

# City of Melbourne Macarthur Square Community Engagement Data Analysis



localgovernment  
researchgroup



Data analysis of community consultation feedback

Prepared for the City of Melbourne in May 2016



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## 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Melbourne is currently preparing a plan for the possible upgrading and expansion of Macarthur Square in Carlton. Macarthur Square is bounded by Macarthur Place North and South, Canning Street and Rathdowne Street. The first phase of community engagement closed on the 22nd April 2016. This encouraged people to look at the Ideas Plan and complete the survey online via Council's website – Participate Melbourne. Alternatively, a hard copy of the plan and survey was mailed out on-request. Council also received a petition and written correspondence. This report provides an analysis of the first phase of community engagement.

### 1.1 Online survey responses

#### 1.1.1 Usage and features

##### *Macarthur Square is well patronised for active, social and passive activities*

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93% of those completing the online survey use Macarthur Square. Key activities include socialising with family, friends and neighbours for outdoor meals and social gatherings, walking the dog or in transit walking through the park and passive activities such as lying on the grass, sitting and reading.

##### *Park users report that the trees are particularly important to them*

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92% of those completing the online survey reported that there was a special feature or character that is important to them. In particular, the Elm trees were named as an important feature for 61% of survey respondents who appreciate their size, height, shade and configuration as an impressive avenue. Other important features were the general grass and greenery, the tranquillity within the urban landscape and the historical significance of the park. It was evident from the comments that those living on the park borders claim ownership of this park as a surrogate garden or yard.

##### *A majority mentioned something they currently disliked with increasing traffic being the main negative aspect*

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68% of those completing the online survey reported that there was something they currently do not like about the park. It is important to note that several of the aspects mentioned related to the park surroundings rather than the park itself. The focus was on increased traffic around the park apparently due to drivers using Macarthur Place North and South as shortcuts especially during peak times. Some respondents disliked the absence of an area for unleashed dogs whilst a similar number disliked the presence of dogs, dog faeces and unleashed dogs in the park. Other aspects included insufficiency of rubbish bins. Some specific park aspects disliked included the potential for the park surface to become slippery when wet, its narrow shape, and lack seating or picnic furniture.

#### 1.1.2 Expansion of the park

##### *There was majority support for the park expansion plan – 70% supported*

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70% of those completing the online survey supported the plan to expand the park. Those living on the border of the park were less supportive (52%) than those who live in other locations (87%).

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***Supporters felt that the change to one-way traffic would ease traffic congestion around the park***

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Those supporting the expansion plan focused on the likely reduction in traffic congestion around the park with a change from two-way to one-way traffic in Macarthur Place North and South. They also focused on the positive environmental impact of more greenery/trees.

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***Those opposing felt that the change to one-way traffic would increase traffic congestion and dangerous driving***

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Those opposing the expansion felt that the change to one-way traffic would increase congestion and dangerous driving. The narrowing of the streets also drew criticism as this was thought to have a negative impact on the current streetscape.

They also felt that the expansion would compromise heritage values of the park and were critical of the money that would be spent on this “unnecessary” project.

### **1.1.3 Tree planting**

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***There was majority support for the tree planting plan – 76% supported***

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76% of those completing the online survey supported the plan to plant new trees in Macarthur Place North and South. Those living on the border of the park were less supportive (64%) than those who live in other locations (86%). Although this still indicates a clear majority.

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***Supporters felt that more trees would add to the aesthetics of the area & functionality for shade provision whilst improving environmental outcomes***

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Those supporting the tree planting plan focused on the aesthetics of more trees in the area as well as the additional shade they would provide. They also focused on the positive environmental impact of more trees in the area. However, supporters also pointed out that residents directly affected should be compensated for the loss of parking spaces.

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***Those opposing were concerned about the loss of on street parking and the negative impact on parks views from residences in Macarthur Place***

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Those opposing the tree planting were concerned about the loss of on street parking and the negative impact on the views of the park from residences in Macarthur Place. There were also some concerns that the new trees might disturb the foundations of residences that are not set back from the street.

### **1.1.4 Dogs off leash**

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***There was minority support for the dogs off leash plan – 35% supported***

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35% of those completing the online survey supported the plan for a dogs off leash area in the park. Only 21% of those living on the border of the park were supportive.

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***Supporters felt that this plan would satisfy the need for more dogs off leash facilities in the area***

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Those supporting the dogs off-leash plan focused on the lack of facilities in the area that cater for dogs off-leash that are in walking distance.



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***Those opposing a dogs off-leash area (44%) were concerned that this would negatively impact the current usage of the park as a place for social interaction and relaxation***

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Those opposing the dogs off leash plan (44%) reported that many dogs are currently allowed off leash by owners. If there was a plan to formally allow this practice in a park of this size, there was a concern that this would attract many more dog owners to the park and in turn negatively impact the current usage of the park as a place for social interaction and relaxation. Dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs was also the cause for some concern. Comments revealed that some dog owners were also opposed to the dogs off-leash plan for Macarthur Square.

### **1.1.5 Suggestions for change**

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***There were several residents who suggested at least one improvement – 44% suggested a change***

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44% of those completing the online survey suggested a change that would improve their enjoyment of the Square.

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***Apart from a dogs off leash area, suggestions focused on the need for furniture, barbecues and a children's playground***

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There were some suggestions relating to providing for a dogs off-leash area however this is covered under one of the key questions. Other suggestions related to facilities that would enhance the way in which the park is currently used for social interaction including the installation of tables and benches, barbecues and a children's playground.

## **1.2 Petition**

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***Opposition to the plans echoed those raised by online survey respondents***

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A summary of the attachment to the petition revealed that the key reasons for opposing park expansion, dogs off-leash area and street-side tree planting reflected those identified in the online survey results.

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***Not all petition signatories were opposed to the plans***

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Of the 69 signatories on the petition, 23 also completed the online survey where 2 people supported park expansion, 7 supported tree planting and 3 were neutral to the dogs off-leash plan.

## **1.3 Written correspondence**

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***Feedback on the plans was reflective of the online survey results***

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Written submissions (14) raised issues similar to those identified in the online survey. 10 individuals who submitted in writing via email or letter also completed the online survey with 4 people supporting the park expansion, 4 supporting the tree planting and 0 supporting the dogs off-leash plan (3 neutral).

## 1.4 All-inclusive results

***After combining the online survey results with petition signatories and written correspondence, support for the plans decreased***

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Note that each person is counted once only taking the online survey responses as the indicator of support where people submitted via multiple modes. The following shows the effect of adding petition signatories and those submitting in writing but not completing the online survey, to the results:

- Park expansion: 50% support, 49% do not support, 1% mixed
- Tree planting: 54% support, 45% do not support, 1% mixed
- Dogs off-leash: 25% support, 60% do not support, 15% don't mind



## 2 INTRODUCTION

### 2.1 Background

The City of Melbourne is currently preparing a plan for the possible upgrading and expansion of Macarthur Square in Carlton. Macarthur Square is bounded by Macarthur Place North and South, Canning Street and Rathdowne Street.

The decision to investigate an expansion was triggered by a number of factors including:

- The City of Melbourne seeks to implement its Open Space and Urban Forest Strategy recommendations to increase open space and expand the urban forest to mitigate increasing urban heat island effect.
- The width of the roads and the level of traffic on Macarthur Place North and South allow for a park expansion and additional street tree planting
- The existing elm trees which form the dominant feature in Macarthur Square are senescing. Council wants to provide the best possible conditions for these trees in order to retain them in the landscape for as long as possible
- The City of Melbourne seeks to ensure Macarthur Square meets the recreation needs of a diverse local community.

The first phase of community engagement closed on the 22nd April 2016. This encouraged people to look at the Ideas Plan and complete the survey online via Council's website – Participate Melbourne. Alternatively, a hard copy of the plan and survey was mailed out on-request. A copy of the Ideas Plan and the survey are attached as an appendix.

## 2.2 Modes of engagement

The submissions received are as follows:

- 117 unique survey submissions via Participate Melbourne (1 duplicate)
- 1 petition received with 69 signatures
- 1 piece of written correspondence submitted on behalf of 5 households
- 14 unique individual pieces of written correspondence via 13 emails and 1 letter (1 duplicate)

Some community members submitted feedback via multiple modes as shown in Figure 1. A total of 23 of those who submitted via the petition also completed the online survey, 10 of those who submitted via written correspondence also completed the online survey. In total, there were 167 individuals who made a submission.

Figure 1: Modes of engagement

	No.	%
Survey only	84	50%
Petition only	40	24%
Petition & survey	23	14%
Petition & written correspondence	6	4%
Written correspondence & survey	10	6%
Written correspondence only	4	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 2.3 Online feedback form

The online feedback form included the following questions.

***Thinking about Macarthur Square at present ...***

1. Do you use Macarthur Square?
  - 1a. If yes, how do you and your family or friends use the Square at the moment?
  - 1b. If no, are there other benefits the Square provides? Please explain
2. Does Macarthur Square have a special feature or character that is particularly important to you?
  - 2a. If yes, please describe
3. Is there anything you don't like about Macarthur Square at the moment?

***Thinking about Macarthur Square in the future ...***

4. One idea we would like to explore is the expansion of Macarthur Square. The attached plan shows how this might be done. It requires the conversion of Macarthur Place North and South into one-way streets. Do you support expanding the Square in this way? Please explain
5. The plan shows the introduction of trees in the kerbside parking lanes of Macarthur Place North and South. Do you support the proposed planting of these trees in the roadway? Please explain
6. Are there any specific ways you would like the Square to be changed? This may be to address a particular issue or to better accommodate your interests or activities?
  - 6a. If yes, please describe
7. Would you support a dog off-leash area in part of Macarthur Square? Please explain

***Please tell us about you...***

1. What is your age group?
2. What is your gender?
3. What is your relationship with Carlton? Student; Worker; Resident; Visitor, Ratepayer, Business

### 3 PROFILE

A total of 94 submissions were received from people living on or owning a property on the streets directly fronting Macarthur Square as well as from those who own properties in these streets but do not live there. A further 69 submissions were received from people living in neighbouring streets (refer Figure 2).

