



OUTCOMES REPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

DRAFT GALSTON VILLAGE PUBLIC DOMAIN PLAN

Abstract

The draft Galston Village Public Domain Plan was exhibited from April 29 to June 2, 2024, to gather community feedback on proposed improvements. This report summarises responses received during the exhibition period and outlines the key themes and suggestions provided by the community.

Hornsby Shire Council
July 2024

INTRODUCTION

Council prepared exhibition documentation for proposals to introduce traffic-calming measures and amend parking arrangements in the main street, and upgrade paths, roadside verges, and the corner park in Galston Village.

The works seek to enable upgrades that account for higher level of use due to population growth, and deliver facilities, amenity and environmental improvement. Specifically, the work proposes to deliver:

- Revised parking arrangements
- Traffic-calming measures
- Footpath and safe crossing improvements
- Enhanced water sensitive urban design (WSUD) drainage systems
- Street tree planting and landscape works
- Improved public spaces for leisure and recreation

The Public Domain Plan was exhibited from April 29 to June 2, 2024 via Drop-in Sessions, Council's Have Your Say webpage and briefing to Arcadia Galston Residents Association (AGRA).

Notification of the exhibition and invitation to make submissions were provided via signage and flyer distribution in Galston Village, supported by email newsletter, social media and local newspaper advertisement.

As a result of the exhibition and engagement, valuable input was received, which will inform the next phase of design development towards construction.



SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

During the engagement period, 68 submissions were received, with around 100 people attending the Drop-In sessions, and approximately 60 people attending the AGRA Briefing.

In general, strong support was received for the proposals involving traffic-calming measures, improved pedestrian safety, wider paths and greater accessibility for the elderly or those with mobility issues. Strong support was also received for more planting and shade cover, and improved public spaces for leisure and recreation.

From the total of (68) submissions received, forty-six (46) submissions were generally in favour and expressed the need for upgrades, twenty-one (21) expressed neither support or opposition but provided suggestions or raised concerns about aspects of proposals, and one (1) submission disagreed that any upgrade was required at all.

KEY THEMES

This section summarises the key findings and narratives that emerged from the online survey, community Drop-In Sessions and the AGRA Meeting.

Village character

Preserving and enhancing village character was one of the topics raised in many submissions and in the AGRA briefing.

The residents of Galston stress the importance of outcomes remaining rural and distinctive from urban areas.

Vehicle speed and crossings

There is widespread support for a Speed Zone Reduction being adopted in Galston Village and many provided support for all traffic and parking proposals.

While it is broadly acknowledged that the existing setting is dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians, for those commenting directly on the topic of

crossings, twenty-three (23) directly expressed favour for the introduction of pedestrian crossings with eight (8) expressing opposition to any crossings. There were also differing views about crossings being raised or not raised. Fifteen (15) of the affirmative submissions support crossings being raised and four (4) support crossings but not raised. Another four (4) query the number of crossings required.

The Glen Street 'rat run'

Concerns were raised that more traffic will elect to take a diversion through two local streets, Glen Street and The Glade, in order to bypass the shopping area.

The issue was raised at Drop-In Sessions and seven (7) online submissions were received in relation to this issue. It is noted that use of Glen Street as a 'rat run' is an existing issue, where concerns are that this may worsen as a result of proposed changes. Concerns were also raised about the speed of vehicles entering Glen Street and pedestrian crossing safety.

Parking at the shops:

While many submissions support all traffic and parking proposals, differing opinions were provided about a median being incorporated and changes to parking immediately in front of the shops on Galston Road.

Twenty-four (24) submissions supported the angled parking and median, believing it would improve safety for all shop visitors with seven (7) opposed.

Some expressed concerns that angled parking is unsafe or that preventing car access from the east is unfair, would worsen the issue with Glen St being used as a 'rat run' and that parking numbers should not be compromised in this location.

Other submissions provided recommendations such as keeping the 90-degree parking, extending angled parking to the south side of the road, remove angled parking altogether, and changing parking to 'reverse-in'.

Access to toilet facilities

Availability and access to wheelchair accessible public toilet facilities within Galston Village was raised through several online submissions, during the Drop-In Sessions and at the briefing with AGRA.

Twenty-one (21) submissions expressed concerns with the lack of availability to accessible toilet facilities located with the Aldi Village marketplace. The Council facilities at the Galston Library are considered by many to be inconvenient in their location, away from the shops.

It is noted that management practices have changed for existing accessible facilities located within the Aldi Village Marketplace. The facilities have been managed for restricted access for the last 10 years but are now open for access daily. An understanding of this recent change is not reflected in a number of submissions.

Planting species and maintenance

The choice of tree and planting species and concerns with ongoing maintenance were mentioned in several submissions and during discussions at Drop-In Sessions and the Briefing with AGRA.

