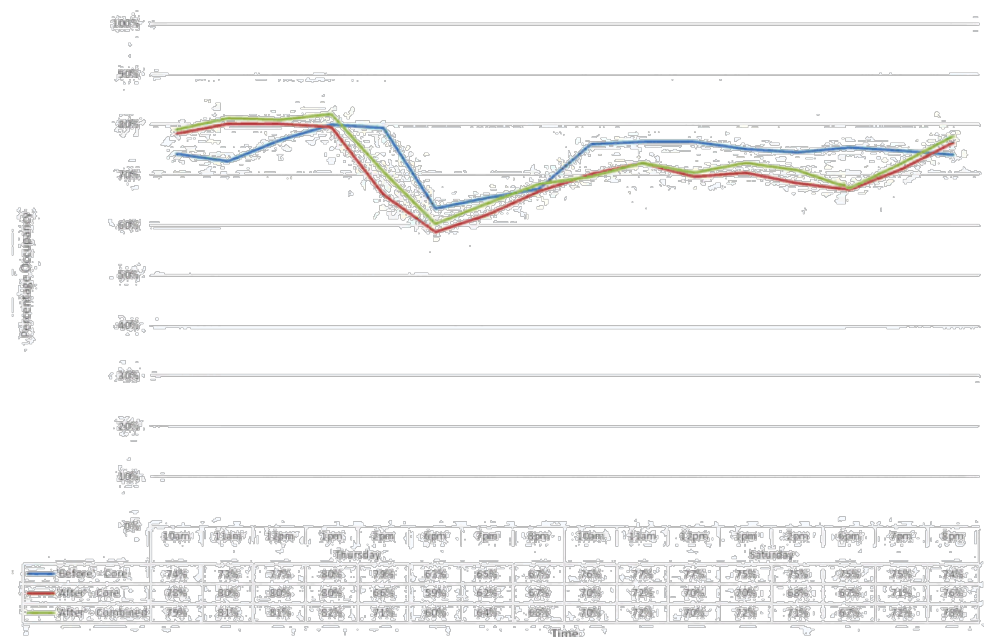


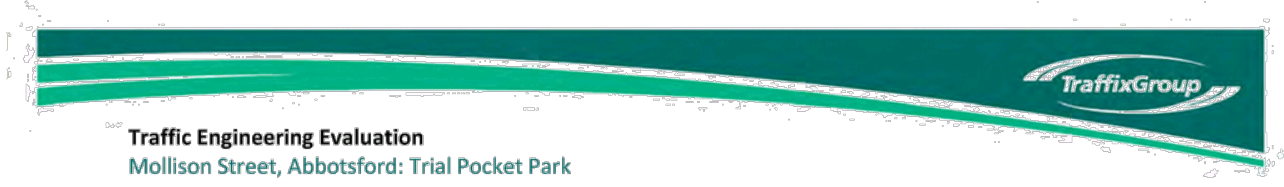
Figure 18: Parking Occupancy Profile – 'Before' and 'After' Data Sets

Table 2 below compares the peak parking occupancies observed across the 'before' and 'after' data sets.

Table 2: Peak Parking Occupancy – Overall Survey Area

Day	Survey Area	'Before' – August 2014			'After' – November 2015		
		Time	Number of Cars Parked	Percentage Occupancy	Time	Number of Cars Parked	Percentage Occupancy
Thursday	Core	1pm	264	80%	11am & 12noon	258	80%
	Additional	-	-	-	1pm	68	93%
	Total	-	-	-	1pm	324	82%

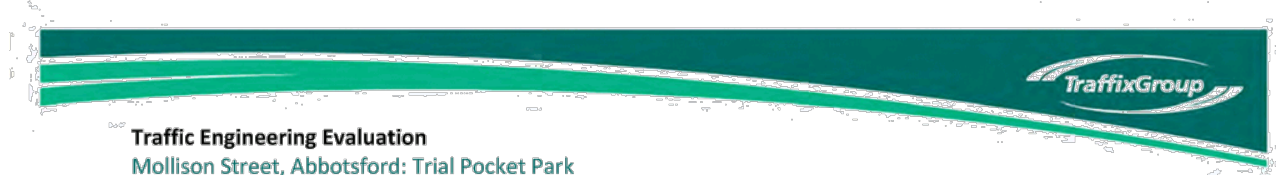
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Day	Survey Area	'Before' – August 2014			'After' – November 2015		
		Time	Number of Cars Parked	Percentage Occupancy	Time	Number of Cars Parked	Percentage Occupancy
Saturday	Core	11am & 12noon	253	77%	8pm	246	76%
	Additional	-	-	-	8pm	61	84%
	Total	-	-	-	8pm	307	78%

A full copy of the parking occupancy survey results are provided at Appendix B.

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7 Traffic Engineering Evaluation

7.1 Evaluation Criteria

Prior to the trial pocket park, Traffix Group in conjunction with Council developed a set of evaluation criteria to assess the traffic and parking impacts associated with the temporary closure of Mollison Street.

The evaluation criteria is based on a number of key objectives of the Mollison Street road closure trial as follows:

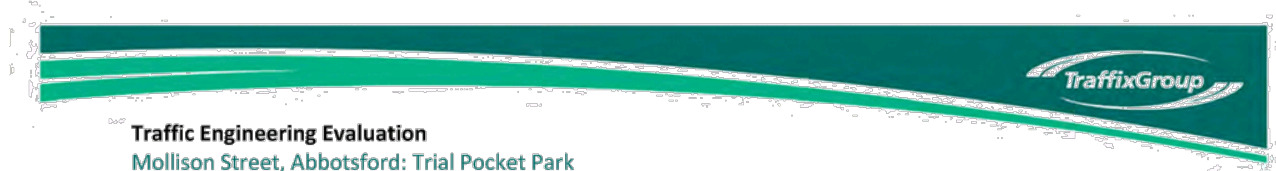
- Determine if any traffic patterns are similar to those predicted and identify any significant traffic volume impacts on streets within the study area.
- Identify the impact on parking occupancy in the area and identify possible mitigation measures (i.e. parking restrictions).
- Determine if the road closure scheme is supported by stakeholders.
- Identify any potential modifications / improvements to the scheme.

Table 3 below summarises the evaluation criteria developed based on the key objectives of the trial.

Table 3: Mollison Street Trial Road Closure – Evaluation Criteria

Objective	Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Methodology
Determine if traffic patterns are similar to those predicted and identify any significant impacts on the local road network	<p>Have overall traffic volumes on the surrounding local streets changed in-line with the traffic volume predictions based on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average Weekday Daily Traffic Volumes (24hr) <p>Assessment to focus on two-way traffic volumes in each street.</p> <p>Significant increases in daily traffic volumes defined as greater than 250-500 vehicles per day.</p> <p>Consideration given to general increases in traffic associated with development in the area since the previous data collection (August 2014).</p>	<p>Conduct automatic tube counts in key streets throughout the study area over a 7 day period.</p> <p>Compare the results of the 'before' and 'after' surveys.</p> <p>Compare the predicted changes with the actual changes.</p> <p>Compare results in streets with no predicted impact to determine if there has been a general increase or decrease in traffic in the local area.</p>

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Objective	Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Methodology
Identify impact on parking occupancy and identify possible mitigation measures	<p>Determine the change in parking occupancy at the overall peak time in the study area.</p> <p>Assessments to focus on three (3) areas as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within 50m of the closure, • Within 100m of the closure, and • Within 150m of the closure. <p>Record the number of vehicles parked with resident permits to gauge the level of non-residential parking.</p> <p>Determine if the 'after' parking occupancy is acceptable given the existing parking management in the area.</p> <p>If the 'after' occupancy is assessed to be too high, can a parking management strategy be developed in-line with Council policies to manage parking increases.</p>	<p>Conduct parking occupancy surveys in the same area as the 'before' counts including up to 150m from the proposed closure.</p> <p>Compare the 'before' and 'after' parking occupancies in the whole study area. Determine if parking occupancy have generally changed as a result of new development in the area since the previous surveys (August 2014).</p> <p>Compare the results of the 'before' and 'after' surveys within 50m, 100m and 150m of the road closure. Determine the increase in parking occupancy and assess its adequacy.</p> <p>Consider the number of vehicles parked with parking permits to gauge the level of non-residential parking.</p> <p>If the parking occupancy is too high, develop general parking management scheme in-line with Council policies to manage parking occupancy increases. Options include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parking restrictions to manage demand, 2. Identify possible locations for increased on-street parking supply, and/or 3. Modify the layout of the road closure to retain more on-street parking.
Determine if the road closure trial is supported by stakeholders	<p>General community support for the road closure and park scheme based on on-line feedback assessed by Council's project manager.</p>	<p>Establish on-line discussion forum to allow community feedback to be provided throughout and after the trial</p>

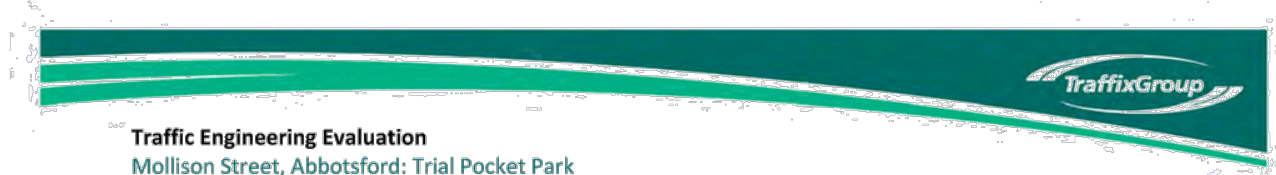
A full copy of the evaluation criteria is provided at Appendix C.

7.2 Traffic Considerations

7.2.1 Predicted Traffic Impacts

Traffix Group prepared a traffic impact assessment report (October 2014) that assessed a number of road closure options being considered by Yarra City Council for Mollison Street / Charles Street. The trial road closure proposal was identified as Option 1A in this previous assessment. The predicted impacts of the Option 1A were as follows:

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**Traffic Impacts:**

- Closure located on Mollison Street (between Park Street and Charles Street) which carries a very low daily volume (82 vehicle per day).
- Vehicle redistribution limited to some Mollison Street movements travelling through the Charles Street intersection.
- Overall the traffic volume redistribution was predicted to be limited as shown in the table below.

The previous assessment adopted traffic re-distribution around the Mollison Street road closure as identified in Figure 19 below.