Figure 2: Location of residence

	No.	%
Resident directly affected	85	51%
Non-resident directly affected	7	4%
Resident indirectly affected	69	41%
(Unable to identify)	6	4%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of those who submitted an online survey, 50 submissions were from ratepayers and 67 were from non-ratepayers (refer Figure 3).

Figure 3: Ratepayer status

	No.	%
Ratepayer	50	43%
Non-ratepayer	67	57%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of those who submitted an online survey, the majority were submitted by females (refer Figure 4).

Figure 4: Gender

	No.	%
Male	45	38%
Female	68	58%
Indeterminate/Intersex/Unspecified	2	2%
No answer	2	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>

Of those who submitted an online survey, there was a fairly even representation of those aged 25 to 74 years (refer Figure 5). However, there were fewer from the youngest and oldest age groups.

Figure 5: Age

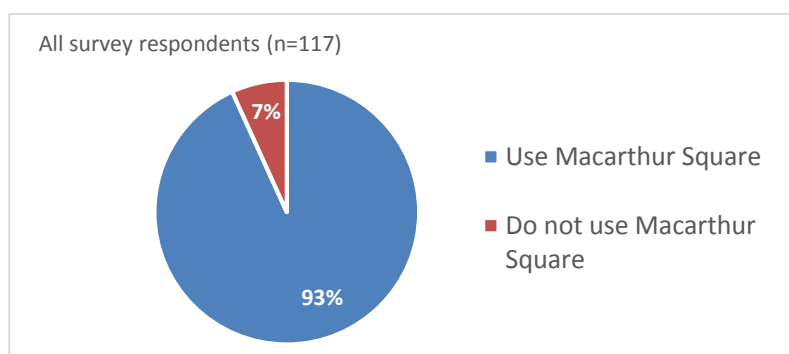
	No.	%
20-24	1	1%
25-34	17	15%
35-44	20	17%
45-54	20	17%
55-64	23	20%
65-74	27	23%
75 or older	7	6%
No answer	2	2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 4 ONLINE SURVEY FINDINGS

### 4.1 Usage of Macarthur Square

**Survey question: Q.1. Do you use Macarthur Square?**

Figure 6: Usage of Macarthur Square



**Survey question: Q.1a. How do you and your family or friends use the Square at the moment?**

Figure 7: Usage of Macarthur Square

Base: Use Macarthur Square (n=107)	% use Macarthur Square for activity
(~) Picnic/lunch/dinner/BBQ/Meals/Dining	38%
(*) Walk the dog	33%
(#) Lie down/sit/relax	30%
(*) Walk in/walk through	28%
(~) Social gatherings (catch up with neighbours/friends/family)	20%
(#) Read	19%
(^) Aesthetics (enjoy/admire the view/trees/canopy)	15%
(*) Recreation/play/games (Frisbee, Finska)	10%
(*) (~) Adults can play with children	7%
(*) (~) Children play/explore together	7%
(*) Ball games/ball sports (football, cricket)	7%
(*) Sport/exercise	7%
(^) Grass/green space	6%
(#) Enjoy the shade/sunshine	5%
(~) Watch movies/movie nights/outdoor cinema	5%
(^) Our garden/our back yard	4%
(~) Parties (Birthday, Christmas, Street)	3%
(#) Tai Chi/Yoga	3%
(^) Enhances community feel	2%
(~) Enjoy a drink/beverage	1%
(#) Work/study	1%
(#) Draw/paint	1%
(#) A break from work	1%
(*) Cycle past/through	1%
(^) Other	8%

Nets	
(*) ACTIVE	73%
(~) SOCIAL	48%
(#) PASSIVE	32%
(^) OTHER	26%

May add to more than 100% due to multiple responses allowed

Nets represent the proportion of respondents providing comments in each category

**COMMENTS TO SUPPORT TOP RESPONSES ON HOW MACARTHUR SQUARE IS USED**

*"We live across the square, and often have picnic on the Canning Street (east side of the park). Our younger daughter aged 10 sometimes joins her neighbour friends of similar age, and go to east side of the park to play (where we can see from our house). When we have guests over the weekend that have children, we walk across to the park to play ball games. Sometimes, we go and lay on the grass for a quiet read time. Walking to Carlton, we always walk through the park to Rathdowne street. We have in the past used it for birthday parties. Also in Christmas, the residents around MacArthur square get together for Christmas party which we join. For us, the square in its open plan, is of significant importance to our living in the area."*

*"I have been living here for over 10 years. I walk the dog through the park, read books in the park, play with children in the park and admire the park from my front windows each and every day. It is also a great place to have a chat with neighbours."*

*"Exercise dog. Family picnics. Exercise and ball games with grandchildren. Christmas street party - community get-together. Short-cut to shops."*

*"It is used by me and my family as calm, quiet, heritage overlay quality open space, enjoying the canopy of elms in all seasons. I consider as a rate payer that I contribute to the upkeep and maintenance of the square."*

*"Sitting on the grass, drinking coffee, reading books, enjoying sunshine."*

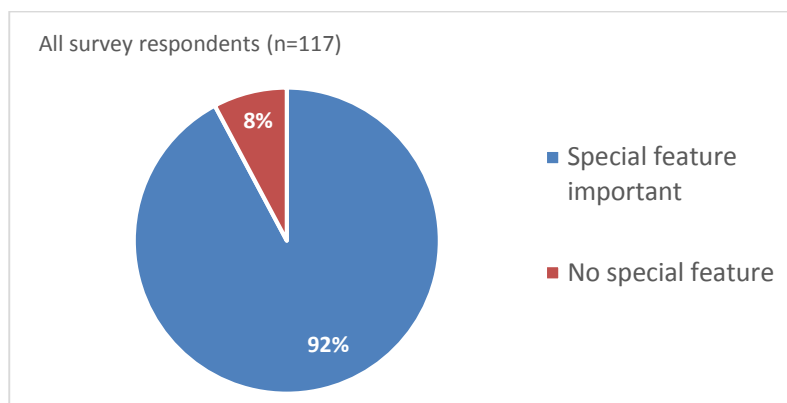
*"Walking through or past in transit between public transport and home, admiring the beautiful trees."*

*"We walk around and through the park/square daily to get from A to B. We stroll through it daily to be amongst the beautiful Elm trees for which, as residents, we treasure. We use it to picnic and entertain our friends and extended families. General speaking, it's OUR front yard and a piece of 'GREEN' patch to look out onto from our house and home."*

## 4.2 Special feature of Macarthur Square

**Survey question: Q.2. Does Macarthur Square have a special feature or character that is particularly important to you?**

Figure 8: Special feature of importance



**Survey question: Q.2A. Please describe the special feature of importance?**

Figure 9: Benefits the Square provides

Base: Macarthur Square has a special feature of importance (n=106)		% said this is an important feature
Trees (big/high, canopy, old elms, line/avenue of trees, provide shade)		61%
Grass/greenery		35%
Peaceful oasis/tranquillity/calm in the middle of the city/special place to relax/quiet time/harmony		25%
Heritage/historical significance		17%
Aesthetics/visual character		16%
Shape of park (rectangular, unique proportions)		12%
Uncluttered/open space.		11%
Surrounding streets and buildings (wide streets, architecture, varied buildings)		9%
Slope and linear visual of the trees/park		9%
Unique setting		7%
Meeting place, fun/enjoyment for family, friends, neighbourhood		7%
Traditional/classic "London Garden Square" influence/design		6%
Community focus		3%
Drinking/water fountain		3%
Great for dogs		3%
Multiple users and uses		2%
Street parties/gatherings		2%
Accessible		2%
Middle walkway		1%
Growing bird life		1%
Great place to walk in/through		1%
Other		16%

May add to more than 100% due to multiple responses allowed

**COMMENTS TO SUPPORT TOP RESPONSES ON SPECIAL FEATURES OF IMPORTANCE**

*"The trees! we are so thrilled with how City of Melbourne has supported the health of these trees in the 7 years we've been residents. We'd be keen for any additional tree planting to be with similar deciduous trees."*

*"MATURE TREES and space. From the North side we look into the tree canopies for six or so months of the year, then, when leaves are shed, through the bare branches to the lights of the city. The Indian Minors seem to have gone (?) and other bird life is returning - lots of parrots, a couple of magpie families, occasional crows, and a new bird, not seen yet, but with a very charming call!"*

*"The trees and the greenery make for a very calm environment in a busy city. It is a beautiful place to live in and we feel very privileged to be a resident."*

*"I love the big old trees! They are beautiful, they are shady in the summertime and they turn the square into a grand cathedral. The green grass is also really important - it's comfy to sit on which makes it really easy and inviting to use the park."*

*"Obviously, the Elm trees are the most important part of the square. Anything that can be done to extend their life would be welcome."*

*"As I do not have much greenery in my house, I consider Macarthur Square my garden. I love the trees, the grass and the tranquillity it provides in the middle of the city."*

*"It is a quiet oasis which is simple in its plantings and is shaded beautifully by the old established trees. It is used by local inhabitants as an extended garden."*

*"An oasis in the inner city. A long, flat strip of grass to sprint in a straight line. I love the elms, and love that when I moved into Macarthur Place, I was assigned a tree to put my grey water on during the drought. Please do what you can to save the elms, or find suitable replacements over time. I love our Sharehood movie nights, where everyone contributes (power, screen, projector, extension leads) as well as participates and catches up. I love our annual street barbeque at Christmas time. I love how this physical strip unites, rather than divides North and South."*

*"The Square has a perfect harmony between the grassed area, the trees and the streets. There is a visual spaciousness about it and any tampering will destroy that. This sense of space compensates for the relatively small and dense housing. Take that sense of space away by enclosing half of it and by narrowing the streets and you destroy the ambience. It already allows for different activities such as picnics, resting on the grass, young people playing various games, groups of people getting together, playing with dogs, exercising etc."*

*"The square is unique in its heritage links which are important to Carlton. It is being shared well between multiple users at the moment; the range of activities and relaxed vibe is unique, as is the streetscape."*

