



Lithgow Main Street Restoration – Stage 2

Concept Design

Introduction

Lithgow council is committed to supporting the ongoing vitality of the Lithgow CBD into the future. It has recognised that a coordinated vision for the enhancement and management of the public domain in Lithgow's Central Business District (CBD) is required to drive these aspirations. Stage 1 of the Main Street Restoration Program has been completed (Cook Street Plaza, Eskbank Street and Pioneer Park).

The CBD Revitalisation Program aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Improving accessibility and car parking
- Enhancing streetscape and character
- Upgrading and providing additional public amenities
- Activating public domain space and vacant buildings
- Embracing community driven place marketing
- Increasing community safety
- Developing collective marketing and branding.

Underlying these objectives is the need to restructure the local economy and adapt its infrastructure so that it can continue to diversify its economic base and meet the changing needs of the residential and business community and visitors to the region.

Stage 2 – Main Street Pavement restoration – Cook Street to Bridge Street proposes to build on the works already completed in Stage 1 linking Cook Street Plaza through Eskbank Street Square to Pioneer Park and the Bridge Street Square intersection at the top of the Main Street. The continuation of brick banding, shotblast concrete and bluestone edged pavement will be softened by vibrant planter pots and trellis planters in key locations along the street with plantings at the intersections of Eskbank Street and Bridge Street.

Have your say!

The Council is inviting the retailers and businesses in the Lithgow CBD and the community to provide feedback on Stage 2 of the Lithgow Main Street Restoration.

Submissions will be received in writing until Friday 15 March 2024.

Email: council@lithgow.nsw.gov.au

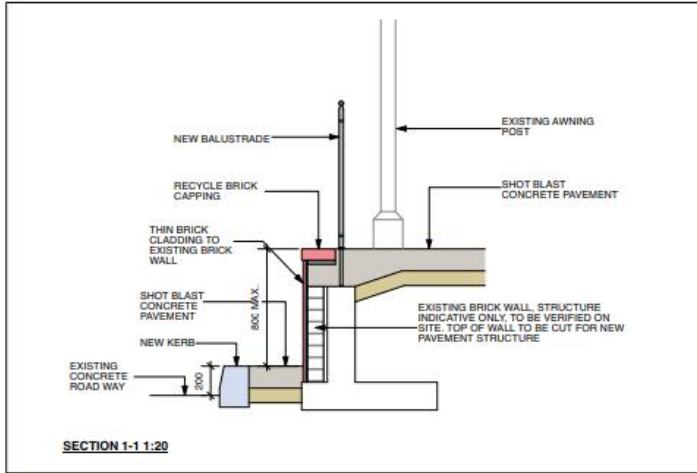
Mail: Lithgow City Council PO Box 19, Lithgow NSW 2790

Online: www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com

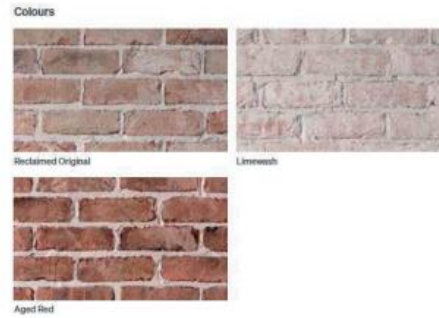
Scan here to
have your say



FOOTPATH LAYOUT – Main Street West



Section



230L x76H x 18mm Thick recycled brick



3D views



Precedent image

FOOTPATH LAYOUT – Main Street West

Brick banding with consistent spacing (6m) to speak to the pavement arrangement of Cook Street Plaza



Shot blast finish concrete as main pavement body



Recycled brick bandings ascent pavement



Bluestone paving strip to building facade



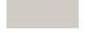




Legend - Pavement

- Shot blast finish concrete pavement
- Recycled brick banding
- Bluestone pavement
- Expansion joint
- Sawn contraction joint

FOOTPATH LAYOUT – Main Street East

Brick banding with consistent spacing (6m) to speak to the pavement arrangement of Cook Street Plaza



Legend - Pavement	
	Shot blast finish concrete pavement
	Recycled brick banding
	Bluestone pavement
	Expansion joint
	Sawn contraction joint

