



Leongatha's centre to be revitalised

Council adopted the Leongatha Streetscape Master Plan for Bair Street at its Ordinary Meeting yesterday and will now commence the detailed design phase of the project.

The Final Master Plan was prepared for Council adoption in response to community feedback received and is based on the preferred option, Option B.

Two Revitalisation Options, Option A and Option B, were presented to the community in June and July this year as part of the project's second round of engagement. Director Development Services, Bryan Sword, said following public consultation Option B was clearly the preferred design for Bair Street between McCartin Street and Church Street.

"The Master Plan responds to best practice urban design and sustainability principles, presenting a valuable opportunity to directly influence the future social and economic vibrancy of Leongatha and South Gippsland," Mr Sword explained.

The Leongatha Streetscape Master Plan is a priority project of Council and aims to enhance Leongatha's town centre through improvements to amenity, pedestrian use and economic sustainability. The Master Plan guides road and footpath improvements, new landscaping, street furniture, and other upgrades to revitalise Bair Street from McCartin Street to the railway bridge, Lyon Street, Gollers Lane, Lardner Place, parts of Church Street and Horticultural Park.

In response to public feedback, key changes were made to the Option B plan (preferred design) including rationalisation of pedestrian crossings in Bair Street; retaining angle parking in Lyon Street; removing proposed in-ground trees from Gollers Lane and installing removable planting beds on a trial basis; and removing proposed trees along the footpath in Lardner Place.

"Council has committed funds in the 2016/17 Annual Budget to complete the detailed design," Mr Sword said. "The indicative cost is approximately \$4.8 million. However, the detailed design process will inform the final project cost."

In addition to Council's current budgetary allocations, grant funding support from the State and Federal Governments will be sought to complete this priority project.

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