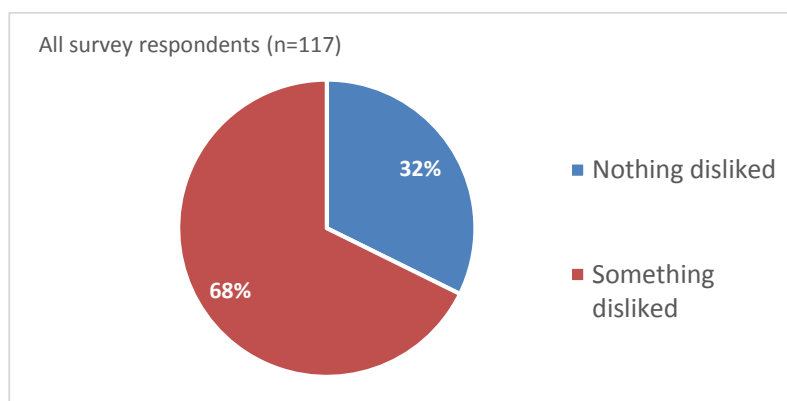
*"MacArthur Square has a deep historical significance. It hasn't changed for decades. The extremely tall, old trees reflect that age of history and permanence."*



### 4.3 Current dislikes

**Survey question: Q.3. Is there anything you don't like about Macarthur Square at the moment?**

Figure 10: Dislike features of Macarthur Square



**Survey question: Q.3. Is there anything you don't like about Macarthur Square at the moment?**

Figure 11: Current features disliked

Base: Dislike something (n=65)	% named this as a dislike
Increasing/dangerous traffic, speeding cars	17%
No area for unleashed dogs	15%
Dogs/dog faeces/unleashed dogs	11%
Surface too wet/muddy/slippy	11%
Rubbish/not enough bins/overflowing bins	9%
Narrow shape	6%
No picnic furniture/limited seating	6%
Car parking	5%
Underutilised/no broad appeal/better parks nearby	5%
Roads too wide	5%
Condition of trees/tree replacement	3%
Power box in middle	3%
Camping	2%
Activities in cars	2%
Noisy	2%
No playground equipment	2%
Old signs	2%
Wider parking, more parking	2%
Dirt/bark around trees	2%
Dark at night	2%
Graffiti	2%
Few/no facilities (eg. BBQ)	2%
Bicycles/bike lane	2%
Needs better garden beds/edging	2%
Other	14%

May add to more than 100% due to multiple responses allowed

**COMMENTS TO SUPPORT TOP RESPONSES ON CURRENT DISLIKES OF MACARTHUR SQUARE**

*"The ever increasing traffic up and down Nth and Sth Macarthur Pl as people are constantly "running the lights" at Rathdowne, Canning, Elgin and Nicholson St. This traffic has become hazardous, unsafe and a major antagonistic environment in the area."*

*"Too much traffic uses the Square as a short cut during peak hour where cars cut through from Rathdowne to Elgin Streets to avoid traffic lights and general hold ups. It becomes dangerous in the afternoon when bikes come down Canning Street usually at a reasonable speed. Canning Street has become a major route for the bikes into and out of the city and I love this aspect of a vibrant city."*

*"As discussed generally with many of our neighbours, the issue of speeding cars to be stopped - imperative. - The introduction of signs indicating a maximum speed limit of no more than 40kms/ph at each end of the square should be erected. - 'LOCAL TRAFFIC ONLY' signs for peak hour times should also be erected at each end of the square."*

*"No off lead area for dogs (in MacArthur Square or anywhere near by)."*

*"That the dogs have to be on their leash."*

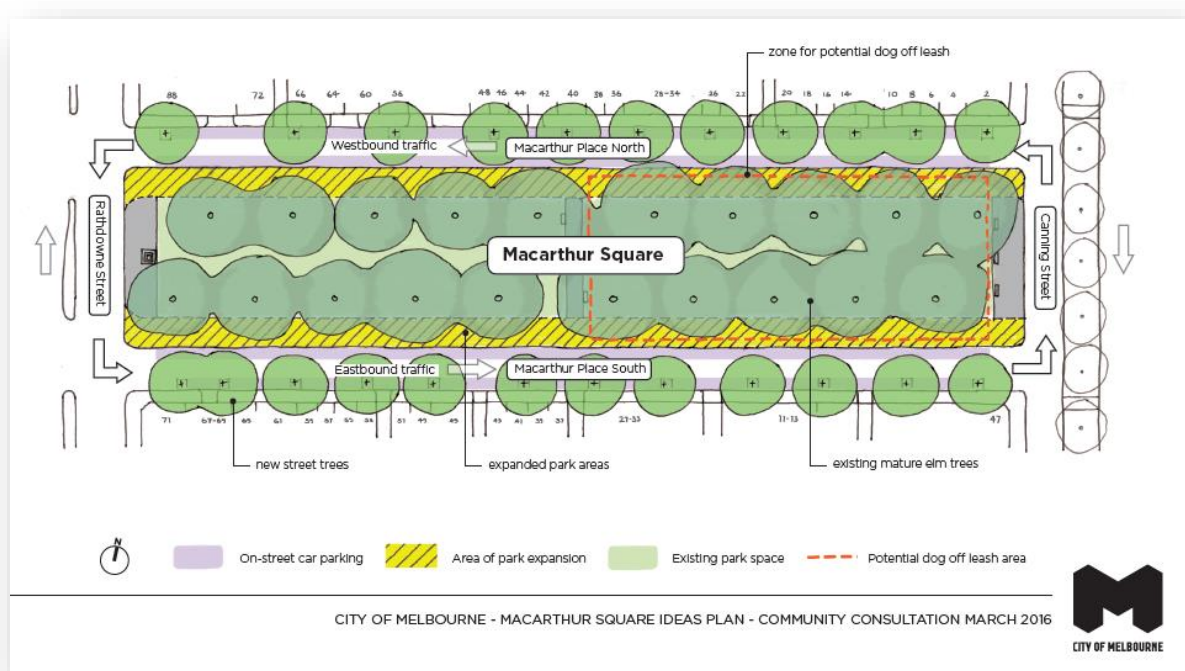
*"Everyone lets their dogs off the leash - despite it being a leashed park (not enough signage to that effect) - and they defecate everywhere and their owners do not pick it up!"*

*'The increasing use by dog owners to let their dogs run-off leash with little apparent care that they are bothering and alienating others' use of the park - particularly the eastern part; and sometimes that the grass becomes quite worn by dogs. Many dog owners now will ignore polite requests to stop dogs running up to obviously scared small children. Overall it seems as if the attitude of dog owners is becoming less careful of others - or perhaps it is simply because of greater pressure of numbers.'*

## 4.4 Expansion of the park

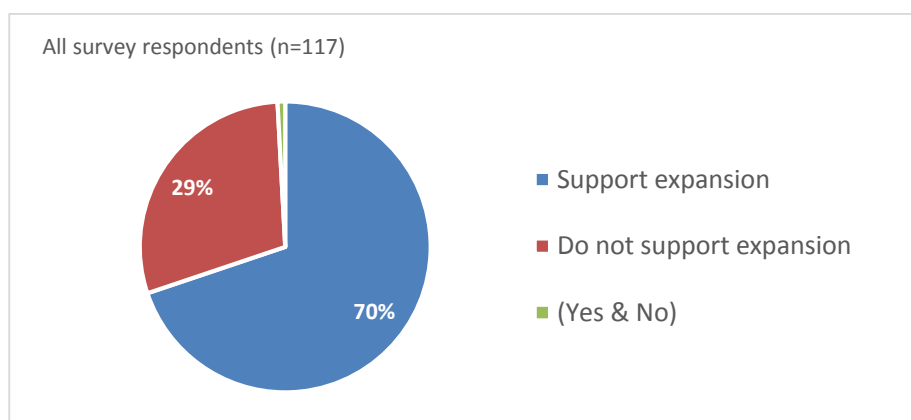
The ideas plan (refer Figure 12) shows the expansion of Macarthur Square parkland into Macarthur Place North and South (yellow cross-hatched area). This would increase the amount of park space for recreation activities. It would also improve the soil conditions for the existing elm trees and maximize the length of time they can be retained in the landscape. To achieve this, Macarthur Place North and South would need to be changed into one-way streets. The plan shows how this would operate, with traffic circulating in an anticlockwise direction. Traffic movement along Rathdowne and Canning Streets would not be affected. A traffic survey undertaken in September 2015 has shown that the speed of some vehicles using Macarthur Place North and South is higher than desired. Council believes the narrowing of the roadways and the proposed expansion of Macarthur Square may assist in reducing vehicle travel speeds. If the community supports the park expansion, Council will monitor the vehicle travel speeds following the works. If vehicle speeds remain high, we will seek further feedback from the local community regarding additional traffic calming measures.