There are differing opinions regarding the preference for native or deciduous tree species.

Concerns about future maintenance were raised by a few residents. Some suggested that council have a long-term maintenance plan for any works proposed in Galston. AGRA group also offered to organise community volunteers to assist in maintaining the street gardens.

Other community concerns

In addition to key themes, submissions raised specific issues such as increasing parking availability, ensuring planting does not obstruct views or impact on bin servicing, reconsider playground location, retaining the village carpark slip lane, providing facilities for horse riders, and upgrading lighting.

NB: Plans will be refined in response to the exhibition and through detailed design development, including for all components illustrated in the draft Public Domain Plan.

PROGRAM

Following the broad Community Engagement, Council will collaborate with consultants to refine the design and prepare construction documentation for Tender. Construction is expected to commence in 2025 for completion in the first half of 2026.

Updates on progress and amended plans will be exhibited on the Council webpage, providing opportunity for further comment as the project progresses.

FINANCIAL PLAN

Council's Delivery Program 2022-26 identifies a need for the creation of vibrant town centres in Hornsby Shire, with Galston identified for

improvements in 2025/26 to support the local economy and encourage visitation to the Shire.

The project is identified in Council's Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) with capital works and general funding being provided to see the project through to completion.

TfNSW APPROVAL

As Galston Road is a State Road, Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) approval is required. Council will obtain a Road and Safety Audit (RSA) to provide recommendations for achieving compliance with guidelines and Australian Standards before submission to TfNSW for approval.

NEXT STEPS

The exhibition for receiving of submissions was closed on Sunday, 02 June 2024. Outcomes of the Community Engagement process will be considered in the refinement of the concept design.

Meetings with landowners will be undertaken regarding proposals tabled in the draft PDP which involve works on privately-owned property. Additional engagement will be undertaken with key stakeholders.

Through design development and detailed design phases, aspects of draft PDP proposals will be refined. This will include roadway elements and spatial design for the park, plus detailed planning for planting, furniture and other elements to be realised within the public domain.

The plans will be subject to a Road Safety Audit to assess proposed parking changes and traffic-calming measures including median and crossing proposals for compliance with Australian Standards. Subsequently, the plan will be submitted for Approval by Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW).

Summary of Submissions are provided in the table below.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS – draft Galston Village Public Domain Plan

Exhibition Period 29 April – 2 June 2024

Summary of comments received

1	<i>With all the retirement developments being constructed around Galston at with moment this looks like a very good idea.</i>
2	<i>More street trees for shade and wildlife - fantastic. I also like the new parking proposal as what we've got is unsafe. Local businesses are reluctant to let you use the toilets at the shops. If providing a play area near Aldi, access to toilets is essential.</i>
3	<i>Plants - not just natives - use deciduous trees, layers and hedging - make it classy and beautiful. Employ a maintenance crew to look after it.</i>
4	<i>I absolutely love the plan proposed here. I have kids who will be walking back and forth between the Village and Galston High School, and I would love them to have better crossings and more shade on the way. We also spend a lot of time at the local shops and the proposed outdoor space improvements look wonderful. I would be very happy for this plan to be implemented as is.</i>
5	<i>Love the pedestrian crossings, speed zone reduction and bicycle parking. Consider also providing for horse riders.</i>
6	<i>Showcase local values and attractions - flora, horse-riding, produce, play and access to all venues.</i>
7	<i>Provide accessible toilets facilities at Aldi - for cyclists, elderly and kids walking home from school.</i>
8	<i>Why angled parking? Two crossings are not necessary on Galston Road - disruptive to traffic flow.</i>
9	<i>Instead of at the library, put motorcycle parking near the café. The new bus zone and the corner park development are good proposals but don't mess with the traffic flow and car parking numbers.</i>
10	<i>All looks good.</i>
11	<i>Currently anyone visiting has to either purchase something from the cafe near Aldi to use their toilet facilities or walk to the library.</i>
12	<i>I like the majority of the things mentioned in this plan but am strongly against the angled parking and long median in the middle of the road, impacting on access for arrivals from the east. A small crossing island could have the same safety impact while retaining 90-degree parking in front of the shops.</i>
CDC	<i>Support proposals for bus stop changes and upgrades.</i>
13	<i>The design overall is good but why delete the turning lane into Galston Village carpark? Why remove parking places on the side of the road and put in trees? Angle parking in front of the shops should be reverse-in for safety reasons.</i>