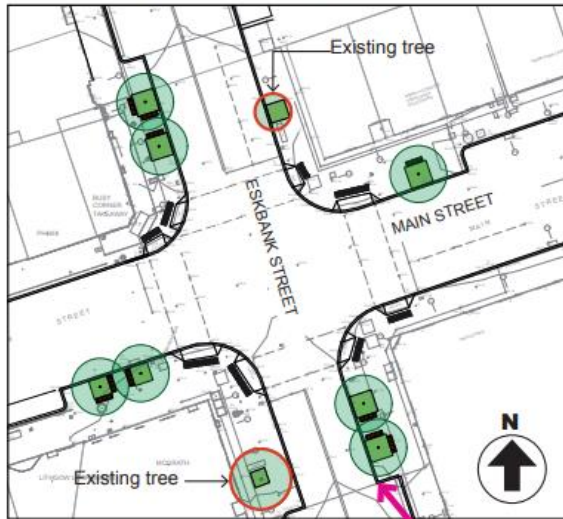




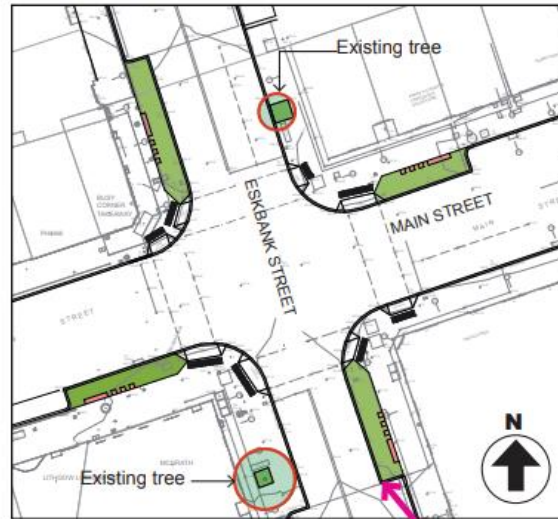
Eskbank Street Intersection 2024

Garden Street - Garden Bed to Intersections - Eskbank St/ Main St Intersection

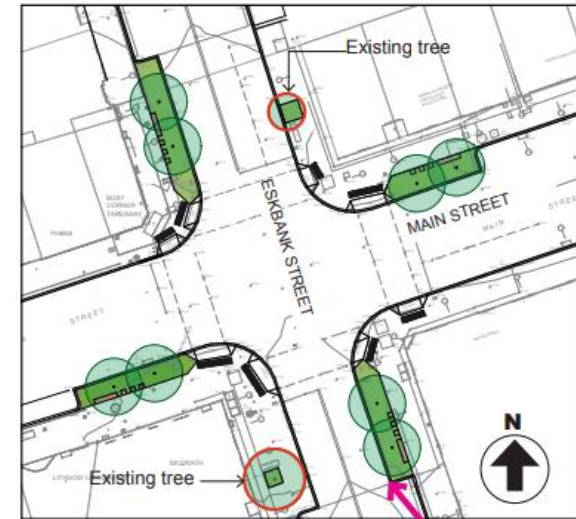
- Stage one scope considered potential for future raised intersection and scramble crossing
- If raising is not to occur – potential to integrate more greening through planting to intersection