Figure 12: Ideas Plan



**Survey question: Q.4. Do you support expanding the Square in this way?**

Figure 13: Support for expanding the Square



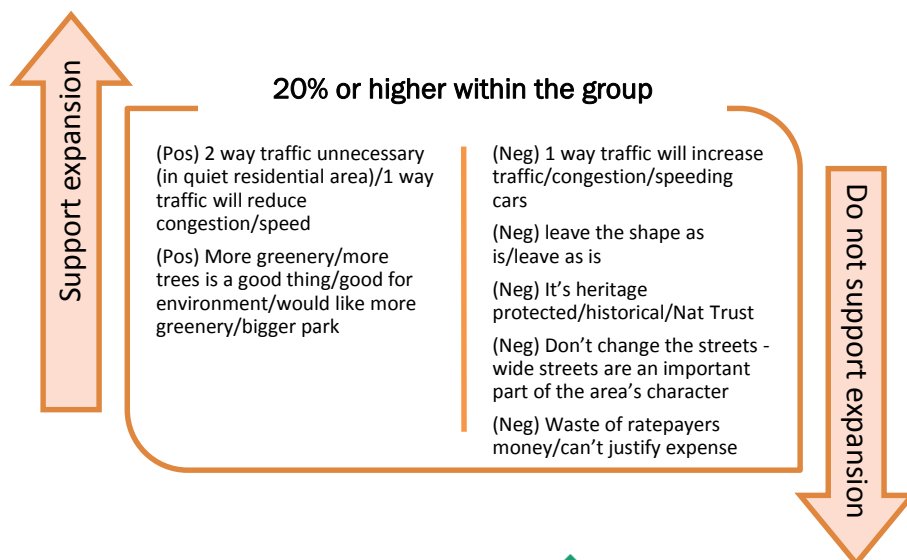
**Survey question: Q.4S. Please explain why/ why not you support expanding the Square in this way.****Figure 14: Reason for support/no support for park expansion**

Base: All survey respondents ANSWERING	% gave reason
(Pos) 2 way traffic unnecessary (in quiet residential area)/1 way traffic will reduce congestion/speed	29%
(Pos) More greenery/more trees is a good thing/good for environment/would like more greenery/bigger park	24%
(Pos) It provides more public space/more space & trees is better	15%
(Pos) Will benefit/save/preserve/conservate trees/elms	9%
(Pos) Park will be used more	3%
(Pos) Need to block off car access/restricted entry/make pedestrian zone/bicycle access	2%
(Pos) Will improve/make traffic conditions better	2%
(Pos) Leash free area is a benefit	2%
(Pos) Street trees will add to /enhance park feel	1%
(Pos) Less car parking is good	1%
(Pos) Encourages more exercise and less driving	1%
(Neutr) Explore other alternatives to slow down traffic/Introduce speed limit signs/speed cameras etc.	12%
(Neutr) Needs more parking/shouldn't restrict parking	10%
(Neutr) Need to retain overall feel/charm/character	3%
(Neutr) Explore other options to save/preserve/conservate trees, Trees/elms will be disturbed/damaged.	2%
(Neutr) Needs more seating	1%
(Neg) 1-way traffic will increase traffic/congestion/speeding cars	16%
(Neg) leave the shape as is/leave as is	9%
(Neg) It's heritage protected/historical/Nat Trust	7%
(Neg) Don't change the streets - wide streets are an important part of the area's character	7%
(Neg) Waste of ratepayer's money/can't justify expense	7%
(Neg) Will destroy unique local ambiance/atmosphere/environment	6%
(Neg) No need for bigger park – there are other bigger parks nearby	2%
(Neg) Will bring car parking closer to residents	2%
(Neg) Will inconvenience residents	2%
(Neg) Anti-clockwise traffic flow counter-intuitive/residents park on 'wrong' side of road	2%
(Neg) Will attract more dogs	1%
(Neg) Will make park less accessible for picnics, sport, relaxing	1%
(Neg) Pushes people to West end of park	1%
Other	12%

May add to more than 100% due to multiple responses allowed

Nets represent the proportion of respondents providing comments in each category

Nets	
POSITIVE	45%
NEGATIVE	28%
NEUTRAL	23%



## COMMENTS TO SUPPORT TOP RESPONSES ON EXPANSION OF THE PARK

### Positives

*"The streets don't appear to currently serve as an important traffic thoroughfare, and converting them to one-way may alleviate the speed and frequency in which cars travel through them."*

*"The proposed plan will greatly reduce safety risks and ensure the Macarthur place roads will be more for the exclusive safe use of local residents."*

*"With a young child, we are already concerned with the volume and speed of cars that come off Rathdowne street to cut through to Elgin via canning street. every day cars do this with little regard for the speed limit or the people using the park. I'd hope that making these streets one way, we'd reduce the volume and speed of traffic using both streets as short cuts."*

*"We have recently purchased in MacArthur Place and LOVE the idea of the expansion of the park. It is the park which endeared us to the cottage in the first place and we see the council plans to enlarge the park only enhance its' appeal."*

*"Providing more green without really affecting the functionality of the roads seems like a win."*

*"Because the streets either side are very quiet it makes sense to use the space for more parkland and open up for a more green environment encouraging people to use it."*

*"Adding more green space and canopy cover is important for Melbourne. Reducing road space will also reduce high temperatures in the neighbouring streets."*

### Negative

*"The one-way traffic will increase the traffic going down the south side as it will be the only direction in. Lower the speed. Because it will change the park, disturb the Elms (and the aesthetic of the square) and bring the general car parking lane closer to the residents."*

*"Potential to seriously and regularly inconvenience residents by adding to the time and distance of journeys."*

*"There is very little serious traffic around the Square already and making the streets one-way will simply create time-consuming traffic problems for the inhabitants of Macarthur Place."*

*"I think that the square should remain true to its original design and we should respect this and keep it intact. It is part of the charm of Carlton that it has retained many historical features."*

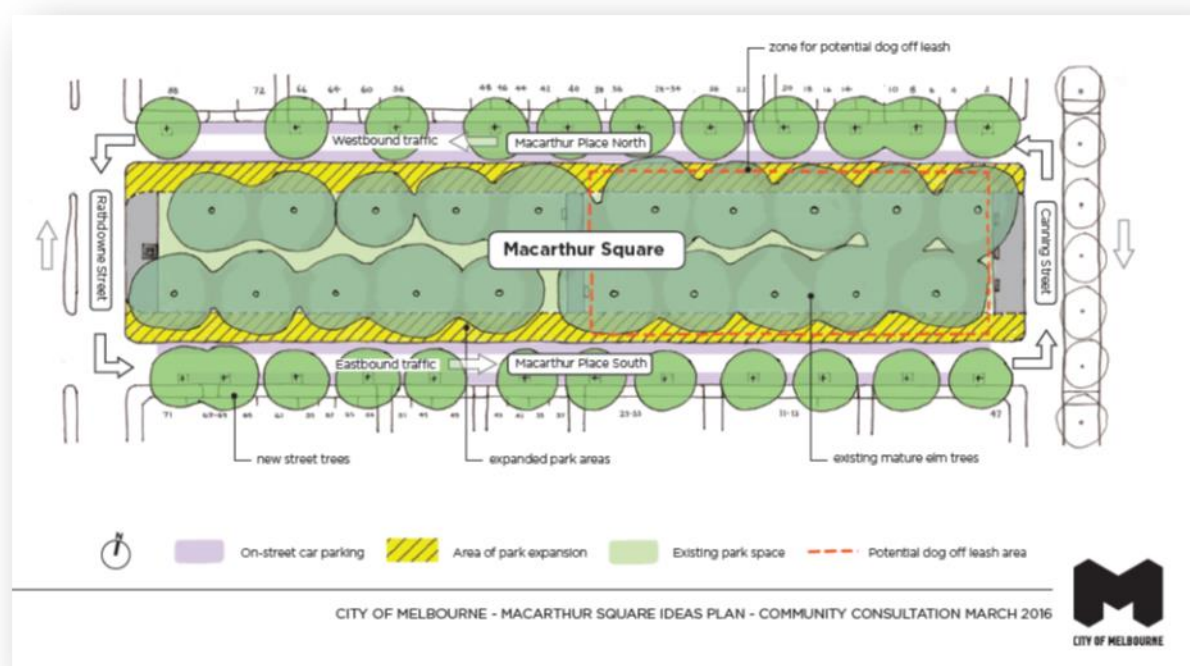
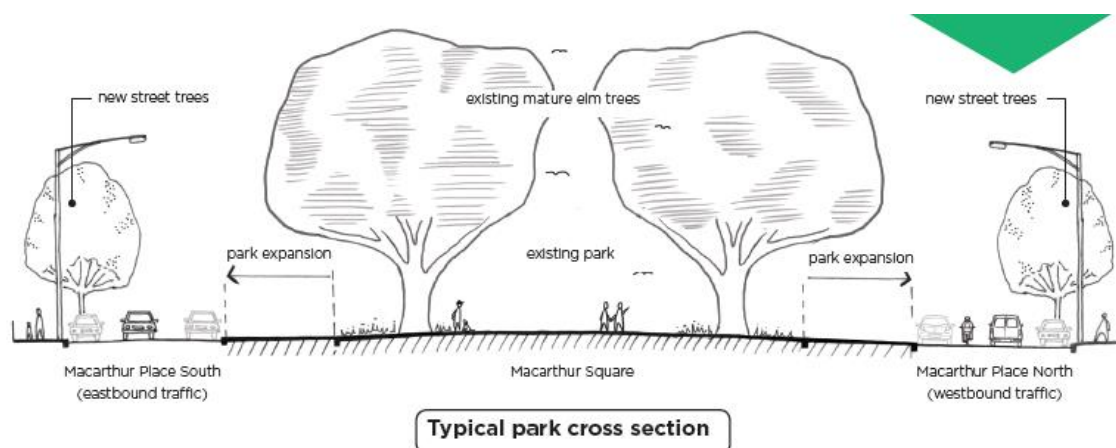
*"Believe that special character of Square should be respected. Support philosophy to improve park and health of trees, residents' enjoyment. Health of Elm trees would be improved by extension of park. Understand need for change to one-way traffic, but anti-clockwise is anti-intuitive and causes residents to park on 'wrong' side of road. Should consider a range of alternatives re. traffic flow and management."*

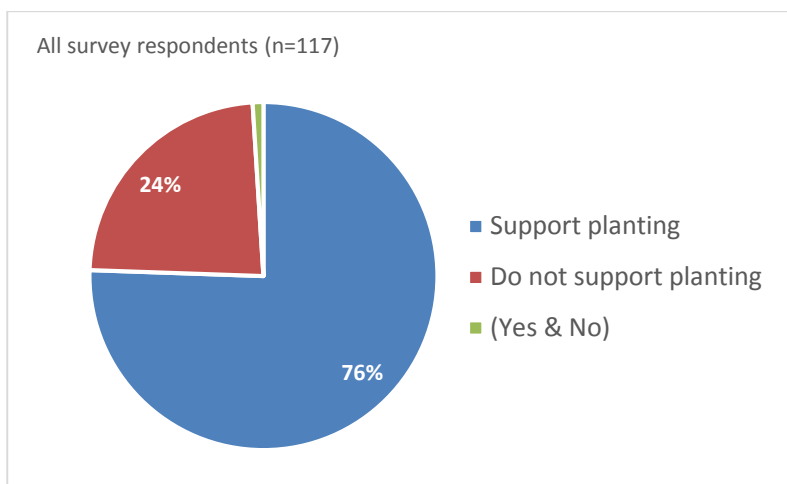
*"Macarthur Park has heritage values and is included as part of a wider heritage overlay. It is one of seven historic parks set out as part of the expansion of Melbourne as the next stage after the historic Melbourne grid. The site is an excellent example of a park from the period (one of seven in Carlton), including its austere qualities. It seems unnecessary to expand the park, and it would also seem to go against heritage and urban values of the area. The widening of the park and modifications to the road system, while perhaps initially attractive, would seem unnecessary. Certainly it will modify the heritage values of the park and indeed of the streetscape in the area."*

## 4.5 Planting of trees

The ideas plan (refer Figure 15) shows the tree planting idea. New tree planting is proposed within the bluestone channel of the existing parking lane in Macarthur Place North and South. The new trees would significantly increase canopy shade to the streets and footpaths around Macarthur Square, cooling the surrounding environment and reducing the expected impact of climate change. The proposed species Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* 'Cimmzam') is a deciduous, medium-sized tree that has consistent form and tolerances to suit the expected growing conditions. This selection is consistent with the Carlton Urban Forest Precinct Plan. This would result in the loss of approximately 5 car parking spaces from Macarthur Square.

