VICTOR HARBOR MAINSTREET PRECINCT MASTER PLAN

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why plan?

Why do we need a Mainstreet Precinct Master Plan?

Victor Harbor is the regional service centre for the Southern Fleurieu and is currently experiencing continued residential growth.

The Mainstreet Precinct Master Plan (the Plan) intends to provide Council with a strategic urban design framework to assist in facilitating and managing the public areas in the Mainstreet Precinct. The Plan also contributes towards a sustainable future for the city.

The Plan is not a quick fix. It is a long term approach to make our Mainstreet Precinct the best it can be.

The Mainstreet Precinct is fine as it is!

Although the Mainstreet Precinct is functional at the moment, accessibility for the elderly and disabled is poor.

The visual appeal of the street can be optimised to make it more inviting for visitors. There is also an opportunity to enhance the pedestrian links to encourage more foot traffic through the heart of our city.

There’s more to Victor Harbor than the Mainstreet Precinct. Why are we focussing on this area only?

The Mainstreet Precinct remains the physical, commercial and social heart of Victor Harbor.

The quality and vitality of the streets and public space remains a reflection of the community and requires suitable investments and upgrades to meet our needs and aspirations.

Financial impact

How much will this cost and can Council afford it?

The plan outlines a staged approach to revitalise our Mainstreet Precinct. This allows Council to evaluate financial commitments at various points of the project and capitalise on grant funding and partnership opportunities.

Through stakeholder and community engagement Council will identify short and long term priorities.

To execute all stages of the proposal (which would occur over a number of financial years) the total cost is estimated to be between $5.5-$7.25 million. This investment into one of our city’s major assets will provide the community with benefits for more than 30 years.

A mall for Ocean Street

Why not make the Mainstreet a mall?

Whilst there may be some positive benefits in turning a street into a pedestrian mall, the complete removal of vehicle access from Ocean Street will create many challenges and could potentially undermine the vibrancy and operation of the Precinct.

Many activities rely on direct vehicle access to Ocean Street, for example commercial deliveries, on-street car parking, disabled access and emergency vehicle access.

The absence of vehicle traffic can potentially create areas that are less inviting and more vulnerable to graffiti and vandalism.

Recognising the benefits of providing a pedestrian friendly Mainstreet, the Plan seeks to create a ‘shared space’ which improves pedestrian comfort by providing wider and more trafficable footpaths and crossing points, whilst still allowing the functionality of retaining on street parking and vehicle access.

About the design

The palm trees don’t really represent Victor Harbor. Are there any other options?

Palm trees are an existing historical element of Victor Harbor. Many of these type of trees remain around the railway precinct, coastline and are scattered throughout the Mainstreet Precinct.

The palms will provide some shade as well as contribute to air circulation within the street. Most importantly, the palm trees frame rather than screen the heritage buildings and are designed to become an iconic landmark for our Mainstreet Precinct.
Presented throughout the project.

Sustainability has been central to the proposed plan and there are a number of environmentally sustainable principles presented throughout the project.

Will there be opportunities for local artists to be involved in this project?
Additional public space has been created throughout the Precinct. This space, along with street furniture and other infrastructure upgrades, provide numerous opportunities for public arts.

It is intended that the public art in the precinct will be both temporary and permanent, and will reflect historic and contemporary themes which relate to Victor Harbor.

Can the street furniture be changed?
A number of different options for street furniture have been provided in the Plan. However, there is room for these to be adapted according to community needs and potential public art opportunities.

Parking
Parking is already a problem in the Mainstreet Precinct. Will the proposed plan reduce the number of car parks in this area?

Council has conducted a review into car parking in the Mainstreet Precinct and found that parallel parking is the best approach in the area.

The Plan makes minor modification to parking and includes the net loss of five car parks and offers a safer environment for pedestrians.

It is intended that improved signage will free up more on-street car parking in Ocean Street.

Sustainability
Will the design incorporate sustainable elements?
Sustainability has been central to the proposed plan and there are a number of environmentally sustainable principles presented throughout the project.

Bio-swales along Ocean Street and rainwater gardens located on the Ocean/Coral Street intersection will ensure the collection and cleaning of stormwater.

Are the bio-swale and rain gardens safe and can it be easily maintained?
The bio-swale will be designed to minimise any hazard, including the use of heal-guard grates. The grates will create a level surface from footpath to road edge, ensuring a safe crossing for elderly, disabled and visually impaired.

No right turn into Ocean Street
Why remove the right hand turn into Ocean Street from Torrens Street?
Instead of the right hand turn into Ocean Street, it is proposed that vehicles will drive to the roundabout and enter Ocean Street via the left hand turn. Alternatively, vehicles would enter Eyre Terrace, park in McKinlay Street and walk to Ocean Street.

The improvement that this alteration would make to the public space at the northern end of Ocean Street outweighs the inconvenience to drivers. The removal of the right hand turn also provides safety benefits through the installation of a pedestrian refuge that will assist with pedestrians crossing Torrens Street to the adjacent services.

Vehicular access
What is the value in cutting access into Stuart Street from Torrens Street?
There is currently a wide, open junction where cars can enter Stuart Street at speed. Removal of the right hand turn provides space for a median island and pedestrian refuge on Torrens Street, and will improve safety for pedestrians crossing this busy road.

It also provides an opportunity to revitalise Grosvenor Gardens with more pedestrian activity rather than traffic movement.

Is area lost from Grosvenor Gardens by cutting access to Stuart Street?
No area is lost. Public space will be increased by 140 sqm.

Why is the Stuart Street bus stop being relocated to Torrens Street?
This will enable Stuart Street to be closed at the northern end. It will provide a pleasant area for bus passengers and allow for a pedestrian refuge in Torrens Street to enhance safety. Additionally, moving the bus stop will relieve the current conflict created by vehicles parking and reversing back into Torrens Street.

What does the new northern access into the McKinlay Street car park from Eyre Terrace achieve?
Together with signage, there would be easier and direct access to off-street car parking. This would reduce traffic circulating around the precinct looking for a park and contribute to increasing the foot traffic in the Precinct.

Impact on Mainstreet Precinct traders
Will the town centre be disrupted by any works that may occur as a result of the Plan?
At this stage Council is seeking feedback on the proposed vision for the Precinct. As the plan progresses and works start to occur, Council will work closely with those who may be affected, particularly Mainstreet Precinct traders, to minimise disruption.

Have your say
Want to provide feedback on the Plan?
Public consultation will close at 5pm on Friday, 28 March 2014.

Tell us what you think about the Plan:
• Online – complete the online form at www.victor.sa.gov.au/mainstreet
• In writing – address your feedback to Mainstreet Precinct Master Plan, C/- City of Victor Harbor, PO Box 11 Victor Harbor SA 5211
• Attend the information session and exhibition – on Saturday, 15 March at the Victor Harbor RSL (Coral Street) from 11am to 2pm.