Plan - Option 1 - Individual tree pits with garden bed



Plan - Option 2 - garden bed



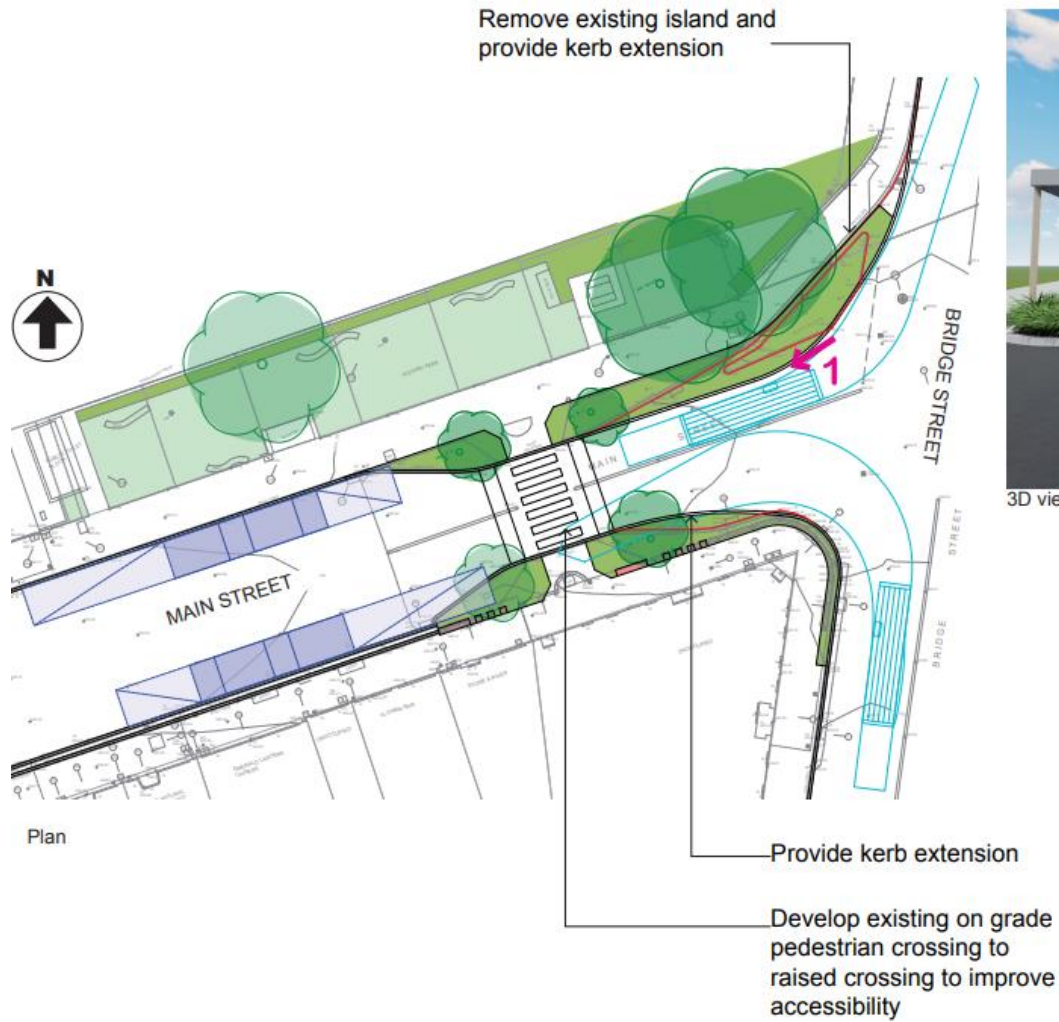
Plan - Option 3 - garden bed with tree canopies





Greening our city - creating inviting entrances to Main Street.