Figure 15: Ideas Plan – Tree Planting



**Survey question: Q.5. Do you support the proposed planting of these trees in the roadway?****Figure 16: Support for planting of trees**



**Survey question: Q.5S. Please explain why/ why not you support the proposed planting of these trees in the roadway.**

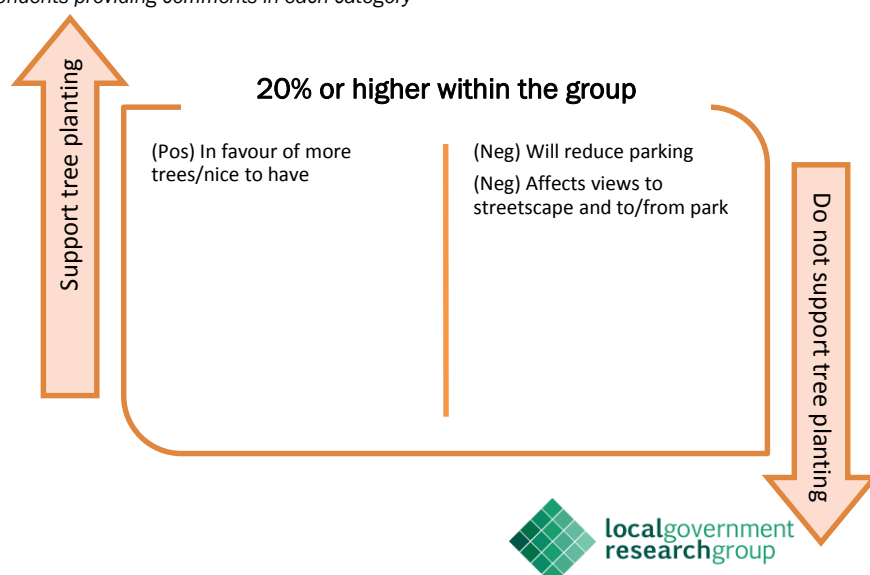
**Figure 17: Reason for support/no support for tree planting**

Base: All survey respondents ANSWERING	% gave reason
(Pos) In favour of more trees/nice to have	23%
(Pos) Extra greenery good for environment	16%
(Pos) Adds shade and cooling	14%
(Pos) Adds to character/ambiance/aesthetics	11%
(Pos) Careful selection of trees required (conditional support)	10%
(Pos) Helps transition senescing trees	4%
(Pos) Careful placement of trees is required (conditional support)	3%
(Pos) Trees are good for health and wellbeing	3%
(Pos) Will slow down traffic	2%
(Pos) Will have minimal impact on traffic	2%
(Pos) Will fit nicely with other streets in the area	1%
(Pos) Introduce 90-degree parking	1%
(Pos) Encourages native bird life	1%
(Neutr) Need to minimize impact on parking (esp. residents)	7%
(Neutr) Need more expert advice before making a definitive decision	5%
(Neutr) Darkness/encloses street; will need better lighting	3%
(Neutr) Will need regular maintenance/protection	3%
(Neutr) Need to be planted on flexible pavements	1%
(Neutr) Shouldn't impact on park aesthetics and heritage	1%
(Neutr) Statue will need to be shifted	1%
(Neg) Will reduce parking	16%
(Neg) Affects views to streetscape and to/from park	14%
(Neg) Too close to houses/will affect foundations/plant only where homes are set back	7%
(Neg) Affects source of light/daylight privacy to houses	6%
(Neg) Diminishes presence of elms/current trees/park	5%
(Neg) Leave it as is/unnecessary/already have enough trees/waste of money	3%
(Neg) More dead leaf rubbish/dirties cars and porches	2%
(Neg) More possums with access to homes	2%
(Neg) Will be too cluttered	2%
(Neg) Will mean we need a new section of road	1%
(Neg) Worried about irrigation system/cost of watering	1%
Other	3%

May add to more than 100% due to multiple responses allowed

Nets represent the proportion of respondents providing comments in each category

Nets	
POSITIVE	54%
NEGATIVE	31%
NEUTRAL	17%



**COMMENTS TO SUPPORT TOP RESPONSES ON TREE PLANTING****Positives**

*"The more trees the better, and this is the perfect opportunity to improve this area of Carlton."*

*"This suggestion makes a lot of sense, and certainly will improve amenity while achieving Council's greening goals."*

*"More trees can only be a good thing. This part of Carlton is quite picturesque and they'd add to that quality."*

*"Trees would be wonderful but must be positioned to minimise parking losses. Also to compensate the 5 proposed resident parking spots, the unrestricted parking along the north side of the square close to Canning St should become only paid or residential as per the rest of the square and the 1hr parking section close on the south side in front of people's homes should be removed and only be residential parking."*

*"Yes. I support measures that will increase tree cover and reduce the urban heat island effect."*

**Negatives**

*"We paid a large amount of money for the view and do not want that view blocked. I believe that the trees will draw moisture from our front yard and destabilize a shallow foundation which will result in cracking."*

*"Looking at this selfishly, I think a tree planted directly outside my house would block my view out to the park and darken the already northern aspect of the house and everyone else's house on the North side of the square. I would like more feed-back from Council and information in relation to the condition, longevity and any other information you have in reference to the ELM trees and their well-being. As far as any new trees being planted, I'm very worried about the irrigation system that would need to be implemented and how this would impact on the house foundations and any subsequent movement into the future!"*

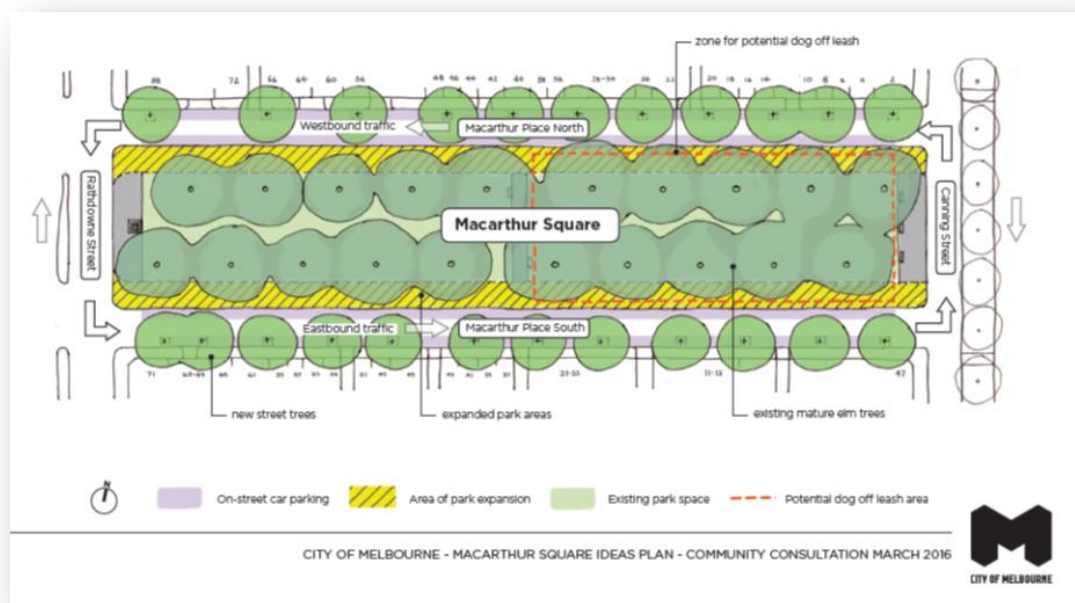
*"Even though I cycle in the City of Melbourne far more often than I drive, I understand that residents need space to park cars and to allow family members to visit from other parts of Melbourne that are not as well served by public transport."*

*"Will significantly reduce the parking spaces on the residents' sides of the two roads."*

## 4.6 Dogs off leash

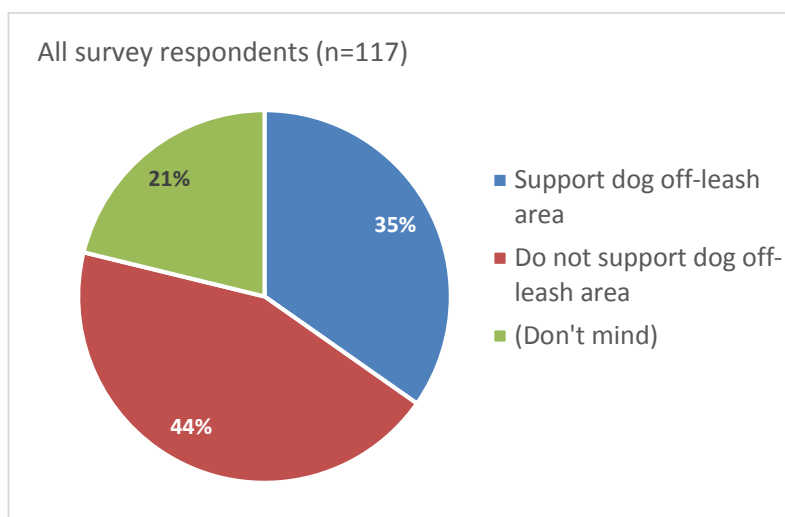
The ideas plan (refer Figure 18) explores whether the east side of Macarthur Square could provide a dog off leash area (red dotted line). The idea is for the eastern half (the Canning Street end) of Macarthur Square could provide a dog off-leash area for the local community. Dogs are allowed to be exercised off-leash in certain designated areas within the City of Melbourne, providing the owner remains in effective voice or hand control of the dog. Currently, the Carlton suburb does not have a designated dog off-leash area. It is not proposed to fence any dog off-leash area in Macarthur Square.