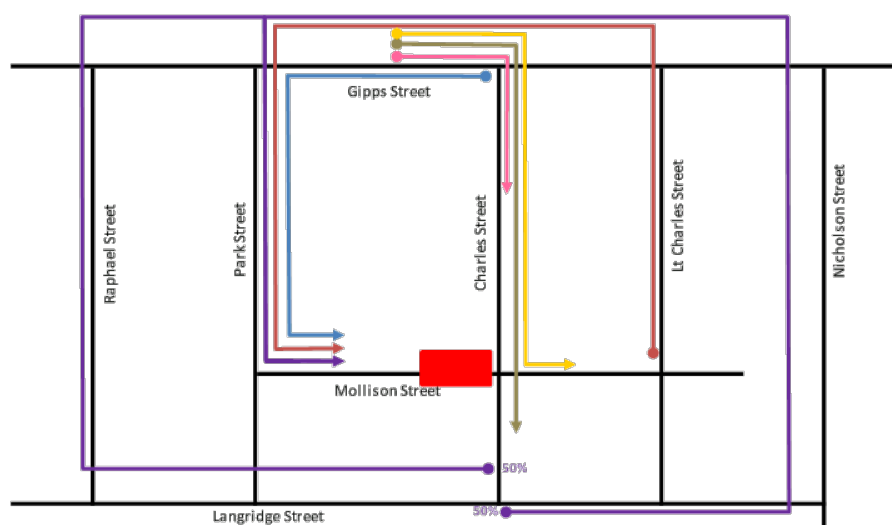


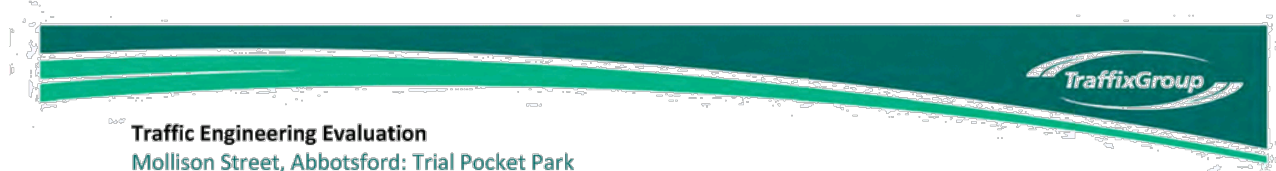
Figure 19: Proposed Road Closure Arrangement – Predicted Traffic Redistribution

Based on the observed traffic volumes in 2014, the predicted traffic volume impacts for each street in the study area is provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Predicted Traffic Impacts of Mollison Street Road Closure

Street - Location	'Before' Volume (August 2014)	Predicted Change	Predicted Post Closure Volume
Raphael St btw Gipps St & Langridge St	238 vpd	+1	239 vpd
Park St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	298 vpd	-36	262 vpd
Park St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	293 vpd	0	293 vpd
Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	743 vpd	0	743 vpd
Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	822 vpd	-1	821 vpd
Lt Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	40 vpd	0	40 vpd

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Street - Location	'Before' Volume (August 2014)	Predicted Change	Predicted Post Closure Volume
Lt Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	31 vpd	0	31 vpd
Mollison St btw Nicholson St & Lt Charles St	85 vpd	0	85 vpd
Mollison St btw Charles St & Lt Charles St	214 vpd	-35	179 vpd
Mollison St btw Park St & Charles St	82 vpd	-37	45 vpd

7.2.2 Daily Traffic Volumes

Volumes 'IN' and 'OUT' of the Study Area:

The pocket park is intended to serve the immediate local community and is therefore not expected to generate a significant level of standalone vehicle trips to the park. Users of the pocket park are expected to predominantly walk from the adjacent properties to utilise the park.

On this basis, traffic volumes 'IN' and 'OUT' of the local area have been assessed to determine if there has been a general traffic volume increase in the local area. As shown previously at Figure 19, the predicted re-distribution routes did not predict additional 'IN' and 'OUT' trips into the local areas accessed from Park Street, Charles Street and Little Charles Street. On this basis, any growth in these volumes would identify general traffic growth in the local area not associated with the pocket park trial.

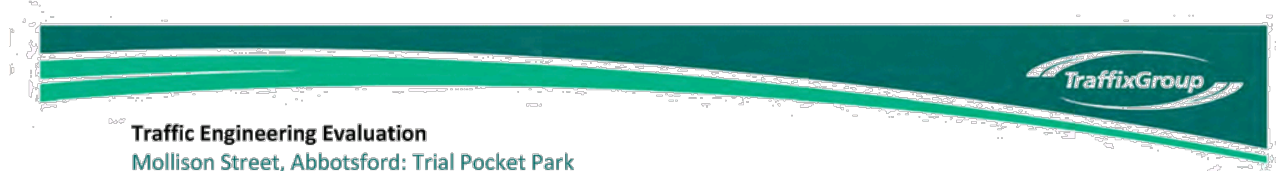
Table 5 below compares the traffic volumes 'IN' and 'OUT' of the local area at the key external access points.

Table 5: Comparison of 'IN' and 'OUT' Volumes in the Local Area

Street	Location	'Before' Data (Aug 2014)			'After' Data (Nov 2015)		
		IN	OUT	Total	IN	OUT	Total
Park Street	South of Gipps Street	271	17	288	384 (+113)	27 (+10)	411 (+123)
	North of Langridge Street	18	275	293	22 (+4)	373 (+98)	395 (+102)
Charles Street	South of Gipps Street	319	424	743	550 (+231)	371 (-53)	921 (+178)
	North of Langridge Street	488	334	822	427 (-61)	559 (+225)	986 (+164)
Little Charles Street	South of Gipps Street	4	36	40	5 (+1)	36 (0)	41 (+1)
	North of Langridge Street	11	20	31	11 (0)	34 (+14)	45 (+14)
TOTAL		1,111	1,106	2,217	1,399 (+288)	1,400 (+294)	2,799 (+582)

In the local area there has been a general increase in traffic volumes of approximately 580 vehicles per day between August 2014 and November 2015. The key contributors to the volume increase

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include Park Street and Charles Street. Significantly, the volume trend shows similar increases at both the northern and southern boundaries of the local area.

An established local area, such as the study area in Abbotsford, can have traffic volume increases from a number of factors including:

- Redevelopment in the local area leading to additional dwellings,
- Construction activity attracting additional trips to the area during the construction period, and
- Additional 'through' traffic within the local area.

Advice from Council's traffic engineers is that it is not uncommon for overall traffic volumes to be rising in similar inner urban area. In particular, construction of development sites can often lead to traffic volumes rising for short time periods.

Street Daily Traffic Volumes:

The recorded traffic volumes in each street are compared between the 'before' and 'after' data in Table 6 below.

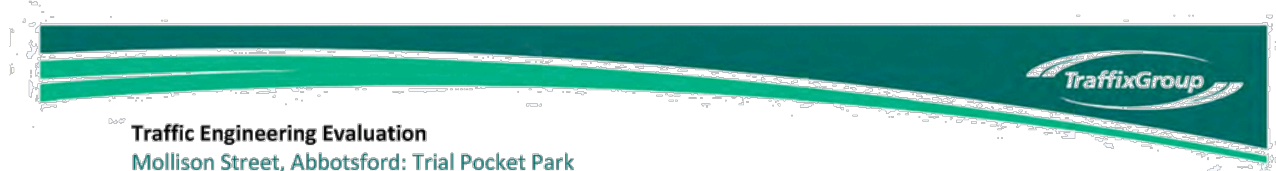
Table 6: Daily Traffic Volume Comparison – 'Before' and 'After'

Street - Location	'Before' Volume (August 2014)	'After' Volume (November 2015)	Change
Raphael St btw Gipps St & Langridge St	238 vpd	278 vpd	+40
Park St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	298 vpd	411 vpd	+113
Park St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	293 vpd	396 vpd	+103
Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	743 vpd	921 vpd	+178
Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	822 vpd	986 vpd	+164
Lt Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	40 vpd	41 vpd	+1
Lt Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	31 vpd	45 vpd	+14
Mollison St btw Nicholson St & Lt Charles St	85 vpd	115 vpd	+30
Mollison St btw Charles St & Lt Charles St	214 vpd	251 vpd	+37
Mollison St btw Park St & Charles St	82 vpd	37 vpd	-45

Daily traffic volumes in the local area have generally increased on most streets. However, the volume increases are modest, ranging from 1 vpd to 178 vpd. As outlined in the evaluation criteria (Section 7.1) the threshold for 'significant' traffic volume increases was set at 250-500 vpd. All street within the study area were well within this threshold during the trial period.

All streets have a daily traffic volume of less than 1,000 vehicles per day under both the 'before' and 'after' surveys. Local streets (including all streets within the study area) are generally considered to have a daily 'environmental' capacity of 2,000-3,000 vehicles per day. In our experience, streets carrying less than 1,500 vehicles per day typically do not generate traffic issues (i.e. amenity and accessibility). In view of the above, the traffic volumes observed during the trial road closure of Mollison Street are acceptable and well within the limits for their local street classification.

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7.2.3 Peak Hour Traffic Volumes

The recorded traffic volumes in each street in the AM and the PM peak hours are compared between the 'before' and 'after' data in Table 7 and Table 8 below.

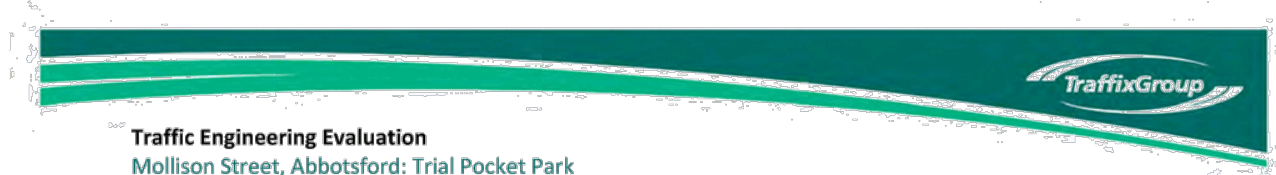
Table 7: AM Peak Hour Traffic Volume Comparison – 'Before' and 'After'

Street - Location	North / East Direction		Change	South / West Direction		Change
	'Before' Volume (August 2014)	'After' Volume (November 2015)		'Before' Volume (August 2014)	'After' Volume (November 2015)	
Raphael St btw Gipps St & Langridge St	12	12	-	11	9	-2
Park St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	1	1	-	31	41	+10
Park St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	1	1	-	36	45	+9
Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	28	30	+2	40	69	+29
Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	31	29	-2	42	69	+27
Lt Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	4	5	+1	1	1	-
Lt Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	1	4	+3	2	4	+2
Mollison St btw Nicholson St & Lt Charles St	10	16	+6	4	4	-
Mollison St btw Charles St & Lt Charles St	12	20	+8	7	8	+1
Mollison St btw Park St & Charles St	4	2	-2	4	1	-3

Table 8: PM Peak Hour Traffic Volume Comparison – 'Before' and 'After'

Street - Location	North / East Direction		Change	South / West Direction		Change
	'Before' Volume (August 2014)	'After' Volume (November 2015)		'Before' Volume (August 2014)	'After' Volume (November 2015)	
Raphael St btw Gipps St & Langridge St	11	13	+2	9	12	+3
Park St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	2	4	+2	23	30	+7

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Street - Location	North / East Direction		Change	South / West Direction		Change
	'Before' Volume (August 2014)	'After' Volume (November 2015)		'Before' Volume (August 2014)	'After' Volume (November 2015)	
Park St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	2	3	+1	20	29	+9
Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	62	33	-29	25	43	+18
Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	69	37	-32	30	54	+24
Lt Charles St btw Gipps St & Mollison St	3	4	+1	1	1	-
Lt Charles St btw Mollison St & Langridge St	2	1	-1	3	3	-
Mollison St btw Nicholson St & Lt Charles St	7	5	-2	8	10	+2
Mollison St btw Charles St & Lt Charles St	13	11	-2	10	16	+6
Mollison St btw Park St & Charles St	5	2	-3	4	2	-2

Changes to the peak hour volume vary across the streets in the study area with some increases and some reductions. The largest observed peak hour traffic volume increase occurred on Charles Street with 29 additional southbound vehicles in the AM peak.