Garden Street - Garden Bed to Intersections - Bridge St/ Main St Intersection

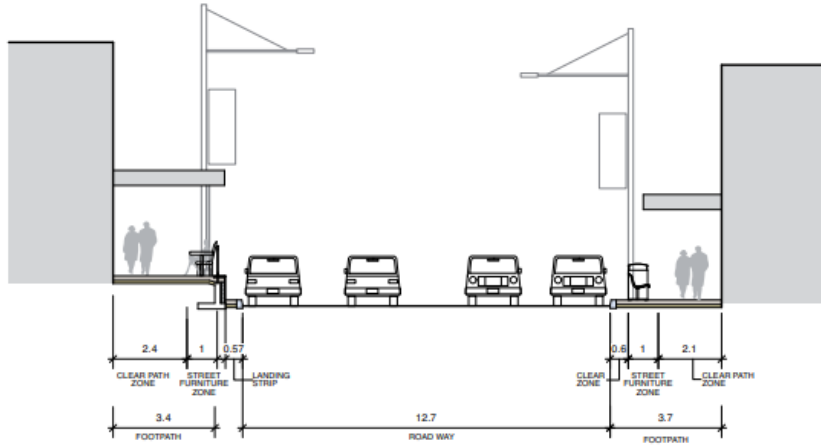


Legend - Garden bed to intersection

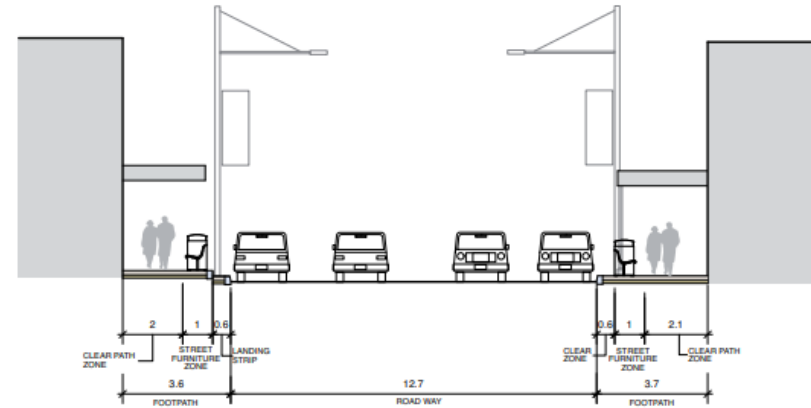
	Garden bed
	Turf
	Existing tree
	Proposed tree
	Recycled brick sitting wall and cube
	Back seat

The Bridge Street Intersection will become a major civic precinct providing expanded opportunities for events and supporting the ongoing activation of Bridge Street.

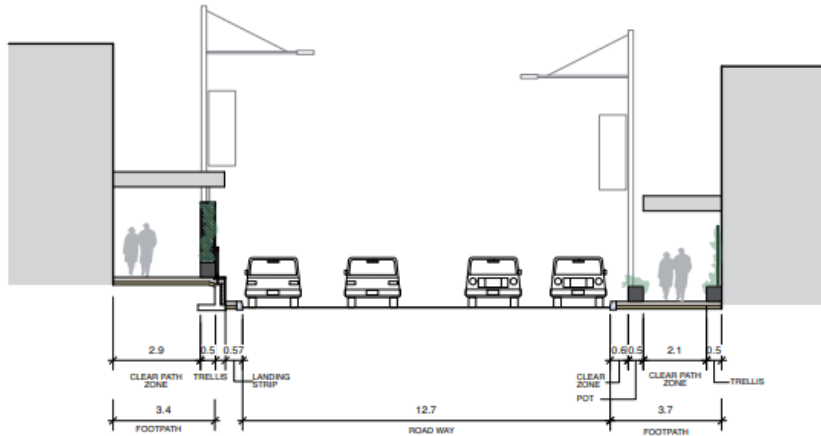
Proposed Street Furniture, Trellis and Pots



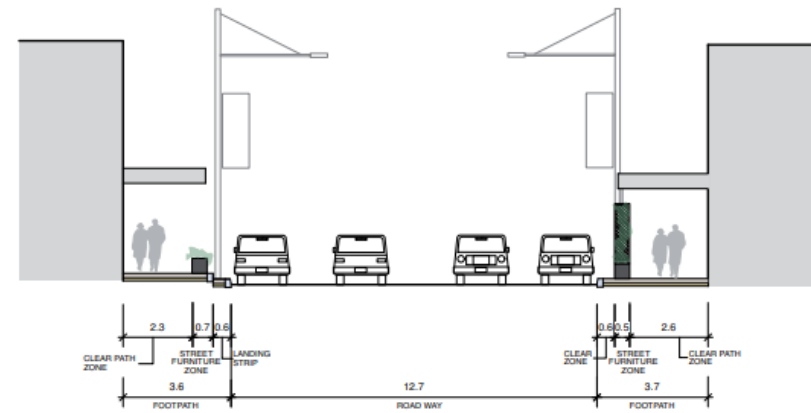
Proposed - Street Furniture



Proposed - Street Furniture



Proposed - Trellis and Pot



Proposed - Trellis and Pot

Garden Street - Trellis and Pots



Independent trellis type 1 against blank wall of building facade



Independent trellis type 2 to awning post



Pots

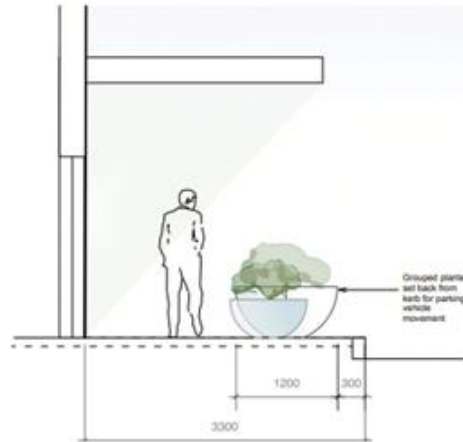
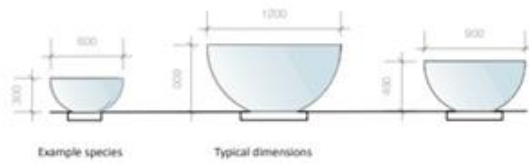
Item: Custom planter Bowl

Application : Main Street,Civic plaza,

Location: Closed facades i.e Commonwealth Bank, west fund,Hotels, food outlets

Material: Mild steel -Powder coated

Plant Type: Shrubs, Annuals - Rhododendrons -community garden.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will we be kept informed of this project and timelines?