Figure 18: Ideas Plan – Dogs off leash area



**Survey question: Q.7. Would you support a dog off-leash area in part of Macarthur Square?**

Figure 19: Support for dogs off leash area



**Survey question: Q.7S. Please explain why you would/ would not support a dog off-leash area in part of Macarthur Square.**

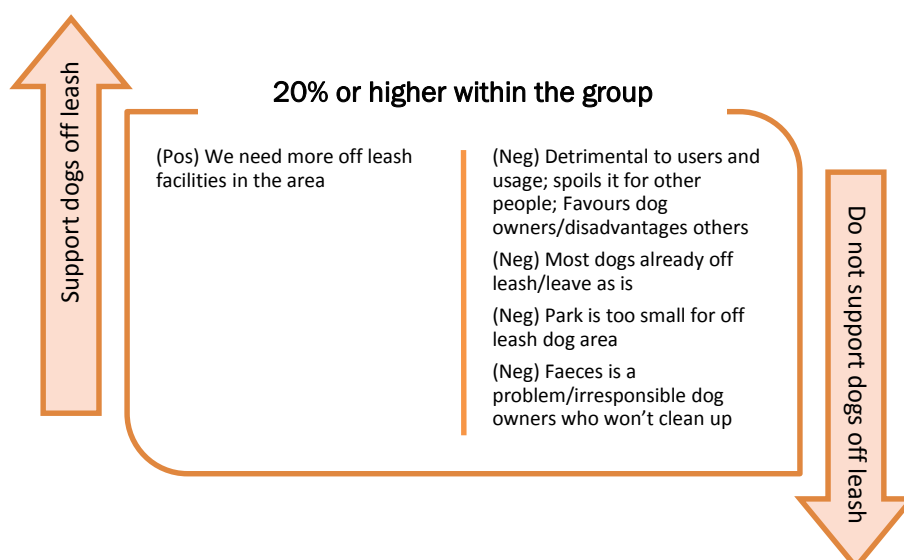
**Figure 20: Reason for support/no support for dogs off leash area**

Base: All survey respondents ANSWERING	% gave reason
(Pos) We need more off leash facilities in the area	22%
(Pos) As long as it's a specified area (East/West of park)	7%
(Pos) Lots of dog owners live nearby/eliminates need for further travel	5%
(Pos) The whole area should be off leash	1%
(Pos) Will be the only off-leash dog park in Carlton	1%
(Neutr) Fencing is unattractive/no fencing	11%
(Neutr) Should be fenced area	10%
(Neutr) Must be secure and monitored	8%
(Neutr) Limit hours for off leash times	3%
(Neutr) Needs to be large area away from contact with streets/activities	2%
(Neg) Detrimental to users and usage; spoils it for other people; Favours dog owners/disadvantages others	21%
(Neg) Most dogs already off leash/leave as is	20%
(Neg) Park is too small for off leash dog area	16%
(Neg) Faeces is a problem/irresponsible dog owners who won't clean up	13%
(Neg) Decreases/detracts attractiveness of park	7%
(Neg) Dangerous for children/people/elderly	5%
(Neg) Too noisy and unsightly	3%
(Neg) Dirty, smelly	2%
(Neg) People are far more important than dogs	1%
(Neg) May affect health of other dogs	1%
(Neg) Legal liability complications/queries	1%
Other	12%

May add to more than 100% due to multiple responses allowed

Nets represent the proportion of respondents providing comments in each category

<b>Nets</b>	
POSITIVE	27%
NEGATIVE	44%
NEUTRAL	25%



## COMMENTS TO SUPPORT TOP RESPONSES ON DOGS OFF LEASH

### Positives

*"We are dog owners so absolutely support this proposal. There are no off-leash areas within walking distance currently so it would be of 'huge' benefit to us, as I am sure it will be to the many pooches who live in the neighbourhood. An off lead frolic makes for a very happy dog!!."*

*"There is nowhere in the city of Melbourne close by that is off leash. As such, with two young kids and a dog we have limited options for off lead exercise that we can walk to."*

*"There are many dog owners in this pocket of Carlton. The nearest off-lead area is a 1.5km walk or a 2km drive. The local dog gestapo have suggested we drive to this area in order to walk our dogs. The absurdity of encouraging people to drive in order to go for a walk infuriates me."*

*"Whilst we do not have a dog, we have a number of friends in the area who do and would support an area where they can have their dogs off the leash."*

### Negatives

*"A very definite 'NO'! From someone with a lifetime of significant dog ownership and experience, and who is as fond of dogs as any likely user of the square. Dogs cannot read the signs limiting the 'off-leash' area, and many owners are inept in matters of dog control. The WHOLE of the square would become less pleasant, less suited to quiet activities and eating, and dangerous for small children. 'On-leash' dogs would be unreasonably stressed by the presence of unrestrained dogs in their vicinity!!."*

*"If you are going to have a dog off-leash area, then it should be at the Rathdowne St end, as the dogs would not mind the traffic, whereas by putting it at the other end as in the plan you have pushed people trying to enjoy the area nearer the traffic. (I don't have a dog)."*

*"As a resident of Macarthur Pl, who is also a dog owner, I am supportive of dogs using the square. I do not however support an off leash area. Currently the square is used for peaceful activities such as picnics or sitting and reading. There are currently a number of dog owners who use the square as an off leash area on a daily basis, disrupting the calm use of the green space. A more appropriate area for dogs to be off leash would be the Carlton Gardens lawn to the west of the tennis courts, south of the museum (lawn 5?). This area has the advantage of being away from traffic, away from the playground and appears to be the least utilised lawn on normal days."*

*"I support the idea of dog-off-lead areas in principle but in this case I think it would result in amenity being lost for other people without having the area fenced. Dogs, and most dog owners, do not obey signs and regulations that are never enforced. Dogs running and shitting over the whole park would destroy its amenity for other users."*

*"Any promotion (or word of mouth) about this - as the only dog-off-leash area in Carlton would be CRAZY. It is a very small area which already caters for quite a large dog population, supposedly on-leash, but never policed. Somebody characterised the proposal as creating "poo central" which it already is to some extent. Responsible owners pick up the poo, but often don't get all of it and other people come and lie and sit on the grass or spread their lunch and eat there. It is barely tolerable now. PLEASE DON'T MAKE IT ANY WORSE. Get an off-leash area up in the area behind the museum, west of the tennis courts in Carlton Gardens. That seems ideal. Hardly anyone uses it."*

*"Some residents who have dogs already use MacArthur Square in this way but it would be of concern if this activity be expanded."*

*"Macarthur Square is a small square already used to capacity at both ends for a wide variety of activities by residents. These activities/ picnics/lying on the grass/playing frisbee/ reading, etc would be locked out as residents (even dog owning ones) expressed the view that they would not feel comfortable using the off-leash dog area for their leisure activities."*

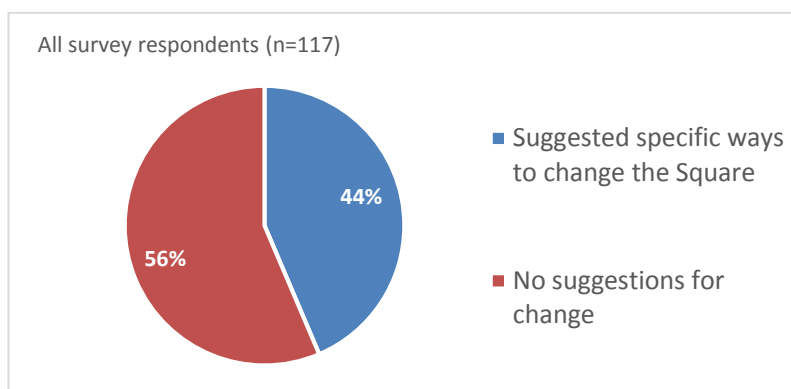
*"I think the Square is really too small for an 'off leash' area and the use is not consistent with maintaining its current serenity. However, if the proposal goes ahead - for lack of alternatives or other reasons - there must be a fence between the dog area and the rest of the Square, with more facilities (as above) provided in the non-dog area. Without a fence, dogs would occupy the whole area and dog faeces would reduce user enjoyment considerably."*

*"Definitely not. It would encourage more dog soiling by owners not paying attention to their animals. Also if this is the only leash free area, then it will just become a dog toilet for all in sundry."*

## 4.7 Suggestions for change

**Survey question: Q.6. Are there any specific ways you would like the Square to be changed?**

Figure 21: Suggested changes



**Survey question: Q.6S. Please describe any specific ways you would like the Square to be changed.**

Figure 22: Changes suggested to improve Macarthur Square

Base: Suggested a change (n=46)	% suggested change
Leash free/secure area for dogs	20%
Tables and benches	20%
BBQ facilities	13%
Playground	11%
No dogs off leash/strictly controlled dog area	7%
Replacement program for Elms/long term conservation/renewal plan	7%
Improve safety from traffic/dogs	7%
Block thoroughfares to decrease traffic/speeding	4%
More/better seating	4%
Bins/recycling areas	4%
Water bottle refill station	4%
No right turn and 40km speed limit signs	4%
Community garden/garden bed edging	4%
More/better lighting	4%
Increased policing against criminal activity	2%
Rock climbing wall	2%
Water tank storage under park	2%
Fix in-ground irrigation system	2%
Band trees to deter possums	2%
Panels showing park's history	2%
Ramped access	2%
Improve cleanliness	2%
Less public parking	2%
Pedestrian crossing points	2%
Other	11%

*May add to more than 100% due to multiple responses allowed*



## 4.8 Comparison of key questions by residential location

Those living in the street bordering Macarthur Square (including Macarthur Place North and South, Canning Street and Rathdowne Street) have been identified as being directly affected whilst those living elsewhere have been identified as indirectly affected.