As discussed previously, the Mollison Street road closure was predicted to cause no significant change to the operation of Charles Street. Therefore the peak hour traffic volumes increases are likely to be associated with other sources (i.e. additional dwellings, 'through' traffic and construction activity).

In any event, the maximum increase in peak hour traffic volume averages to less than 1 additional vehicle every 2 minutes on any one approach. This level of additional traffic is minor with respect to intersection capacity and is unlikely to result in any intersection capacity issues.

In view of the above, the 'after' traffic volumes do not identify any significant peak hour traffic volume increases that would lead to intersection capacity issues.

7.2.4 Road Closure Layout

The Mollison Street road closure was implemented with temporary arrangements for the trial period. A series of photographs showing the general installation of the road closures is shown in Figure 20 to Figure 25 below.

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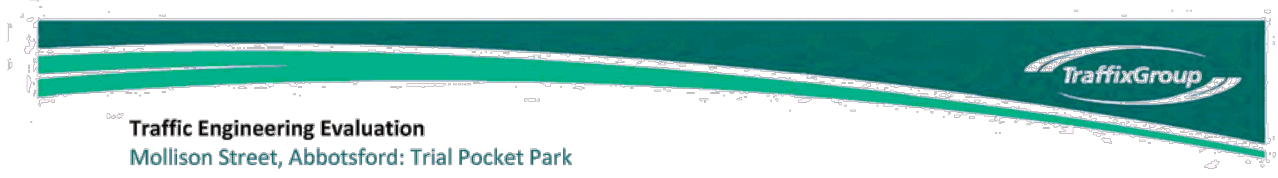


Figure 20: Road Closure at Charles Street



Figure 21: Charles Street – Zebra Crossing on north side of Closure



Figure 22: Charles Street – Southern Approach to Road Closure



Figure 23: Charles Street – Zebra Crossing



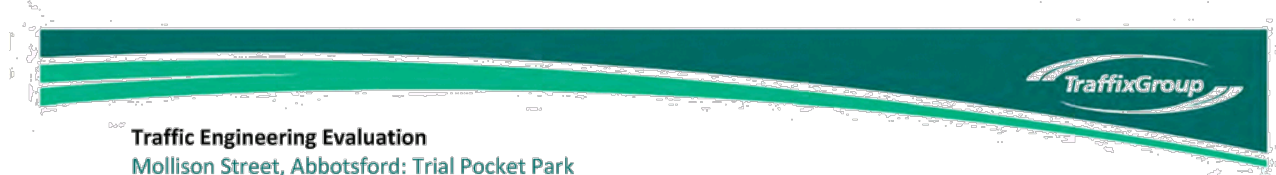
Figure 24: Mollison Street – Western Road Closure



Figure 25: Charles Street – Northern Approach to Road Closure

Should the Mollison Street Pocket Park proposal be installed permanently a number of key layout features should be considered as follows:

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- The formalisation of the road closures (i.e. through the introduction of kerbs) should be designed in accordance with the relevant standards and guidelines and with consideration for the appropriate design vehicle.
- The angle parking on the south side of Mollison Street that is retained is orientated in the 'wrong' direction. Given all access occurs from the west consideration should be given to converting these spaces to 90 degrees to improve accessibility.
- The inclusion of the zebra crossing is a 'Major Traffic Control' item that requires approval from VicRoads to install (subject to traffic and pedestrian volume warrants).

7.3 Parking Considerations

7.3.1 Loss of Parking – Trial Pocket Park

The pocket park trial resulted in the loss of seven (7) on-street parking spaces on Mollison Street as follows:

- North Side: 2 spaces (4P 7:30am-5:30pm Mon-Fri), and
- South Side: 5 spaces (2P 7am-7pm).

Furthermore, there has been the temporary loss of 1 parking spaces on Park Street as a result of construction activity.

7.3.2 Parking Demand Comparison

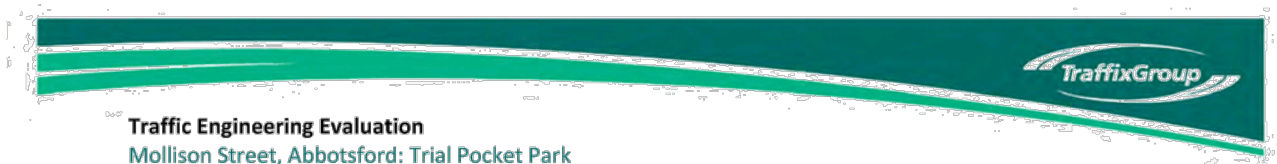
The peak parking demands observed 'before' and 'after' the road closure have been compared in Table 9 below. For the purposes of direct comparison only the 'core' parking area has been shown (as described previously in Section 6.2.1).

Table 9: Thursday Peak Parking Occupancy – 'Before' and 'After' Surveys (Core Area)

Street	'Before' (August 2014) – 1pm				'After' (November 2015) – 12noon			
	Capacity	Demand	% Occ.	Spaces Available	Capacity	Demand	% Occ.	Spaces Available
Mollison Street	49	46	94%	3	42	44	105%	-2
Park Street	52	31	60%	21	51	19	37%	32
Charles Street	62	51	82%	11	62	59	95%	3
Langridge Street	32	29	91%	3	32	30	94%	2
Little Charles Street	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	-
Nicholson Street	38	33	87%	5	38	40	105%	-2
Gipps Street	40	35	88%	5	40	32	80%	8
Raphael Street	57	39	68%	18	57	34	60%	23
TOTAL	330	264	80%	66	322	258	80%	64

Within the 'core' parking area parking demands at the peak times have remained relatively unchanged between the 'before' (August 2014) and the 'after' (November 2015) data sets. On this

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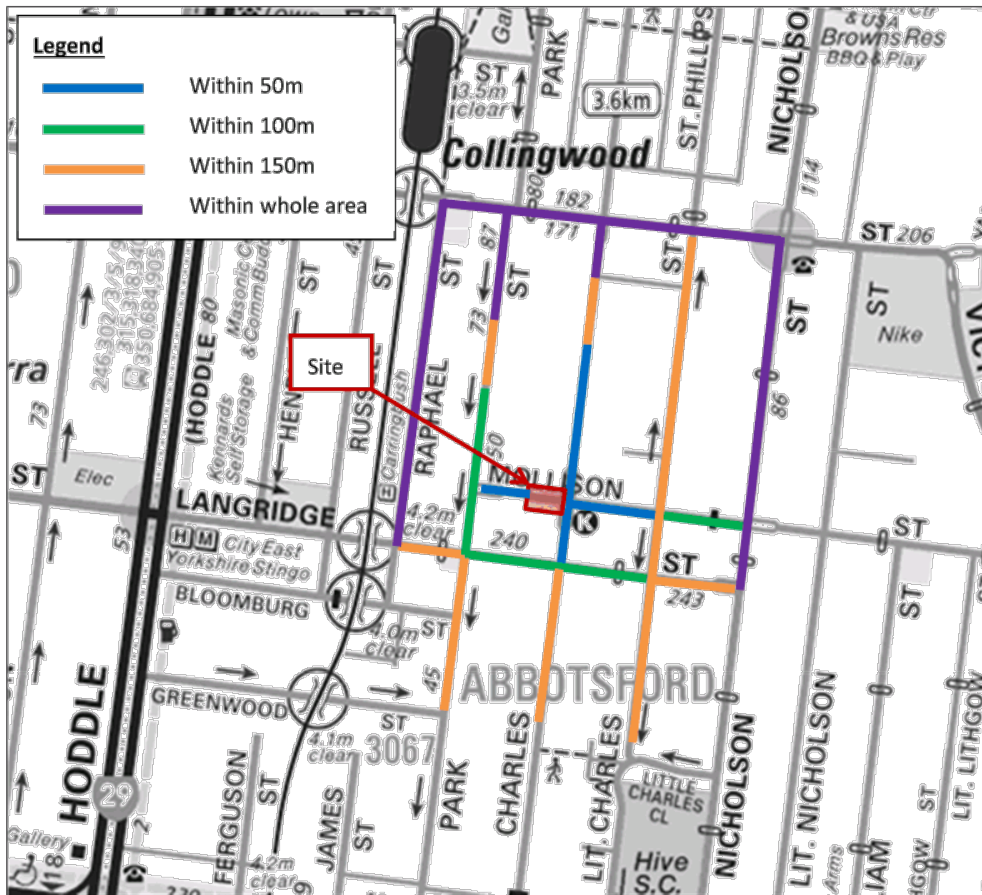
basis, the parking management will seek to accommodate the 7 spaces lost as part of the road closure arrangement.

7.3.3 Parking Availability – ‘After’ (November 2015)

The ‘After’ parking data collected in November 2015 has been further reviewed with regard to parking availability based on the parking restriction. The study area (‘core’ and ‘additional’ areas) has been broken down into 4 key areas based on the approximate walking distance from the road closure site as follows:

- Within 50m of the closure,
- Within 100m of the closure,
- Within 150m of the closure, and
- Whole survey area.

