

## Two revitalisation options for Bair Street

Two different revitalisation options for Bair Street, Leongatha, will be presented to the community in May as part of the next round of the Leongatha Streetscape Master Plan consultation. Two options were prepared in response to diverse comments received from the community during the first round of community consultation in November and December 2015.

Improvements to Bair Street will form part of Leongatha Revitalisation Project. The town's Revitalisation Project also includes two other key projects:

- Anderson Street Town Entry Upgrade
- Railway Site Transformation

Manager Planning, Paul Stampton, said that two options will be taken to the community and detailed information on each will be provided to illustrate the options.

"Both of the options are in line with the principles of the Leongatha Streetscape Master Plan; to guide road and footpath improvements, new landscaping, street furniture and other upgrades to revitalise Bair Street," Mr Stampton explained. "This project takes advantage of the Leongatha Heavy Vehicle Alternate Route which will divert most heavy vehicle traffic away from Bair Street."

The two different revitalisation options that will be presented to the community include:

### Option A:

- Provide significant planting along both sides of the street
- Provide planting along a widened (from 1.5m to 4m) central median
- Provide regular crossing points (at 100m maximum intervals) and seating
- Widen footpath (from 4m to 6m) on both sides of Bair Street with picnic tables at the north eastern corner
- Provide angle parking on the western side of Bair Street south of Church Street
- Provide angle parking on the eastern side of Bair Street at the northern end
- Retain parallel parking along the rest of Bair Street
- Provide additional gathering spaces at crossing points and intersections
- Improve safety by creating a T-intersection at Young Street and a large gathering space linking to the start of the Great Southern Rail Trail

### Option B:

- Provide significant planting along both sides of the street
- Only retain central median for a short distance at northern end of Bair Street.
- Provide raised pedestrian crossings at regular crossing points (at 100m maximum interval) and seating
- Widen footpath (6-7m) on both sides of Bair Street with picnic tables at the north eastern corner
- Provide angle parking on the western side of Bair Street south of Church Street
- Provide alternating angle and parallel parking along the rest of Bair Street
- Provide additional gathering spaces at crossing points and intersections
- Improve safety by creating a T-intersection at Young Street and a large gathering space linking to the start of the Great Southern Rail Trail
- Modify the taxi rank to provide additional footpath and parking space

The draft Master Plan also proposes to:

Along Lyon Street:

- Resurface to provide a flush pavement (flat continuous surface like in Gollers Lane)
- Install in-ground planting along the street
- Reorganise the parking to parallel parking

Along Gollers Lane:

- Resurface the laneway (though not with road bitumen)
- Install tall thin trees and narrow garden beds (e.g. to provide climbing plants) with enough space for delivery trucks to access the lane and pedestrians to get around them

At Horticultural Park:

- Provide a clearer connection between Bair Street and the rail trail – drawing rail trail users into the town centre
- Extend the park by relocating the angle parking slightly to the west
- Provide an upgraded gathering space
- New enlarged play area next to the steps down from Bair Street

The draft Master Plan proposes to create a small park space with additional seating and greenery at Lardner Place and proposes tree planting along Hyland Place in kerb outstands.

Option C will not be pursued further as it reflects a previous plan for Bair Street that proposed angle parking along the length of what was then a State Highway, which Mr Stampton said did not respond to feedback received from the community about making the street more pedestrian-friendly and the project objectives including identified best practice.

The option of transforming Bair Street into a pedestrian mall was explored as Option D. However, Mr Stampton said the consultant team did not recommend this option based mainly on requiring alternative traffic routes.

“Council will present Options A and B to the community for two weeks of public exhibition in May with the feedback directly influencing the Draft Leongatha Streetscape Master Plan,” Mr Stampton explained.

“The community’s input has been instrumental in getting this project to this point; we are confident the two different options provide a positive future for the revitalisation of Leongatha and we look forward to achieving a successful outcome.”

**PR1832 29/4/16**