Figure 23: Comparison of key questions by residential location



## 5 PETITION

A total of 69 signatures were obtained to the petition as stated below:

***Macarthur Place residents opposed to Melbourne City Council's proposed plans for Macarthur Square***

The following is a summary of the key points raised in the attachment to the petition.

### **EXPANDING MACARTHUR SQUARE INTO MACARTHUR PLACE NORTH & SOUTH:**

*(NEGATIVE FEEDBACK)*

- Express concerns about heritage/design compromises to the Square and surrounds.
- Remind Council of its responsibility to “protect and maintain our built heritage for present and future generations.”
- Opposed to narrowing wide streets, one-way streets or speed humps – not seen the appropriate solution for slowing down traffic and would prefer to explore other alternatives, e.g. speed limit signage, speed camera.
- Believe that the council has been selective in releasing information about extending the life of the Elm trees – evidence regarding damage caused to tree roots by any works has been submitted. Also believe that a better in-ground irrigation system will assist with the health and prolonged life of the trees.

### **OFF-LEASH DOG AREA:**

*(NEGATIVE FEEDBACK)*

- Believe that the off-leash dog area will adversely affect the large number of people who use the park for a wide range of activities.
- Suggest that the park serves as the front/back yard to many local residents with small/no courtyards and so it shouldn't be reduced.
- An under-used section of the Carlton Gardens is proposed as an alternative area for this purpose.

### **STREET-SIDE TREE PLANTING:**

*(MIXED FEEDBACK)*

- Opposed to the type of tree suggested by council and have recommended a few alternatives.
- Trees should not be planted in kerbside channels and flexible pavements should be strongly considered to stop any pavement cracking and car parking loss.
- The heritage/dimensions/proportions of the wide streets must not be compromised.
- Call for a plan to replenish the existing Elm in Macarthur Square.

It should be noted that 23 people signed the petition and also completed the online survey and 22 of these were identified as being directly affected i.e. living on the Square. The following shows the online survey responses to the three key questions:

**Figure 24: Online survey responses from people who responded to the petition**

Base: signed petition and completed online survey	Support	Do not support	Don't mind	No answer	TOTAL
Park expansion	2	21			23
Tree planting	7	14		2	23
Dogs off-leash	0	20	3		23

## 6 WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

### 6.1 Collective Email

A total of 5 households provided further feedback via a collective email and the following is a summary of their comments:

#### **OVERALL:**

*(MIXED FEEDBACK)*

- Supportive of the points raised by Council in the proposal, but have provided areas requiring further information and ideas for improvement.
- Against the off-leash dog park as it should be used by people in the local area.

#### **TRAFFIC CALMING:**

*(MIXED FEEDBACK)*

- Query the duration of traffic survey and placement of speed meter.
- Seek further information regarding implementation and alternative traffic management systems.
- Support improved road safety but wish to explore additional alternatives such as the erection of traffic signage, altered timing of traffic lights and provision of a safer merging lane.

#### **OFF-LEASH DOG AREA:**

*(NEGATIVE FEEDBACK)*

- Park is too small.
- Will disturb peace and harmony.
- Will affect number of users and usage.
- Urge council to learn from what other councils have done with nearby parks.
- Dog faeces will become a bigger problem.
- The “only” off-leash dog park will be a burden on Marcarthur Square – other parks should be considered.
- Protection/legal liability issues will arise and it will need to be policed.
- Up to 95% of dog owners who use the park are off-leash anyway.

#### **STREET TREE PLANTING:**

*(MIXED FEEDBACK)*

- Request a copy of the survey.
- Require further information about species of trees so as to not block views or light.
- Consider removal of overhead power lines and poles and move to underground.
- Install heritage style street light
- Retain resident car park permits.

All of these also submitted via the online survey.

## 6.2 Individual Written Correspondence

A total of 14 individuals provided feedback via individual emails/letters and the following is a summary of the comments:

### *POSITIVE FEEDBACK*

- Supportive of all proposals (3)
- Agree to trees on footpath only (1)
- Would consider Chinese Poplars in flexible pavements (1)
- Park need to continually evolve – will support bird life (1)

### *NEGATIVE FEEDBACK*

- 1-way traffic counter-productive/less parking/inconvenient (6)
- Compromises heritage/proportional/visual harmony (5)
- Proposal detrimental to Elms/should have ongoing replacement of Elms (4)
- More off-leash area not necessary/reduces usable park/is less safe (3)
- Underground cisterns/irrigation system needed (3)
- House foundations will be adversely affected (1)
- Too many people currently visit park (1)

### *NEUTRAL FEEDBACK*

- Concerns over how petition signatures had been sought (4)
- Request for further information/independent advice/clarity (4)
- Request for anonymity (3)

## 6.3 Written Correspondence and online survey completions summary

It should be noted that 10 people submitted written correspondence and also completed the online survey all of whom were identified as being directly affected, that is, living on the Square. The following shows the online survey responses to the three key questions:

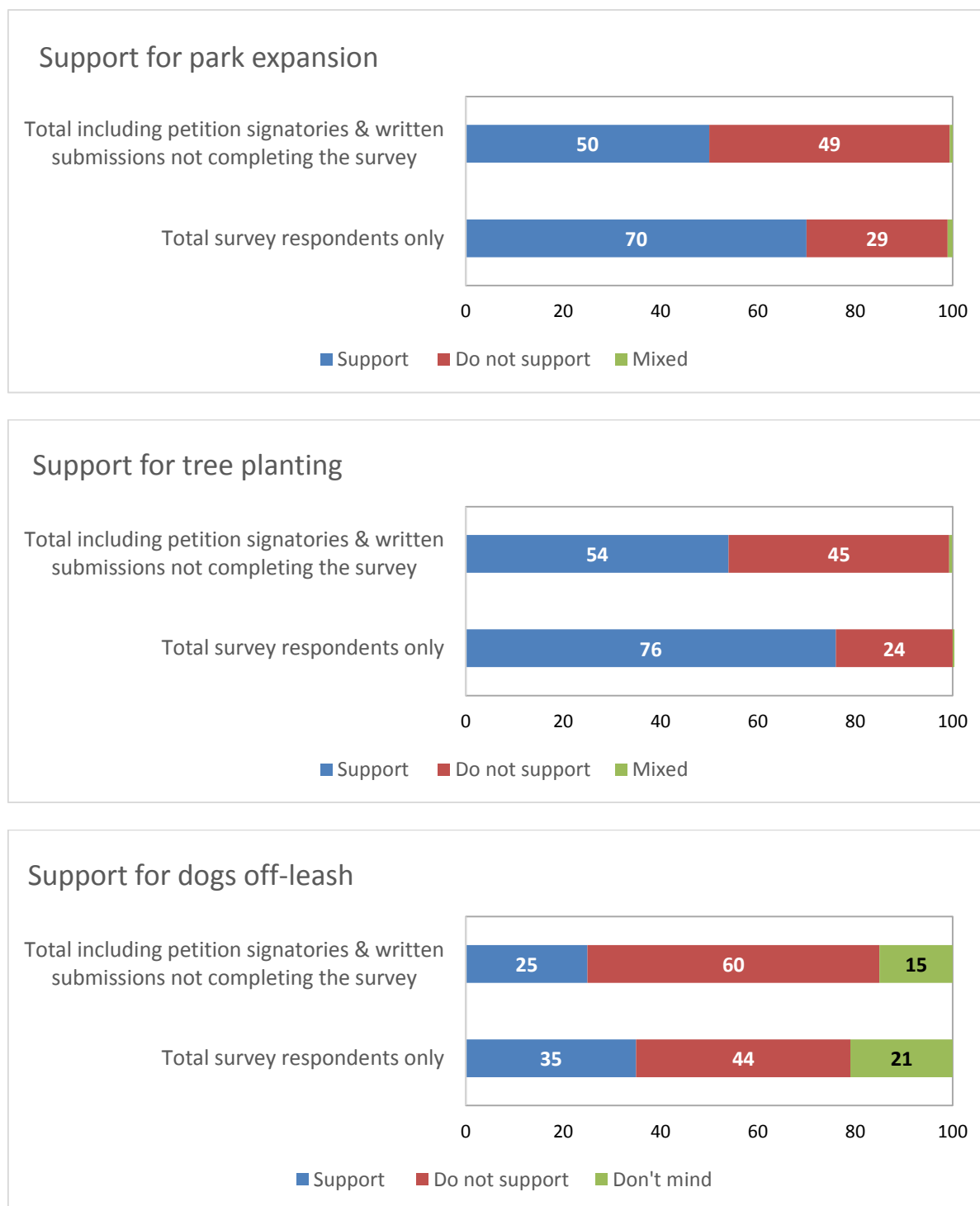
Figure 25: Online survey responses from people who submitted written correspondence

Base: signed petition and completed online survey	Support	Do not support	Don't mind	No answer	TOTAL
Park expansion	4	6			10
Tree planting	4	6			10
Dogs off-leash	0	8	2		10

## 7 ALL INCLUSIVE RESULTS

The following provides a comparison of the results for the key questions from those who completed the online survey compared with online survey respondents plus petition signatories and written submission not completing the online survey. It has been assumed that all petition signatories who have not completed the online survey did not support any of the plans. Note that each person is counted once only taking the online survey responses as the indicator of support where people submitted via multiple modes.

Figure 26: Effect of adding petition signatories to online survey responses



## Appendix 1: Ideas Plan

# MACARTHUR SQUARE

## IDEAS PLAN

With the population of Carlton expected to increase by 60 per cent by 2026, the City of Melbourne is looking to create the parks and climate-adapted landscapes we'll need in the future. To achieve this we are seeking community feedback on some key ideas for Macarthur Square.