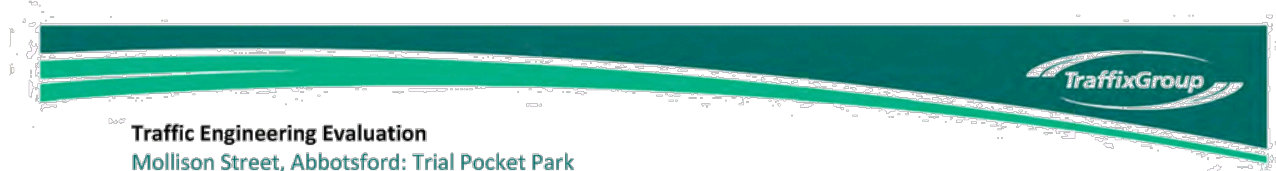
The areas that fall into each of these categories are shown in Figure 26, below.



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Figure 26: Parking within Each Distance Category of the Trial Site.

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A summary of the available parking by restriction in each distance category by restriction (suitable restrictions for residents only) is shown in Table 10 below. It is noted that the parking availabilities below include the loss of parking associated with the trial pocket park.

Table 10: 'After' November 2015 – Parking Availability from Closure Location

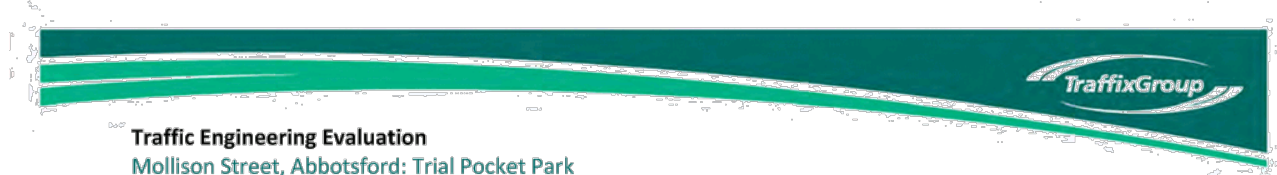
Restriction	Parking Spaces Available			
	Within 50m (59 spaces)	Within 100m (155 spaces)	Within 150m (208 spaces)	Whole Area (395 spaces)
Thursday - 'Day' Peak – 1pm				
1 hour	0	0	0	1
2 hour	0	20	22	64
4 hour	0	2	2	7
Unrestricted	1	-1*	-1*	-1*
TOTAL	1	21	23	71
Thursday - 'Night' Peak – 8pm				
Permit Zone	-1*	1	1	17
Unrestricted	9	44	57	108
TOTAL	8	45	58	125
Saturday - 'Day' Peak – 1pm				
1 hour	3	3	3	3
2 hour	4	7	7	37
Unrestricted	10	24	32	64
TOTAL	17	34	42	104
Saturday - 'Night' Peak – 8pm				
Permit Zone	0	3	3	17
Unrestricted	8	30	37	70
TOTAL	8	33	40	87

*Note: negative availability indicates that the parking demand is more than the formal parking capacity

The analysis above shows that parking suitable for residents is difficult to locate within 50m of Mollison Street with between 1-8 spaces available at the peak times on a Thursday and 8-17 spaces available on a Saturday (from a total supply of 59 spaces within 50m).

Moderate levels of parking are located between 50m-150m from the road closure site, ranging from 21 to 58 spaces available across the peak times on Thursday and Saturday.

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Across the whole study area (up to approximately 300m-350m walking distance from the road closure) a significant level of parking is available at all times, ranging from 71 spaces during the 'day' peak on Thursday to 125 spaces at the 'night' peak on Thursday.

In view of the above, parking management should be considered in close vicinity (i.e. within 50m) of the Mollison Street road closure to limit the impact of the loss of parking associated with the pocket park.

7.3.4 Estimated 'Resident' Parking Demands

As part of the 'after' parking occupancy surveys conducted in November 2015, the number of vehicles parked with City of Yarra residential parking permits were recorded. This allows an estimation of the level of 'resident' versus 'non-resident' usage of the parking in the area.

Council's resident parking permit system allows vehicles with a valid permit to park as follows:

- Within 'Permit Zone' parking restrictions, and
- Within time based parking restrictions greater than 1 hour (i.e. 1P, 2P and 4P) for an unrestricted length of time.

In view of the above, the 1P, 2P and 4P restrictions have been reviewed for the Thursday 'day' peak to determine the level of vehicles parking with a permit ('resident') and those without a permit ('non-resident') as shown in Figure 27 below.

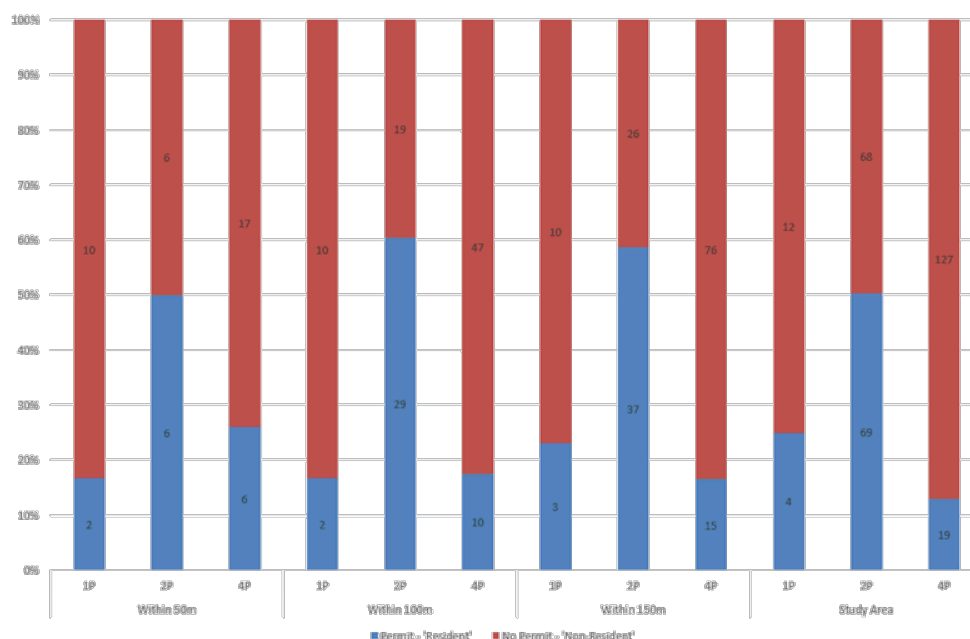
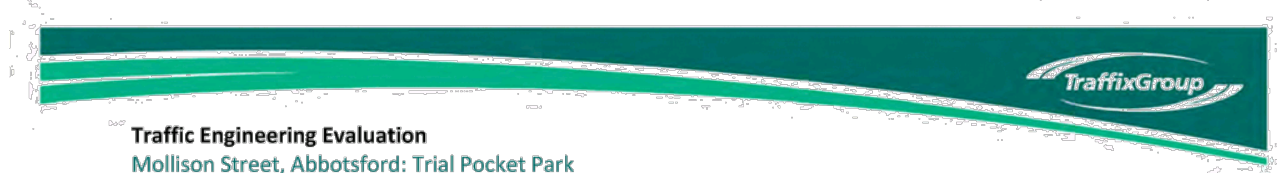


Figure 27: Thursday 'Day' Peak (1pm) – Estimated 'Resident' and 'Non-Resident' Parking

The above analysis shows that the 2P parking is generally 50%-60% occupied by 'resident' vehicles, with the 1P and 4P restrictions generally accommodating 15%-25% 'resident' vehicles.

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7.3.5 Parking Management Options

The following sections discuss the options available to off set the loss of parking within 50m of the Mollison Street closure site.

Parking Restrictions:

The existing parking restrictions within 50m of the Mollison Street road closure are presented in Figure 28. It is noted that these numbers include the loss of parking associated with the trial pocket park.

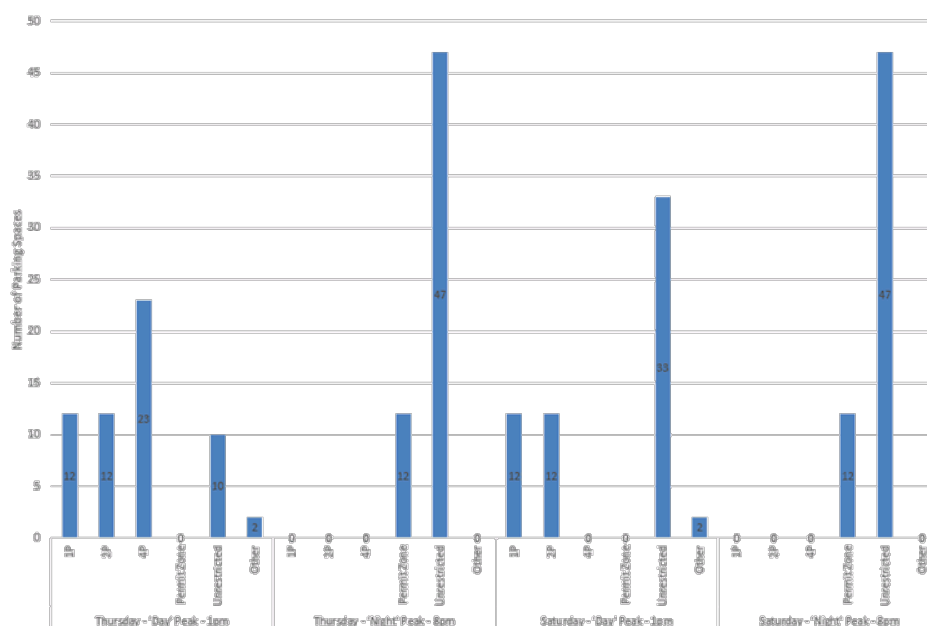


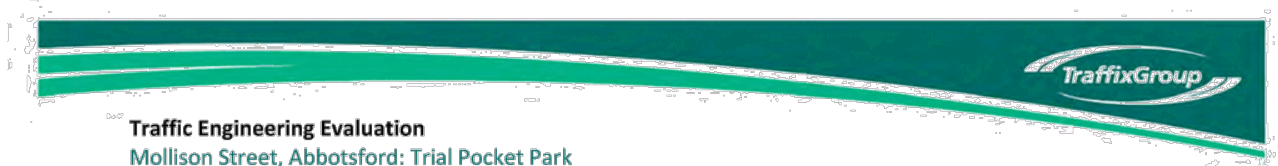
Figure 28: Existing Parking Supply and Restrictions – 50m from Mollison Street Closure

Parking supply during the Thursday 'day' period is evenly spread between 1P, 2P, 4P and unrestricted. On weekday nights and on Saturdays the 4P restrictions 'expire' resulting in predominantly unrestricted parking.