The council will set up a dedicated webpage for this project which will detail the timelines and progress of the project.

Regular updates will be posted on Council's Facebook page @LithgowCityCouncil and included in Council's weekly subscriber eNewsletter, Council Connections. You can subscribe via the www.ourplaceourfuture.lithgow.com website.

Periodic updates will be included in the Council Community Update published monthly in the Lithgow Mercury and Village Voice.

Where appropriate, radio advertising will be used to inform of any additional disruption to the community such as temporary street closures.

How will Main Street businesses be kept informed of this project and timelines?

Council's Project Manager will liaise with individual businesses on a regular basis and will identify how they wish to receive project updates in addition to the means outlined above.

When will the work commence and how long will the project take?

The project is scheduled to start in August 2024 and construction will take 9-12 months to complete. The Council is required to finalise and acquit the grants by December 2025.

How much is this project costing?

The project is predominantly grant funded with \$2m from the State Government and \$2m from Federal government funding. The council is contributing \$500k in the 2024/25 Operational Plan funded from Special Parking Rate levies held in reserve.

The non-Council grant funding for this project is for a specific purpose only – the renewal of the Main Street footpaths from Cook Street Plaza through to Bridge Street. It cannot be allocated to any other project.

You announced the grant funding for this project in 2022. Why has it taken so long to get to this stage?

The Council received a \$2m grant in 2022 from the State Government which relied upon Council matching the fund dollar for dollar. The council then applied for a grant from the Federal Government which allowed use of the NSW Government funds as a co-contribution to the grant. This will enable the Council to divert \$2m of ratepayer funds to other projects in the 2024/25 Operational Plan. This is an excellent result.

Why are you spending \$4.5m doing this project and not spending the money to fix roads?

Grant funding from Governments can only be spent on the project that it was received for. It cannot be used for another project or purpose.

CBD Businesses pay a parking special rate. What is this used for?

"The special rate for parking for 151 CBD properties has continued within the designated area of Lithgow. At the Council meeting held on 26 November 2018 it was resolved:

18 – 349 RESOLVED

THAT Council take the following action from the 2019/20 financial year:

- 1. Utilise the parking special rate for Lithgow CBD capital works and maintenance.*
- 2. Determine a specific program of works and activities which will be funded from the parking special rate for inclusion in each year's Operational Plan (Revenue Policy).*

3. Any parking special rate funds not utilised in a financial year be placed in an internally restricted reserve for future Lithgow CBD capital works and maintenance.

4. That the outcome of the program is reported to the Council annually and that the program is reviewed in 5 years.

The ad valorem rate and estimated yield is provided below.

The remaining Parking Special Rate income will be allocated to the Main Street Revitalisation project as a co-contribution for the grant funded project. Any parking special rate funds not utilised will be placed in an internally restricted reserve for future Lithgow CBD capital works and maintenance”.

The review of the Parking Special Rate is due for completion by 30 June 2024.

	Parking Special Rate Income	
	Ad Valorem Amount (\$)	Estimated Yield (\$ GST Exclusive)
Designated area of Lithgow	0.65782	277,673

Parking Special Rate – Program of Works	
Project	Budget (\$)
CBD Street Sweeping	95,737
“Made in Lithgow” Lighting Installation Maintenance	10,000
Main Street Banner Program	22,900

How much does Council have in reserves for ongoing capital works for the CBD?

Council holds \$500K in reserves for ongoing CBD capital works. The funds were specifically set aside to build a grant funding co-contribution for the Main Street Upgrade project.

Will the Council install parking meters as a revenue stream and a way to pay for improvements to the CBD?

The council is not considering the installation of parking meters as part of this project.

The pavers in Main Street need to be made safe; the ramps at intersections from the footpath to the road are slippery in wet weather and some pavers are sitting up creating a trip hazard. How do you plan to fix this?

