



Foster Streetscape Progress Report

After a number of years of planning, community consultation and advocacy Council can confirm that tenders for the Foster Streetscape project have recently closed.

Council's Manager of Engineering and Assets, John Moylan, is pleased that the project is nearing the construction phase. "At this stage it is expected that the tender will be awarded prior to Christmas. Works are likely to commence late January, as soon as the peak school-holidays period is over.

"The Foster Streetscape project will improve parking and drainage, help divert heavy vehicles away from the main streets, provide better visual features and increase overall street appeal. The project will also see the enhancement of the laneway between the supermarket and neighbouring carpark. The design has been developed over a number of years through consultation with the Foster Community Association and Foster Chamber of Commerce. There has also been input on landscaping and street furniture from the broader community. The project is based on making the main streets more pedestrian friendly by slowing traffic down and providing more opportunities for pedestrians to cross safely.

"Economic analysis undertaken for the Foster Streetscape project found that it will have a direct beneficial impact of \$8.9 million over the next 20 years. This includes the support of existing businesses and 200 employees, creation of 41 new ongoing retail jobs and seven short-term construction jobs. This is achieved through the attraction of greater retail expenditure by residents, holiday home owners and tourists.

"The diversion of heavy vehicles and the streetscape works will create a significant improvement in amenity for pedestrians and businesses within the town centre. This enables local retailers to attract more visitors and increase expenditure through kerbside dining, a progression towards higher quality food and dining options, and higher volume of retail sales.

"The Foster community should be commended for its input into this project and for its patience while Council secured a supporting grant from the Victorian Government," concluded Mr Moylan.

PR1965 15/12/16