As described in Section 7.3.4, Council operates a resident parking permit system that allows for the management of parking to prioritise residents with permits. However, not all properties are eligible for parking permits including any recently developed properties. On this basis, it is recommended that the provision of unrestricted parking is maintained to avoid any issues with properties that do not have access to residential permits.

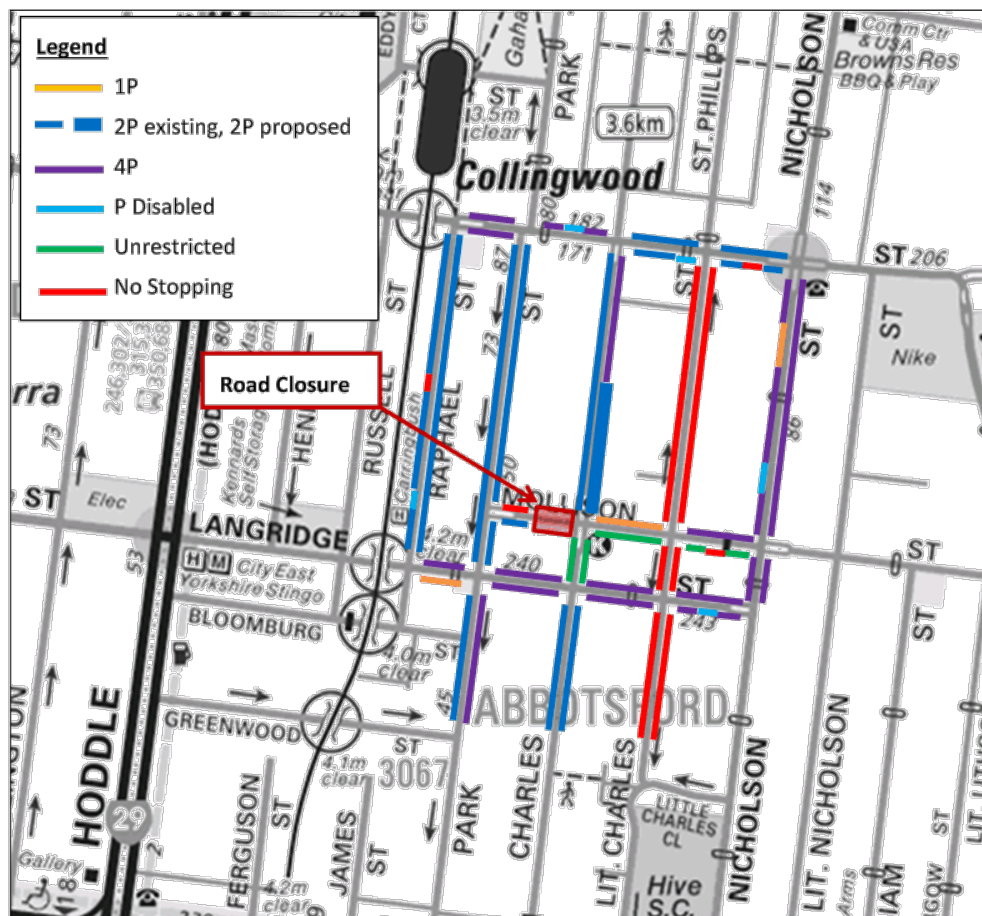
Within 50m of the site a total of 23 4P parking spaces are provided, which account for approximately 39% of the parking supply. These spaces are provided along the eastern side of Charles Street. These spaces are in high demand during the day period, with all 23 spaces being occupied during the Thursday 'day' peak. Based on the review of 'resident' parking demands in Section 7.3.4, a high proportion (17 of the 23) of the 4P spaces were occupied by 'non-resident' vehicles.

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In view of the above, the 4P restrictions could be modified to 2P to eradicate a level of non-residential parking and increase parking opportunities for residents. Whilst the exact number of additional parking opportunities provided by this change cannot be accurately defined (due to the uncertainty of the 'resident' versus 'non-resident' parking) we estimate that this change could provide for an additional 5-10 spaces within 50m of the Mollison Street road closure.

The various parking restrictions in the study area are shown in Figure 29, below. It should be noted that the existing 4P restriction on the east side of Charles Street has been modified to reflect the recommended change to a 2P restriction.



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Figure 29: Proposed Parking Restrictions - Weekday Peak Parking Demand (1pm Thursday).

It is noted that parking is dynamic and often changes to restrictions can alter behaviour throughout the study area. It is recommended that Council continue to monitor parking demands in the area and consider additional parking restrictions if resident parking opportunities are still limited (i.e. Permit Zone).

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Additional Parking Supply:

The introduction of the road closure on the western approach to the Mollison Street / Charles Street intersection introduces an opportunity to increase the parking supply.

Currently parking on Charles Street is offset from the Mollison Street intersection by approximately 10m to allow for the statutory 'No Stopping' distance. This allows for appropriate levels of sight distance for vehicles entering and exiting Mollison Street.

The closure of Mollison Street results in additional kerbside space along the western side of Charles Street through the Mollison Street intersection. Under the existing conditions there is approximately 25m between the 'No Stopping' signage.

This would allow for approximately 4 additional parking spaces to be installed at this location, offsetting the net loss of parking to only 3 spaces.

However, should a pedestrian crossing (zebra) be permanently explored (as per the trial arrangement), parking will need to be restricted 20m from the approach side of the crossing. This would only allow for the introduction of 1 additional parking space.

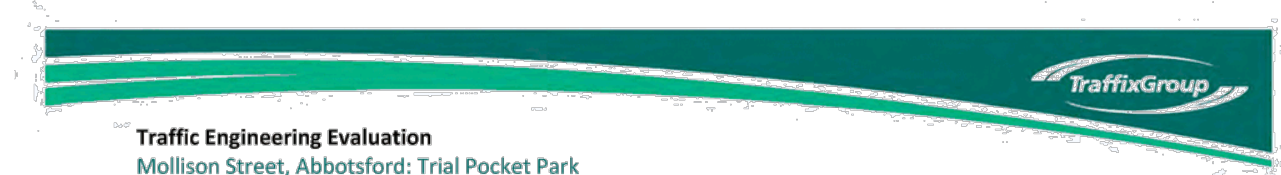
A diagram showing the general location of the above parking is provided in Figure 30 below.



Source: Nearmap

Figure 30: Potential Additional Parking – Charles Street West Side

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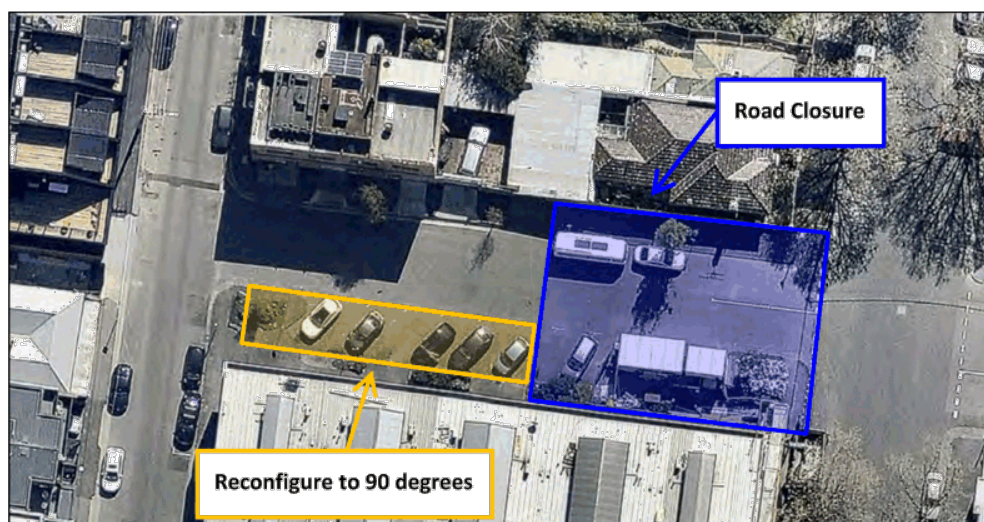


Modification to the Park Layout:

The original option reviewed for the Mollison Street road closure involved the narrowing of Charles Street, with the loss of up to 5 parking spaces on Charles Street in addition to the loss of 7 parking spaces on Mollison Street (total of 12 parking spaces lost).

The installed trial pocket park included a closure only in Mollison Street limiting the loss of on-street parking to 7 spaces on Mollison Street. From a parking perspective, the trial arrangement with the loss of less parking spaces is preferable and also allows for the introduction of new spaces along the west side of Charles Street as highlighted above.

A total of 5 parking spaces are to be retained at the western end of Mollison Street on the south side of the road. These spaces are currently configured in an angle arrangement and would be better placed under the closure option in a 90 degree arrangement. Depending on the design of the final park layout, the conversion of the angle spaces to 90 degree could result in additional parking spaces, particularly if the kerb extension at the Park Street intersection is modified. Based on 3.0m wide parking spaces this area could yield in the vicinity of 8 parking spaces, which would increase the parking supply by 3 spaces. A summary diagram is provided below.



Source: Nearmap

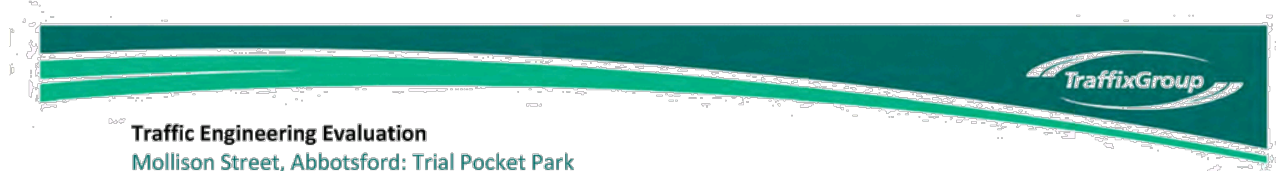
Figure 31: Potential Additional Parking – Mollison Street South Side

Parking Management Summary:

A number of parking management strategies have been identified to improve parking conditions within 50m of the Mollison Street road closure as follows:

- Convert the existing 4P parking on the east side of Charles Street to 2P to provide approximately 5-10 spaces of additional parking opportunities for residents,
- Introduce parking along the west side of Charles Street (adjacent to the Mollison Street closure) to provide an additional 1 spaces (with zebra crossing) to 4 spaces (without zebra crossing), and

Attachment 6 - Traffix Report 2016



- Modify the remaining angle parking on the south side of Mollison Street to yield an additional 3 spaces (include modification to the existing kerb extension at the Park Street intersection).