Stage 2 will see the pavers and kerb replaced between Cook Street and Bridge Street with shotblast concrete interspersed with heritage brick banding and bluestone edges. The project emphasises pedestrian thoroughfare and walkability. A specific outcome of this work will be the reconstruction of all pram ramps that meet current accessibility standards.

When will you be renewing the Cook Street to Lithgow Street footpath?

The Main Street Restoration Project is a multi-stage project with funding of later stages still to be secured. The renewal of the footpath between Cook Street and Lithgow Street is part of the Master Action Plan. The process will commence once funding is secured.

Will businesses in the Cook Street to Lithgow Street Section of Main Street also be consulted prior to commencement of this section?

All CBD businesses are invited to provide feedback on Stage 2 of the project. This will inform the final look and feel of the Entire length of Main Street from Lithgow Street to Bridge Street.

The step up to the kerb is too high, how will this be improved?

The existing brick kerb is 200mm high which is above the standard 150mm. Kerb stones come in different sizes depending on their intended use. Standard sizes can range from 150mm to 300mm in height. The height of 200mm kerb stones will be used as it is needed to incorporate the outlets for rainwater from the awnings. Part of the scope of work for the footpath renewal will be to raise the outlets by 50mm to accommodate a new asphalt road surface as part of a future stage in the Main Street upgrade. Once the new surface is installed, the height of the kerb will be reduced to 150mm.

The Main Street Restoration Project is a multi-stage project with funding of later stages still to be secured. Asphaltting of the concrete road is reliant upon the footpath being fully replaced between Bridge Street and Lithgow Street.

When will you replace the concrete road pavement with asphalt?

Funding for this later stage of the Main Street upgrade is still to be secured. The first step is the upgrade of the entire footpath, kerb & gutter, drainage and existing inground services. Asphaltting of the concrete road is reliant upon the footpath being fully replaced between Bridge Street and Lithgow Street.

How much space will the planters take up? Will I hit them with my car door?

Planters currently exist on Main Street and do not interfere with entering and exiting your car. The new proposed planters will be similar in size to the existing planters.

Will the Council be installing EV charging points in Main Street?

The EV Charging Strategy was developed in collaboration with the Lithgow Community Power Project by the UTS Institute for Sustainable Futures in 2022 – [Lithgow's Electric Car Parks – An EV charging strategy for the Lithgow LGA and Main Street Precinct](#). The Strategy provides a framework for a consistent, community-driven approach to the deployment of EV destination charging infrastructure by Council and third-party service providers.

The Strategy sets out a long-term vision (10 years) with a short-term (3 years) and Implementation Plan for how publicly accessible EV charging infrastructure will be deployed within the Lithgow LGA. The resulting services are intended to benefit residents, visitors, and businesses with an initial focus on the Lithgow CBD precinct.

A key goal of the Council is to ensure that there is adequate charging infrastructure to support EV users wanting to make the best use of their time. The Council is currently working with NRMA (National Road and Motorist Association) on a project to install an EV Charging Station in the Eskbank Street Carpark, not Main Street. This location will enable visitors to take advantage of our cafes and shops whilst their vehicle is charging.

How is Council going to improve accessibility in Main Street?

The Main Street Revitalisation Action Plan process has identified that the Main Street entry could be significantly improved to provide a more generous civic access which could improve night comfort and security.

All pram ramps will also be replaced to ensure compliance with modern standards, and disabled parking spaces will also be upgraded to ensure they meet current standards regarding length, width, crossfall and footpath accessibility.

Why is the council replacing the current slippery pavers with concrete and not extending the bluestone pavers in front of the post office along the Main Street?

A study was performed to evaluate the performance of different surfaces for the Main Street footpath which included bluestone pavers compared to concrete. The study concluded that concrete outperformed the bluestone pavers in slip resistance and durability.

It is also a simpler process to reinstate slip resistance of concrete over time with sand blasting, acid etching, or similar.

The materials that will be used for this project are still in keeping with the heritage and the surrounding environment of Lithgow. The concrete pavement lifts and lightens the Main Street and is softened by heritage brick bands and bluestone which speak to the heritage architecture and fabric of Lithgow.

The use of concrete also allows for easier cleaning and maintenance. Overall, the cost to construct and whole of life cost is less than it would be for installation and ongoing maintenance of the bluestone pavers for the entire footpath.

