



BRIERLY STREET IMPROVEMENTS

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD

The ACT Government is progressing with design work for a second stage of improvements to Brierly Street adjacent to Cooleman Court in Weston.

Cooleman Court is a busy, vibrant centre providing a range of shops and services. The centre was developed in the 1970s with the architecture reflecting this period. Previously we've heard Brierly Street is valued for its car parking, easy access to cafes and restaurants as well as its close proximity to bus stops. The local community also told us there is a need for safer walking and cycling opportunities, better spaces for outdoor dining and more trees, landscaping and greenery.

A few years had passed since we'd last spoken with the local community, and so further engagement was conducted to gather ideas and feedback from the Canberra community on improvements people would like to see to Brierly Street and the surrounding areas now. The recent feedback was aligned with what had previously been heard, the main themes being more trees and landscaping, improved pedestrian safety and better amenities including lighting.

THE CONVERSATION

Online survey

An online YourSay survey was open during the consultation period from Wednesday 30 June until Friday 6 August 2021 for the local community to provide feedback on how they currently use Brierly Street and what improvements they would like to see to it and Liardet Street.

Members of the local community also provided feedback via email.

Three pop-up sessions were held in Trenerry Square

On Thursday 15 July, Saturday 24 July and Thursday 29 July 2021, public pop-up sessions were held for the local community to ask questions and share their thoughts on improvements to Brierly Street.

WHO WE ENGAGED

Consultation and engagement targeted those members of the community who are regular users of, and visitors to, the Cooleman Court Group Centre.

95.8% of those who filled out the online survey identified themselves as users of Brierly Street with the majority identifying their use of it being to visit a shop/office/restaurant, walking to other parts of the centre or crossing the street to access the carpark.

The majority of respondents to the online survey identified as a couple living at home with children (42.5%) with most respondents in the 30-54 age group (65.4%).



Key insights from the community

What the community values most about Brierly Street

1. The variety of businesses along Brierly Street are valued by the community.
2. Brierly Street is a key access road for the community through the Weston Creek Group Centre.

Amenities

3. Improved seating would be welcomed along Brierly Street, with a number of people suggesting replacement of the seating at Trenerry Square to make it 'all-weather' use.
4. Concerns were raised about the lack of lighting, particularly at the pedestrian crossing on Brierly Street.
5. More areas for play would be welcomed with respondents commenting the lack of use of Trenerry Square could be partly attributed to the playground being on the opposite side of Coleman Court.

Landscaping, trees and open spaces

6. There was strong support for more greenery, particularly trees which were commented on as both improving the look of Brierly Street and providing shade.
7. More spaces for outdoor dining was a theme in the feedback with respondents indicating improved areas and wider verges could encourage businesses to spread outdoors.

Pedestrian safety

8. Feedback was mixed on what the best traffic arrangements were for Brierly Street however the majority of respondents were supportive of changes resulting in improved pedestrian safety including wider verges, lower speed limits and more pedestrian crossing opportunities.
9. Paving improvements were highlighted as not only improving pedestrian safety but also complementing outdoor dining and other uses of the sidewalks.

Liardet Street

10. Feedback displayed a strong preference for completion of an accessible and safe pedestrian connection from Brierly Street, through Trenerry Square and across the carpark to Liardet Street.
11. Road safety measures would be welcomed by the community particularly at intersections and existing business carparks.
12. There was also support for more traffic calming measures including speed cushions, signage and pedestrian refuges.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Feedback received will be used to create preliminary sketch plans for community discussion in early 2022.

Updates will continue to be provided via the YourSay page. If you have any questions about this project or would like to be kept updated on its progress, please email communityengagement@act.gov.au.



Key Timings

2016: Two-stage consultation was undertaken with the community and stakeholders to prepare concept designs for upgrades to Brierly Street and Trenerry Square.

Early 2017: Early designs released for future upgrades to Brierly Street based on the feedback received in 2016.

Mid-2017: Construction commences on the first stage of improvements to Trenerry Square and Brierly Street.

March 2018: First stage of improvements to Trenerry Square and Brierly Street are completed.

June 2021: Construction commences to deliver new pedestrian crossings on Parkinson Street and Liardet Street and additional streetlight at the Namatjira Drive underpass.

30 June 2021: Engagement commences with the local community and stakeholders revisiting the feedback from 2016 and getting input on improvements for Brierly Street and Liardet Street.

6 August 2021: Consultation closes.

November 2021: What We Heard report released [We are here]

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

1,500+

We reached more than 1,500 people via YourSay

3

We held three pop-ups at Trenerry Square.

336

We received 336 completed surveys

10

We received 10 written submissions

40

We sent emails to 40 key stakeholders

35,000+

We reached 36,708 people via social media.

50+

We spoke to more than 50 individuals at our pop-ups

<100

We delivered letters to around 100 businesses.