7.4 Community Feedback

As part of the trial pocket park, City of Yarra developed an on-line forum called 'Yarra Conversation' for the local community to discuss the positives and negatives of the pocket park trial.

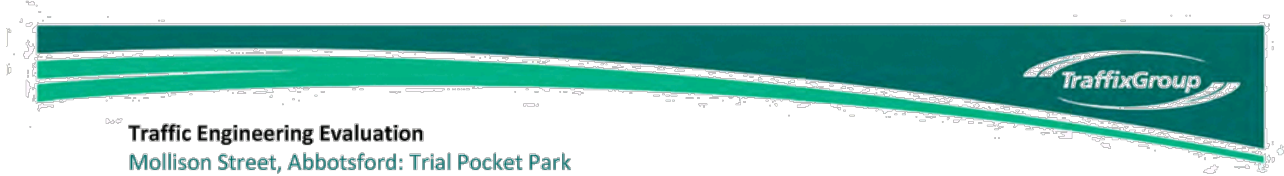
A summary of the key traffic and parking issues identified on the 'Yarra Conversation' forum is provided in Table 11 below, with a response to each issue based on the evaluation undertaken.

Table 11: 'Yarra Conversation' – Key Traffic and Parking Issues

Issue	No. Responses	Response
Mollison Street is only wide enough for traffic passing and car parking.	1	Following introduction of the pocket park, Mollison Street will only have vehicle access from the west (via Park Street). The width of Mollison Street is approximately 8.5m, which is more than sufficient to accommodate two-way traffic flow with indented parking on the southern side of the road.
Request for pedestrian crossing of Gipps Street at Charles Street.	1	Along Gipps Street formal crossing facilities are provided at Raphael Street (zebra crossing) and Nicholson Street (traffic signals). Charles Street is located approximately 120m from both of these existing facilities.
Concerns regarding the loss of carparking as the level of development is increasing.	2	This evaluation has identified that 7 spaces were lost as part of the trial pocket park. A range of options to improve parking conditions in the vicinity of the closure have been identified that could easily off-set the loss of parking.
Introduce two-way traffic on Park Street between Mollison Street and Langridge Street to assist deliveries.	2	The need for two-way traffic in this section of Park Street is questionable. Delivery access to Mollison Street can continue to occur via Charles Street or southbound on Park Street. Furthermore, the introduction of two-way movements in this section would require the loss of additional parking spaces on Park Street.
Modify the remaining parking spaces on Mollison Street from 2P to Permit Zone.	1	The parking review conducted as part of this evaluation has identified changes to the 4P parking on Charles Street to provide additional parking within 50m of the closure as 4P is more likely to be utilised by non-residents than the 2P parking. Should parking availability for residents continue to be an issue following the recommended parking restriction changes Council could consider the installation of Permit Zone restrictions.

There were more than 100 responses to the online forum with only 7 specific responses related to traffic and parking matters.

Attachment 6 - Traffix Report 2016



8 Conclusions

Having undertaken a detailed traffic engineering evaluation of trial Pocket Park on Mollison Street in Abbotsford, we are of the opinion that:

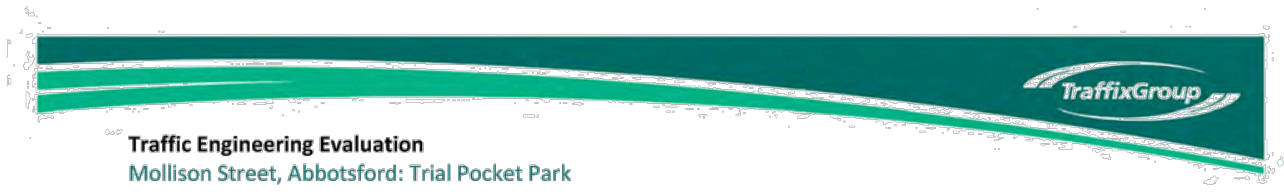
Traffic Considerations:

- a) A comparison of the 'before' and 'after' daily traffic volumes has identified a general increase of traffic entering and exiting the local area. Given the expected re-distribution of volumes from the Mollison Street road closure did not anticipate increases entering and exiting the area, the bulk of the additional volumes are likely to be associated with other sources (i.e. additional housing, construction traffic and through traffic).
- b) In any event the daily traffic volume during the 'after' surveys was below 1,000 vehicle per day in every street which is well within the acceptable limits for a local road (2,000-3,000 vehicles per day).
- c) Change to peak hour traffic volumes varied across the local area, however, the maximum increase occurred on Charles Street which averaged to an additional vehicle every 2 minutes in the peak hour. This level of traffic is insignificant from an intersection capacity point of view.
- d) Based on the above, the trial road closure of Mollison Street did not identify any key issues to be resolved from a traffic point of view.

Parking Considerations:

- e) The installation of the Mollison Street road closure resulted in the loss of 7 parking spaces on Mollison Street (2 on the north side and 5 on the south side).
- f) A comparison between the parking demand 'before' and 'after' the Mollison Street road closure identified very little change in overall parking demand.
- g) A review of parking availability indicated that parking spaces were in very high demand within 50m of the Mollison Street closure, with parking availability increasing further away from the closure site. On this basis, parking management was considered to be warranted within 50m of the Mollison Street road closure.
- h) A number of possible parking management options were identified to mitigate the loss of the 7 parking spaces associated with the Mollison Street road closure including:
 - i) Conversion of the existing 4P parking on the east side of Charles Street (23 spaces) to 2P to provide approximately 5-10 spaces of additional parking opportunities for residents.
 - ii) Introduce parking along the west side of Charles Street (adjacent to the Mollison Street closure) to provide an additional 1 spaces (with zebra crossing) to 4 spaces (without zebra crossing).
 - iii) Modify the remaining angle parking on the south side of Mollison Street to yield an additional 3 spaces (include modification to the existing kerb extension at the Park Street intersection).

Attachment 6 - Traffix Report 2016



Community Feedback:

- i) A review of the community feedback received from the 'Yarra Conversions' online forum established for the trial indicates only limited community feedback in relation to traffic and parking. Most of the issues can be dealt with through the recommendations of this report.

Summary:

- j) Overall there are no traffic engineering reasons why the pocket park and associated road closure on Mollison Street, Abbotsford should not proceed, subject to the recommendations outlined in this report.

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, 23 November 2015 9:29 AM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Charles and mollisols street park trial

Please go ahead and make this a permanent park! We need more green space.

Kind regards,

(Resident [REDACTED] street abbotsford)

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2015 2:37 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Charles st Trial Pocket Park

Dear Open Space,

Yesterday I attended the Trial Pocket Park BBQ on the corner of Charles and Mollison St Abbotsford. The park is a lovely place to meet other members of the community and for my children to play. I am very supportive of this park and hope that it becomes a permanent fixture in our neighbourhood.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 15 November 2015 3:02 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Charles Street & Mollison Street Pocket Park

We went down to the pocket park today and had a wonderful time. We would love to have it permanently in the area!

Cheers,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 20 November 2015 8:37 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: In support of the park Cnr Charles and Mollison St

Hi

we live around the corner from the temporary Park in Mollison st Abbotsford (William St) and think its a great idea to make a park there. Any additional green space in the area is welcome.

There are ever increasing numbers of kids in the area as people like us stay in the inner city to have a family rather than going to the suburbs. Our kids requested swings and play equipment by the way.

I am aware some are concerned about whether druggies will use it - I highly doubt it. Having lived nearby in Raphael St we found that compared to our relatively close proximity to Victoria st now in William St, the vast majority of druggies go no further than a couple of hundred metres to shoot up, often in cars and preferably as close to the deal as possible it seems. There wasn't a lot of drug activity in Raphael St and there is no evidence of drug use in the little park (Browns Reserve) in Nicholson st which I frequent with the kids a lot. So in general they don't tend to cross langridge st.

kind regards

[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, 15 November 2015 2:17 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Mollison Pocket Park - trial

Hi, I fully endorse the proposed park space in Mollison St. My family has used the space a couple of times since the trial began. We love it. Please make this a permanent park.
Thanks and regards, [REDACTED] St, Abbotsford

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 20 November 2015 2:01 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Mollison st park project

To whom it may concern ,

I love the park . It provides a breath of fresh air in a concrete jungle .the trees and plantings look terrific . I went with my daughter yesterday afternoon and we sat there , enjoying the space and having tea.

For, this e apartment owners who don't like it would tinting their windows help or plant big trees opposite their balcony spaces .these people should embrace a free front garden Sincerely [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: CARA Residents Association <cara.residents@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 14 December 2015 9:42 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Pocket park trial - CARA response
Attachments: Pocket park trial feedback.docx

Hi Fiona,

Please find CARAs response to the two week trial - whilst we discussed it extensively at our November meeting and our Secretary, [REDACTED] committed to writing up our consensus view, I was remiss in forwarding it to you on our letterhead (during a hectic period).

I understand the consultation period is passed, though I urge you to consider our response as it represents a perspective beyond that of immediate neighbours and into the local community, particularly to its potential to connect kids in the community to each other.

Personally, I recalled a period of 3 months trial being talked about and I was surprised when I got there and found it to be gone already.

I look forward to the next steps in addressing the rapidly increasing population density and concomitant pressure on existing open spaces in this pocket of Yarra.

regards,

[REDACTED]

Collingwood and Abbotsford Residents Association
Website: <http://cararesidents.wordpress.com>
Friend us on Facebook at: [Cara residents](#)
PO Box 304
Abbotsford 3067

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

C.A.R.A.

COLLINGWOOD AND ABBOTSFORD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC.
P.O. Box 304
ABBOTSFORD 3067

Fiona O'Byrne
 Open Space
 Yarra Council

29 November 2015

Re: Pocket Park Trial at the intersection of Charles and Mollison Streets in Abbotsford

Dear Fiona,

After much discussion and reflection, the CARA Committee resolved to write to Yarra Council regarding the recent trial period of a Pocket Park at the intersection of Charles and Mollison Streets in Abbotsford. I am sure you are well aware that local residents have had mixed feelings about this trial and the proposed site of the pocket park. The communication from Council immediately prior to the establishment of the trial park was quite confusing, with it seeming that the park was, was not and then was going ahead. We assume that this was caused by the objection of some residents that was not upheld and then the park was to be immediately proceeded with.

It seemed to most residents that a two week trial was an insufficient period to gauge how popular or well utilized the park might be, as many people had just become aware of its existence and it was gone. Such a short period also seemed insufficient to justify labour and the expense of setting the park up and then dismantling it all again, even to the extent of removing all the greening material from the road surface – which presumably might have been retained for any future trial/establishment.