The handrails from the elevated footpath to road between Cook Street and Bridge Street are not suitable particularly for a taller person.

The new handrails have been designed to comply with the current Australian Standards (AS1428) - *"The top of the handrail must be not less than 865mm or greater than 1000mm from the nosing of a stair or the plane of the finished floor level on a ramp, walkway or landing"*.

Will the Council be planting more street trees in the CBD?

Plantings will be included at the intersections of Eskbank Street and Bridge Streets. Bridge Street will become a focal entry to the Main Street like the Lithgow Street intersection.

Three concepts have been developed for the Eskbank Street intersection to soften and make this a 'green' focal point.

Pot planters and trellis planters to be placed against large blank walls or around awning posts will be placed at intervals along the Main Street.

Will there be on-street dining for cafes like in other CBDs with planters and shelters?

The council will make every effort to consult with businesses to establish needs in relation to on-street dining. Overall, this project is being delivered to make Main Street a more attractive place to shop and conduct business. On street trading contributes to a more vibrant, lively and accommodating space. Contributing to the potential for on-street trading strongly features as part of this project.

What is the cost of ongoing maintenance for the planters and gardens?

The council will be working with the retailers and businesses on Main Street to ascertain their level of interest in maintaining planter pots.

The council has also commenced a program of replacing 'high maintenance' street tree species with less labor-intensive species throughout the LGA. This will enable Council to divert Parks & Garden staff from pruning programs to other projects such as maintaining green spaces in the CBD. To date, this work has already occurred on Mort Street, Lithgow, with several 'mop tops' being replaced with a more appropriate species.

Will the Council ensure the permanent plantings at intersections and Cook Street Plaza and Pioneer Park are maintained?

Council will be considering a detailed design of the permanent plantings which will include low-maintenance species and the development of maintenance schedules to ensure that greenspaces are always looking their best. Engagement with Council's employed horticulturalists will occur as part of the broader consultation for this project to ensure this aspect of the yearly maintenance is appropriately addressed.

How will you reduce the impact of disruption on businesses?

The council acknowledges that businesses and the community may be disrupted during the project. However, it is intended that the project will be undertaken in stages to reduce any inconvenience. The council will not be ripping the footpath up all in one go. The project will be staged so that the work is undertaken in small sections and then progressed forward. All businesses will be aware of when works will be undertaken in front of them so they can plan their trading and inform their customers/clients.

It should be noted that there may be times when the timeframes may need to be adjusted due to unforeseen circumstances. The infrastructure under the surface in Main Street is ageing and something unplanned may be found. In such cases, Council will work with business and keep everyone informed of any deviations or extensions to timeframes as the project progresses.

What if I have an appointment or wish to go to a certain shop and the footpath is being ripped up in front of that business?

Businesses will be aware of when the footpath renewal is going to be undertaken in front of their shop or business. Every effort will be made to minimise impact to businesses during high-traffic periods. A schedule of work will be available in advance so they will be able to plan for this disruption and keep their loyal customers or clients informed of any changes to appointments or their hours of service.

What about events such as Beatlesfest, Halloween and Christmas – will they be cancelled or only held in the bottom half of the Main Street?

No, Council has factored in 'hold points' in the project timeline. This will mean that for a short period preceding and during these events, the upgrade project will temporarily stop. This will enable all businesses to take advantage of visitor trading during events and the CBD will be promoted as "open for business".

Have you factored in delays due to weather conditions?

Yes, weather conditions will be factored into the project. One advantage of this project is the awnings will provide under-cover construction enabling work to continue during adverse weather.

I live above the shops in Main Street – will you be undertaking 'out of hours' work?

All work is expected to be undertaken during normal working hours. However, if there is a temporary change to the hours of operation, Council will ensure that all Main Street residents are informed in advance.

The original CBD Revitalisation Action Plan was developed in 2015. Has the design intent been updated since then?

Yes, as part of this stage of the project, the Council engaged the landscape architects, who have been involved with the project since its conception, to review the original masterplan. The materials that will be used for this project are still in keeping with the heritage setting and the surrounding environment of Lithgow. The concrete pavement lifts and lightens the Main Street and is softened by heritage brick bands and bluestone which speak to the heritage architecture and fabric of Lithgow. The greening will mirror the surrounding bush clad hills that can be seen from anywhere in the CBD.



Have your say!

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