### Background

The City of Melbourne's Open Space Strategy identifies Macarthur Square as a Local open space with a formal character. It recommends Council should "Continue to maintain and manage the heritage values balanced with contemporary recreational needs and values."

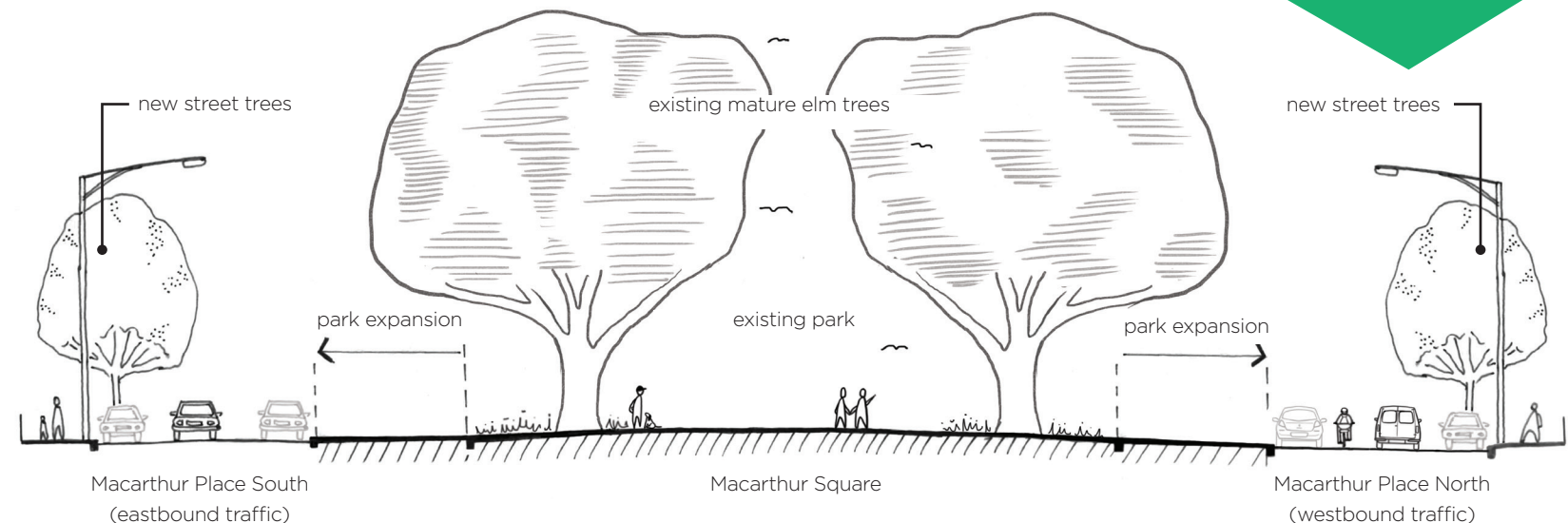
The strategy acknowledges additional open space will be required in Carlton as the population grows.

Council's Urban Forest Strategy also aims to increase canopy cover in the public realm to 40% by 2040. To achieve this, the City of Melbourne is planting 3000 new trees each year. Macarthur Place North and South are identified for priority tree planting activities in the Carlton Urban Forest Precinct Plan.

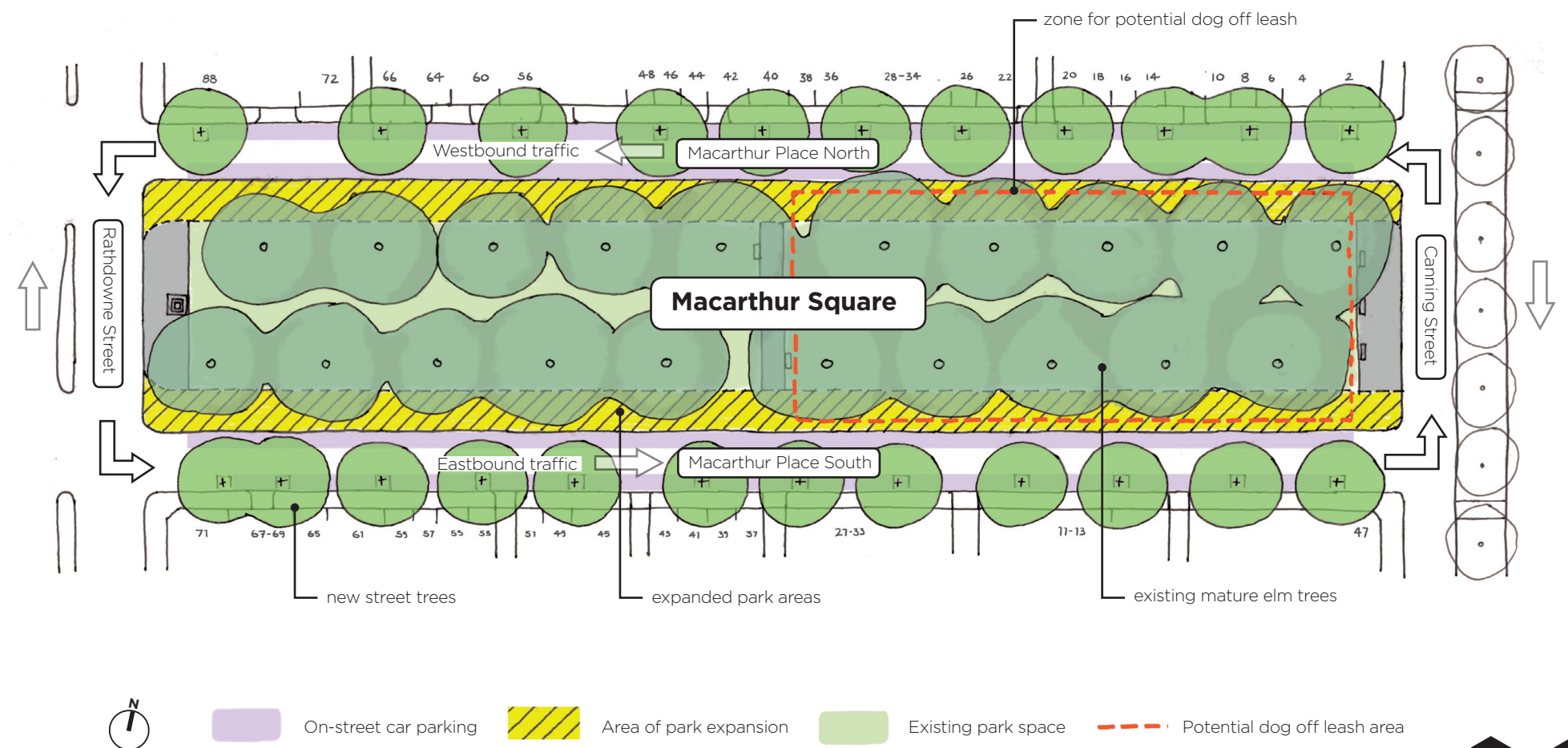
### Macarthur Square

Macarthur Square is currently used by the local community for a range of passive recreation activities such as sitting, picnicking and dog walking.

The dominant feature of Macarthur Square is the avenue of 20 mature elm trees. A recent survey indicates that the health of most of these trees is poor, with a useful life expectancy of less than ten years. We are looking at how we can extend the life of these trees in the Square.



Typical park cross section





# MACARTHUR SQUARE IDEAS PLAN

## PRELIMINARY DESIGN IDEAS

Based on preliminary site assessments, the attached plan shows three key ideas we would like your feedback on.

### 1. Expanding Macarthur Square

The plan shows the expansion of Macarthur Square parkland into Macarthur Place North and South.

This would increase the amount of park space for recreation activities. It would also improve the soil conditions for the existing elm trees and maximize the length of time they can be retained in the landscape.

To achieve this, we need to change Macarthur Place North and South into one-way streets. The plan shows how this would operate, with traffic circulating in an anticlockwise direction. Traffic movement along Rathdowne and Canning Streets would not be affected.

#### Traffic Calming

A traffic survey undertaken in September 2015 has shown that the speed of some vehicles using Macarthur Place North and South is higher than desired.

Council believes the narrowing of the roadways and the proposed expansion of Macarthur Square may assist in reducing vehicle travel speeds. If the community supports the park expansion, Council will monitor the vehicle travel speeds following the works. If vehicle speeds remain high, we will seek further feedback from the local community regarding additional traffic calming measures.

### 2. Activities in Macarthur Square

We are interested in how Macarthur Square can best support the recreation activities of a diverse local community.

One idea we would like to explore is whether the eastern half (the Canning Street end) of Macarthur Square could provide a dog off-leash area for the local community.

Dogs are allowed to be exercised off-leash in certain designated areas within the City of Melbourne, providing the owner remains in effective voice or hand control of the dog. Currently, the Carlton suburb does not have a designated dog off-leash area.

We would not propose to fence any dog off-leash area in Macarthur Square.

### 3. Street Tree Planting

In order to assist in the planning and sourcing of trees, we are seeking feedback on the street tree planting during this first stage of community engagement.

New tree planting is proposed within the bluestone channel of the existing parking lane in Macarthur Place North and South. The new trees would significantly increase canopy shade to the streets and footpaths around Macarthur Square, cooling the surrounding environment and reducing the expected impact of climate change.

The proposed species Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica* 'Cimmzam') is a deciduous, medium-sized tree that has consistent form and tolerances to suit the expected growing conditions. This selection is consistent with the Carlton Urban Forest Precinct Plan.

This would result in the loss of approximately 5 car parking spaces from Macarthur Square.



Existing conditions Macarthur Square - looking east

## GET INVOLVED

You can have your say by completing the questionnaire. You can also discuss these ideas with us in person at two information sessions in Macarthur Square on:

- Saturday 9th April 10am – 12pm
- Wednesday 13th April 12 – 2pm

Your feedback will assist in developing a draft concept plan for Macarthur Square, which will be released for community feedback later in the year.

Consultation closes Friday 22nd April.