The presence of the park did create a buzz in the local area, with all of the residents and those who travel within the area commenting upon it. Whilst the proposal to site the park at the eastern end of Mollison Street where it intersects with Nicholson Street might be less disruptive for most residents in terms of parking and street access, this area is problematic already. The drains at this end of the street are continually becoming blocked, there is a smell of sewerage and the garden area is unsightly and thoroughly unappealing. It is to be hoped that any future plans by the Council (and developer) will rectify this mess.

The trial site at the intersection of Mollison and Charles Streets proved to be very appealing, with late afternoon sun being especially pleasant. From the first day of the trial, there were children and adults utilizing the pocket park. Parents made arrangements for children to meet

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 EMAIL: CCARA.RESIDENTS@YAHOO.COM.AU

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Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

in the park and many children formed friendships with others from their own street that they had never met before. This was a terrific outcome given the increasing rates of childhood obesity and social isolation caused by children spending their time on screens. Some immediate residents were delighted with the pocket park and following its removal the children were mournful wandering around on the green patch where it had been.

However, whilst some nearby residents were very supportive of the pocket park and the opportunities it provided for social interaction, a few residents were very vocal in their opposition to the park. They asked the children where they came from and seemed surprised to learn they lived in the same street. One resident seemed to sum it up when he spoke loudly on the first day of the trial with a wine glass and cigarette in hand, about the drug users and other undesirables he thought would be attracted to the venue. He claimed it was part of a conspiracy by the Council to force the local residents to come together and get to know each other. It seemed to have worked. But nearby residents do have the right to privacy and protection from noise, and their concerns should be addressed as far as possible through consultation and physical means.

There is also a broader issue, that use of road areas including parking spots to establish park and recreation areas in alignment with the open space strategy creates various serious problems. In addition to the loss of usable roadway and precious parking spots in already congested areas, the open space area is actually reduced. Developers are required to pay an Open Space contribution to Yarra Council, which given the rapid proliferation of developments involves very substantial sums of money. This money is to establish parks and recreational areas, to support all the extra residents, and should be used to purchase vacant areas of land when they become available and develop them accordingly. But this is not happening, despite the availability of plenty of vacant blocks, with one almost adjacent to the pocket park trial site. The claim that purchasing such land would be too expensive for Council is simply not credible. Development of existing vacant blocks for parks would also alleviate many of the residents' concerns about making parking and traffic congestion worse.

Thank you for your efforts in trying to improve amenity for residents.
Yours sincerely,

██████████
Secretary
CARA

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PHONE: 0429 923 226

EMAIL: CCARA.RESIDENTS@YAHOO.COM.AU

2

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, 15 November 2015 11:37 AM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pocket park

Hello,

I went to the pocket park. My son got his face painted and we had a fantastic time in this new space. Love it!

Regards
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@vic.gov.au
Sent: Saturday, 14 November 2015 6:21 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pop up park - Charles and Mollison

Hi

I think this is a fantastic idea. It was lovely to see the kids coming out to play and to have sense of community spirit. I am a local and fully support this. The sausage sizzle is also a great idea. Keep it up. Really appreciate a bit of open space that is safe for kids

Sent from my iPhone

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources, Government of Victoria, Victoria, Australia.

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Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED].com.au>
Sent: Saturday, 14 November 2015 3:14 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pop up park Charles St
Attachments: image.jpeg

Hi guys,

Love it. Woke up to see this here this morning and I've already met three neighbors I've never seen before.

The sun is out and there are kids, dogs and young adults enjoying the grass and the trees.

There's a guy with a guitar too!

Brave and inventive. Drug dealers will be whenever they want to be. We can cope!

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 25 November 2015 1:17 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pop up park Mollison Street

Good afternoon

I see that the pop up park on Mollison Street is being dismantled. The park space has been wonderful and well utilised while it was there. A great facility offered by the Council. Would be great if it could become a permanent fixture.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 20 November 2015 3:25 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pop up park

As one of the longstanding general practitioners in Yarra I commend the project which provides for extra green space, so necessary for outdoor activities conducive for good health.

A model for further projects

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Richmond

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@googlemail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2015 12:26 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pop up parklet

I came across your parklet by chance and it's a very nice spot. A permanent Park would be great but a roving pop up Park is also nice.

Somewhat detracted from today though by a worker cleaning children's chalk drawings from the pavement with a very loud high pressure hose for over half an hour. It just seems a bit at odds with the parklets ambition to bring a child friendly and enviro friendly atmosphere.

Some other suggestions for this space are:

- Provide a social media feedback option for public consultation - easier than emailing. Utilise social media options to promote eg. Richmond 3121
- Host a community play morning, book swap or BBQ to encourage neighbours out of their homes to enjoy the space
- Allow children to decorate with chalk! Rain will wash it away anyhow
- Provide nearby coffee shops with promotional material to encourage take away customers to enjoy their break in the space. Eg stickers for their take away cups.

Thanks for creating this pop up Park

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@com.au>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2015 4:34 PM
To: Jolly, Stephen Cr; Stone, Amanda Cr
Cc: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pop-up park Abbotsford

Dear Councillors,

I know there has been some discussion about the pop-up park in Mollison St, Abbotsford and I wanted to share my views with you.

I live in Park St, overlooking Mollison Street. While I may have had some initial reservations about the idea of a park "right outside my front door", seeing the greenery and the people enjoying the space first thing on Saturday was such a pleasure.

By 1030am I'd met four neighbours I'd never seen before, had a sit in the sunshine and heard a young fella strumming a guitar while sitting under a temporary tree.

My daughters and I are relatively new to Abbotsford, but we are embracing all the area has to offer. It's quieter than I thought, yes it's gritty, but I love my views and the close proximity to great food and to the city.

Sunday morning was just sensational. There were locals coming from everywhere – kids, older people, pooches, families and those neighbours who weren't so keen on the idea.

One woman was very emotional and outspoken about the pop-up park and told people to leave. The consultants employed by Yarra to run the info session did a great job in calming her down and presenting a very neutral position on the proposal, while ensuring her views had been heard.

In the end, a couple of locals, including me and my 11 year old daughter, talked to her to say that we understand she might have reservations, but that it would be a pity if people like us, who would like to try this idea, miss out because of those who are opposed to the idea based on fears around drug use, noise or invasion of privacy.

We said that there might be an opportunity to help shape the way in which the park is maintained and the way we, as the local community, support safety and each other, in the future if the park goes ahead. I pointed out that as a result of the open day, we know each other by sight and know each other's name.

Drug use is a global problem and I'm not entirely sure a small green space watched over by residents is a place where 'drugies' would be likely to ply their trade; why would they when they can conduct their business in the relative anonymity of bustling Victoria Street.

Noise is already an issue in most residential areas – I'd say that if we as the local community respect the park and our neighbours, people who use the facilities will see that example and simply respect the 'norm' or opt out of coming to the area.

I'd be very comfortable to share my views again with my neighbours and anyone else opposed to the idea.

I know it's difficult to balance your role as ward councillors, taking in everyone's views, while also trying new ideas and new ways to bring people together in green space. I think it's a great initiative and one worth trying.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my note and am more than happy to discuss the issue with you, your colleagues or your open space team.

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Abbotsford

[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2015 1:19 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pop-up park Abbotsford

Hi,

I just wanted to give some feedback on the new pop-up park on the corner of Charles and Mollison street in Abbotsford.

Within Abbotsford we unfortunately lack park areas, there is minimal green space around this vicinity. This new pop up park provides endless positives for our community- already we have seen many children outside playing and meeting (some for the first time) other children from the neighbourhood, adults introducing themselves and meeting their neighbours, people networking within our community, coming together on sunday as a community.. these are all so humbling to see. This park provides the community with a meeting point, a place were we can take ownership and feel safe and connected within the environment.

Myself and my family absolutely love what the team has done, the pop-up park looks amazing, and the suburb has simply come to life!

Thank you for this great opportunity, and I hope this can become a permanent space.

:)

Regards,

[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 19 November 2015 5:41 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Pop-up park

Dear City of Yarra council,

I would just like to say what a fabulous idea this park is, I live just around the corner and it is true that there is very much a need for green space in this area - and I am lucky enough to have my own lovely garden. The park is a really wonderful idea for the whole community, and I think the choice of location in such a high-density spot is really beneficial for the residents of the numerous apartment buildings on Park and Mollison Sts. I do think that the concerns of the residents need to be addressed, however. While I feel that they are excessive and somewhat ridiculous, I think it is important to work with them so that we can all enjoy the fabulous space. Perhaps you could consider offering to tint the windows of the apartments that overlook the building or to install screens on the balconies? This would alleviate their concerns about privacy and "people looking into the apartments". Planting trees alongside the southern aspect of the park would also provide a screen and help to reduce some of the noise. I think that perhaps not installing fixtures like BBQs or picnic tables would help to discourage people from settling in for the evening, which is clearly a concern for the residents as well.

I would really love to see this park become a permanent feature, I have seen so many people enjoying it and it has already changed the sense of community within this small portion of Abbotsford. It is an excellent initiative by the council and I am very grateful.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED] resident)

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@mac.com>
Sent: Friday, 30 October 2015 4:09 PM
To: City of Yarra Info
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Proposed park on Mollison and Charles Streets - OPPOSE

Dear Council,

I understand that the "pop-up-park" being built on the corner of Mollison and Charles Streets is just a step away from making this "park" a permanent fixture in our neighbourhood.

This proposal seems totally contrary to the general perception that there is a severe lack of parking spots around our neighbourhood. Why create a so-called park (it is not a park, but a traffic diversion scheme to my mind) that would see the suppression of at least eight and perhaps up to 16 parking spots in our neighbourhood? Were we not asked recently to provide feedback on the proposed conversion of Charles Street to permit parking due to complaints from neighbours that there is a growing insufficiency of parking spaces in the area following the increase in construction works and residential units on Gipps, Nicholson and Park Streets?

Is this "park" to replace the green space that was a statutory requirement for St Joseph to build on the land on which it developed, and subsequently waived in exchange for half a million dollars?

Is the proposal to build this park initiated by developers to further increase the perceived value of properties around the area?

Will this "park" in effect create further perceived exclusivity of Park and Mollison Streets?

Will this park not create more congestion on Gipps and Langridge Streets?

This proposal will block off residents of Charles Street from taking Mollison to Park Street to turn right on Langridge St or drive down to Victoria Street.

Aesthetically, this "park" will impact negatively the openness and breadth of Charles St, which is bounded by plane trees, and wider between Langridge and Gipps.