14	Traffic Calming on Galston Rd is a great outcome for the local centre but may affect Glen Street and The Glade becoming a 'rat run'.
	The artists impression of the Village Park is out of character with a rural setting, a little 'busy'.
15	The draft design will enhance the streetscape for local residents and visitors alike. I've lived in the area for over 45 years and I'm looking forward to seeing a new and revamped shopping precinct.
16	I think this is an amazing idea very inclusive for all ages.
17	Including more parking spaces would be more beneficial, in my opinion.
18	Love it
19	Looks good - but must maintain the gardens!
20	1) The proposed bus waiting areas need to have covered shelters . Lots of students catch the bus from Galston to Northholm Grammar and often wait at the pergola at Galston shops to be dropped/ collected after school. If the stop is moved, then they need somewhere dry to wait.
	2) moving the bus stop isn't suitable for elderly / less mobile members of the public or visitors who may be using the bus to get to the shops, pharmacy or dentist or to Fagan Park.
21	It is fantastic to see the Council looking to upgrade the Galston Shopping Village. Hopefully it will encourage the shop property owners to also refurbish their buildings. The park at the corner of Galston and Arcadia roads should include a covered area where people could shelter from the sun and rain whilst having a chat, coffee, or simply resting.
22	Please provide a good maintenance plan to ensure the success of plantings . Strong plantings of deciduous trees would be great plus natural materials of stone and timber.
23	Preventing parking from the eastbound lane at the shops will exacerbate an existing problem with the use of Glen Street and The Glade. Can Glen Street be made to be entry only at Galston Road?
24	No changes are required apart from minor upgrades to existing surfaces - everything works perfectly well as is.
25	Access to toilets near the shops is limited. Maintenance is required for any new planting.
26	Drinking and refill stations are required. Planting will require proper maintenance .

27	Make the place more inviting. Cars using Glen Street are a problem. Issues with private land such as Aldi carpark - can Council talk with landowners to improve shopfront and parking areas?
28	I support the zebra crossings - they are essential for pedestrian safety. What is happening with the Village Green? Toilets are too far from the shops.
29	Email request link - sent 14.05.23
30	I think the whole plan is excellent. Having lived in Galston for 34 years I look forward to seeing it proceeding.
31	I strongly support this, and I also believe the speed limit should be lowered on Galston Road between Glen Street and Arcadia Road.
32	This looks like an excellent plan for Galston and can't wait to see the finished product. I'm very supportive of the speed limit change to make the shopping area safer.
33	Issues with kerb buildouts impacting bin servicing. The relocated bus stop will bring noise closer to homes.
34	Angled parking should replace parallel parking, more accessible parking required and crossings more centralised would be better. Some covered parking in the rear carpark areas would be good.
35	I support council's plans, particularly the changes to the parking outside the shop fronts on Galston Rd. The median strip in the middle of Galston Rd is essential. Parking for longer vehicles needs to be maintained on the southern side of Galston Rd. It is unfortunate that a new public toilet was not included.
36	Add crossings, make parking at the shops safer, environmentally friendly male and female toilets
37	Please advise what the proposal is for the Living Choice residents? Are they going to have safe access and a footpath to the shops?
38	Concerns about visibility for exiting the driveway, bin servicing, stormwater flows into properties, exiting carparking at the library near the proposed bus stop, and congestion being caused by raised crossing proposals, play area not required and will get dirty from bird droppings - can these things be addressed.
39	Looks great and very needed - only one concern about the crossing on Arcadia Road being close to the café driveway.
40	I am opposed to the raised pedestrian crossings - 2 is more than required. Galston road carries a lot of traffic including emergency services without an alternative path. Pedestrian crossing at road level is more suitable so that the flow of traffic won't be affected at all times.
41	We need public toilets please at the shops.
42	Do not use raised crossings in Galston Road - provide speed cameras to control speed to 40km

43	<i>Issues with kerb buildouts impacting bin servicing. Concerns about visibility and traffic flows being impacted by crossings - and character impacts on library and rural village character.</i>
44	<i>Accessible public toilets close by to public space/ leisure area is a must. Don't waste public funds on making an area pleasant to spend time in if there is no easy access to public toilets.</i>
45	<i>Could kids playground/ equipment be considered in the green space behind the Galston village shops?</i>
46	<i>Hi there, the plan you proposed looks awesome, bus stop reposition and pedestrian crossing is such an improvement. Create a real village atmosphere with hanging flower baskets and add a feature such as an old tractor to promote as a tourist destination.</i>
47	<i>The biggest issue I can see on this masterplan is that it lacks accessible, public toilets. I'm sure most of the community would rather not have the artwork/potential play area and instead have accessible toilets.</i>
	<i>I also think the roadside proposed planting could create visibility issues on the northern side of the Galston Road but am supportive of the trees and plants on the southern library side.</i>
48	Submission on behalf of GARA
	<i>No rezoning on southern side of Galston Road</i>
	Crossings are essential but not raised crossings , which are uncomfortable and may encourage use of Glen Street. Speed Zone Reduction is supported.
	Median at shops is supported - may be extended to the library and townhouses.
	Toilets required and will encourage visitation to shops.
	Trees that do not require regular attention - no citrus trees.
	Support for furniture and rest places. Wheelchair accessibility is essential.
	Support angled parking and bus stop relocation proposal.
49	<i>The overall plan will make Galston Village much more attractive and safer however shelter and toilets are required.</i>
50	<i>Park design is not appropriate for users or retaining rural character</i>
51	<i>The draft plan looks great, however, please do not include tall planting at southern driveway entries.</i>