Mollison is already no-through on Nicholson Street. That's where the park should have been built, instead of making Charles and Park Streets no-through by blocking off Mollison.

I remember that the main reason put forward for not enforcing the green area at St Joseph's was "the risk of attracting the wrong kind of people to hang out in our neighbourhood". So why are we putting a park right on Charles Street? It doesn't make sense.

In consideration of the above reasons, I and the residents of [REDACTED] Street STRONGLY OPPOSE the creation of a park/traffic diversion scheme on Charles Street.

The beauty of Charles Street is its openness, i think we should keep it that way.

I have lived on this Street for nearly 11 years. I was resident of [REDACTED] Street from Jan 2005 to Nov 2013 and of [REDACTED] Street since June 2011. Abbotsford is my favourite area in Melbourne because of it's openness, easy access and beautiful plane trees. It has resisted unbridled gentrification and development, and has managed to maintain its simple charms, liveability and neighbourliness. It is a suburb still

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

inhabitedd by artists, musicians, tradesmen, working class Australians. People are attracted to Abbotsford primarily because of this earthiness, friendliness, openness and realness. Let's not turn it to Middle Park overnight.

Thank you for your kind attention.

regards,

■■■■■■■■■■
■■■■■■■■■■

Sent from Abbotsford. Music Art Life Love

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED].net.au>
Sent: Thursday, 26 November 2015 9:25 AM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Re: Submission for Mollison Street Park Trial
Attachments: Submission to Yarra Council_20151125.doc

Importance: High

Dear Fiona,

Please find attached our submission.

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Submission to Yarra Council
Re: Pocket Park Corner Mollison and Charles Streets
26th November 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the trial park which was installed during several weeks of November 2015.

We were not prepared for the distress we experienced through the noise levels and distraction of random bursts of ongoing sound throughout daylight hours, mostly tapering off during the evenings. The high pitched shrieks of children at play pierced all corners of our unit.

While visitors to the park were expressing their joy at meeting new friends and playing, they were able to leave and return to a presumably quiet home. We unfortunately then encountered the next group of visitors – and the next – and so on, with nowhere else to retreat.

Visitors to the park were most intrigued by our presence on our balcony, on the stairs or in view in the north of our living area. Any movement resulted in some eyes looking up at us. We were completely unprepared for the loss of privacy.

The design of our apartment is open plan and energy efficient. There are no walls to hide behind on the main level, or to reflect/absorb unpleasant sounds. Any attempt to control these invasions into our home will result in loss of light, living space and passive air flow.

All major windows in the unit face north. Our street entrance faces north and enters/exits directly onto the street. We have inspected all the other Yarra parks suggested by Open Spaces and Co Design staff. None of these spaces have direct entry to housing from the park. All other spaces have varying degrees of yard (either front or back) providing distance isolation. Some sites do not have any access onto their parks.

Some sites appear to have retro-fitted solid fencing or shutters over their windows. This has the effect of worsening the building appearance, making the park less welcoming, and making the observer wonder why the residents choose to isolate themselves from the park area.

Visitors to the park appeared to assume that they were visiting a large open space. Bikes, skateboards, scooters, balls and badminton were seen. If the intention of the space is to allow a small “breakout” area, then the design has failed. If the intention is to allow activities best served by larger parks – e.g. Gahan Reserve – we would deplore the loss of privacy, noise pollution and microaggressions of park users.

We have previously commented on the soil moisture issues which have resulted in a previous successful claim against Yarra Council through VCAT. The suggestion from many park visitors of the need for more shade is one which gives us great concern. The building is only now being repaired and reinstated from earlier damage.

- It is very likely that the presence of a camera on the site acted as a deterrent. This may be a useful general measure throughout the City of Yarra, whether active or not.
- Should council see fit to progress with a park on this site, we would strongly recommend the installation of needle disposal bins as a public safety measure.
- Please consider the installation of tines on edges of any raised walls or kerbs to prevent "grinding" by skateboard users
- Please consider the installation of plastic bag dispensers for dog owners

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Street, Abbotsford 3067

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, 16 November 2015 1:02 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: trial park

I am very much in support of the trial park and do hope that it is made a permanent feature.

Took the time to look it both on Saturday morning (after shopping) and in the evening with my daughter and granddaughter - she was able to catch up with her school friends and she really enjoyed it.

When again on Sunday morning and was pleased to see that again many people (including children) were enjoying themselves there.

Do hope that is one of many 'parks' that spring up around Abbotsford - Abbotsford must be more than a driveway for people coming through to somewhere else - it is where I live and I would like more action on getting rid of the that traffic.

[REDACTED]

PS - your web site on the resident letter does not seem to work!

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 5 November 2015 10:22 AM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: TRIM: Charles and Mollison

Hello,
I support this project and would like to be kept up to date on the project status.
Thanks,
[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 10 November 2015 9:44 AM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: TRIM: park at the corner of Charles and Mollison st

To the Open Spaces team,

I understand that the issue of the temporary park on the corner of Charles and Mollison st is to be discussed at a Council meeting tonight. I will be unable to attend this meeting, but wish to convey my upmost support of the plan and hope that it goes ahead as described to residents. As a resident of [REDACTED] Abbotsford, I feel that I have been well informed of this plan and thoroughly consulted in the process. I am upset that it is being derailed in this way, and hope that this is only a temporary blip in the continued greening of Yarra.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Abbotsford
[REDACTED]

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

Camacho, Nestor

From: [REDACTED]@bigpond.net.au>
Sent: Friday, 27 November 2015 5:09 PM
To: mbxOpenSpace
Subject: Trial Park Cnr Mollison St & Charles St - Abbotsford - Submission
Attachments: Yarra Council Park Submission.pdf

Please find attached my submission.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Abbotsford

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

To – Open Space C/- Yarra City Council

26th November 2015

Submission to Yarra Council

Re: Pocket Park Corner Mollison and Charles Streets

Thank you for inviting, and providing me with the opportunity to make a written submission in regards to the completed Pocket Park trial on the corners of Mollison & Charles Street.

Opposing a Park is like booing Santa Claus or voting against Motherhood!

While not consistently so, I would like to think that I have been engaged with the process since the first on-site information day was held by the council way back at the beginning of the year, various correspondence with Councillors and Council Staff, the last Council meeting it was mentioned, through the trial period, and to now. I believe that I, as have many of my neighbours, have with reasonable courtesy addressed our concerns of personal security and the appropriateness of the park's proposed location through a variety of forums and methods. I have found the responses generally underwhelming with a particular unwillingness to directly engage on the issues raised. Simply saying and repeating statements like – *we have completed pocket parks like this elsewhere with no problems to residents* – simply is poor stakeholder engagement, and shows a complete lack of empathy for a group of people who you are expecting to embrace a significant change to their immediate environment.

In addition those of us who took Council & Councillors up on their offer to visit these other “successful” sites, found parks and buildings that certainly did not present themselves with the same architectural challenges that are in place here in Mollison St. I have personally visited the parks in – Docker St, Oxford St, Peel St and in recent days Bell St and Cambridge St, all may have at least one “challenge” that we have here in Mollison St, none have all the architectural characteristics that make our block so problematic.

Why would of Council not engaged an architect / urban planner / engineer / security specialist to at least provide an assessment of our “Block” – prior to the trial commencing? Then we would have had a positive place to start and a position to engage upon, having a meaningful conversation about “our” space and not having to continually reference someone else's park.

I can only speak for myself, by saying good luck to Council for trying to find more green spaces, but I shouldn't be made to feel like the “Grinch” because I see as problematic the location of a proposed park, and while I certainly don't subscribe simply to the “if one park is good two must be better” approach, I would have thought that myself and close neighbours would have provided your project with a rich vein of local knowledge with which to work with – ensuring the best possible location of the park and its successful execution. Be it on the record I don't hate parks!

When is a Park not a Park – When it's a Road!

The narrow space used for the trial provided some hits and misses, I think you would have to agree, however you tried to set up the park, people used it as they wanted too – and some of these uses clearly worked and some failed. I observed on a number of occasions parents bringing their toddlers to play and climb on the crates, and on a few occasions some mothers with babies learning to crawl – the artificial turf and small space seemed ideal for these activities.

I do believe though that you also demonstrated through the trial that the space was simply inadequate for school age children (or older) to participate in any activity other than for passive use. The space is simply too small for older kids to work off their natural built up energy and yes of course running and screaming/yelling go hand in hand – of course they do. Activities such as “Kick to Kick” are simply unsafe in such a confined space.

Attachment 7 - Written Submissions

The posting of the "Please keep your noise to a minimum" signs surely was a response to a problem faced by the residents that you accepted and acknowledged. I would hope that you would agree that was simply an interim measure and that you have now accepted noise is an issue, and if the Park was to proceed you would need to come up with a more sustainable and reliable solution or otherwise not proceed at all.

There were other issues the trial shed no light on; as to how you would delineate the space between the residences and the park, how you would make safe and delineate the roads at each end with the park? It was all too easy for older children to run past the barricades chasing a ball or evading a "chaser".

The space is only fit for at best passive use – perhaps like that of King Park in Bell Street. Otherwise it is best suited for – per its design - to be a road.

A Park is like a Puppy it's not just for Christmas!

Looking at the "pocket parks" close by to Mollison St, parks such as Studley and Nicholson Sts, these are not well maintained by anyone's standard. They regularly have rubbish strewn across them and they certainly do not get the daily care the trial park was subjected to, as the same rubbish remains there for days. For the most part they appear not to be frequented by families? Have people voted with their feet and abandoned these parks?

How are these *new* "pocket parks" setup is it an ordinance / a charter – and most importantly how is the maintenance funded? Could we expect that in a year or two the maintenance of the park would be downgraded and that "our" park would look like these other two – and the park then abandoned?

I note that in recent weeks that the Nicholson St park has been using herbicides – certainly I can see why, the grass is in poor condition, but is that the usual approach – would you be alarmed if you lived in our apartments and Council was spraying herbicides two metres from your front door?

What bench marking has been or will be done with other local parks as a part of the whole review process?

The End!

I applaud the *new* love and attention that the residents of our block have been receiving in the last week, including the regular letterbox drops, invitations like this, and opportunities to meet face to face. So I have to say simply – thank you! I think I have asked you more questions in this submission than I have made statements – but I hope they add to your project – I also hope that you are judged not on whether you build a park in Mollison St – but rather that you successfully guide Council in making the right decision for the long term benefit of all residents.

Thank you for your time in reading my submission.

Kind regards

██████████

██████████ Abbotsford 3067

Attachment 8 - Visual Access Diagram