52	Raised crossings will create noise - are not appropriate considering the nature of use including trucks and associated braking and acceleration, which should only occur at entry and exit to the Village. Support for speed zone reduction only.
	Slip lanes for entry to the townhouses and Village Carpark to the west of the shops should be retained to preserve traffic flow.
	Bin servicing would be impacted by roadside planting and kerb buildouts.
53	Crossings may worsen congestion - TfNSW consultation
	Character: cater for horses, tree selections, interpretation of history, artworks.
	WSUD and water play instead of the playground proposal.
54	Overall I like many of the ideas but I am not sure this plan achieves them.
	Plant flowers in the roundabouts, upgrade road lighting.
	Loss of parking at shopfronts - these are often full.
	The median at the shops will create a Glen Street ' rat run '
	Toilets need to be available at the shops
	There are often 2-3 buses. Will there be a shelter ?
	Too many crossings and the one at Arcadia Road seems to close to the roundabout.
55	Please design with a rural/semi-rural aesthetic include hitching rail for horses. Please use artistic/architectural flair / intelligence when designing including seating, tables, etc. to add interest & make it a " destination " for visitors/ tourists to the area ... support the attraction that is Fagan Park.
	Facilities for dogs, horses, bike riders, elderly and mobility scooters, plus toilets near the shops, wider paths, fix the parking and include Accessible spaces.
	Expand the Library.
56	Please keep parallel parking with 2hr time limit on Arcadia Rd outside Aldi, this is much needed for the public whose cars don't fit under the ALDI carpark.
	Also consider dog/ animal parking spots so residents can tie up pets while they go to the shops or grab a coffee.
57	Overall I feel that the proposed changes are fairly positive and something for the people of Galston to look forward to. However, there are a few "buts":

	<i>Native trees - reconsider your choices and move towards more native flowering species.</i>
	<i>Toilets in the shops are not available to the general public.</i>
	<i>Speed zone reductions and humps are long overdue but will send more cars down Glen Street. I don't have a solution but would appreciate further thoughts from Council and consultation on how this can be better managed?</i>
58	<i>Brilliant idea, the road and shop parking area are a complete disgrace and should have been fixed long ago.</i>
59	<i>It is good to see plans for an upgrade to Galston Village but it is important that Galston retains its rural character and village atmosphere.</i>
	<i>The southern boundary must not be rezoned.</i>
	<i>Access to the toilet behind the shop on the corner near Aldi is not always available.</i>
	<i>A pedestrian crossing is a welcome suggestion but I do not believe speed humps are necessary.</i>
	<i>Choose Australian native species which would support and encourage native fauna.</i>
60	<i>Please see the urgent need for public toilets. Undercover seating, picnic style space, children's playground to encourage young families, better parking and covered bus shelters with zebra crossings.</i>
61	<i>Thank you for beautifying and making our village safer.</i>
	<i>Street plantings - can we please have a local focus group to review and help choose the trees and shrubs that will be used.</i>
	<i>Public toilets - I realise that the funding for this project does not include public toilets, but a provision for public toilets need to be included. Could the Village Green be a possible location?</i>
62	<i>Parallel parking on the southern side of the street is dangerous.</i>
	<i>The crossings and islands are a great idea but please don't make them raised - there's a lot of traffic that flows through. Love the paved road median!</i>
63	<i>I love the median but would rather parking removed altogether from the shopfront to avoid the many near accidents.</i>
	<i>Public toilets need to be consistently available during shop hours.</i>
	<i>The southern laneway needs to be wider for safe parallel parking.</i>

64	<i>Please add public toilets within the shopping area.</i>
65	<i>You need more parking!!</i>
66	<i>The upgrade overall looks very good.</i>
	<i>However, it will lead to more cars turning left on to Glen Street as a detour.</i>
	<i>Can I please suggest that upper Glen Street be widened, and on both sides have the kerb and guttering completed as part of this overall plan.</i>
67	<i>I support proper crossings around shops and would like to a crossing for school students near the roundabout on Galston Mid Dural Road.</i>
68	<i>Median at the shops is a great idea. Parking in front of the shops should be 90 degree and only one crossing required in front of the shops closer to Bendigo. Otherwise, angle parking should be explored on both sides of the road in front of the shops with a wide landscaped refuge separator. Parking for motorcycles and bikes should be included.</i>
	<i>The park space should allow weekend markets either side of the pathway.</i>
	<i>Public toilet facilities, especially for cyclists and Bus Drivers.</i>