

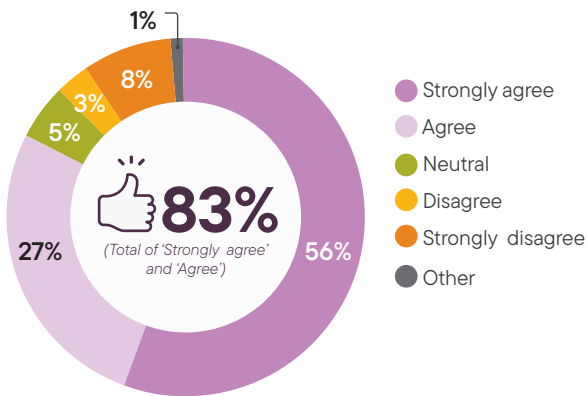
James Street Revitalisation

Engage Perth Summary | August 2025 survey results

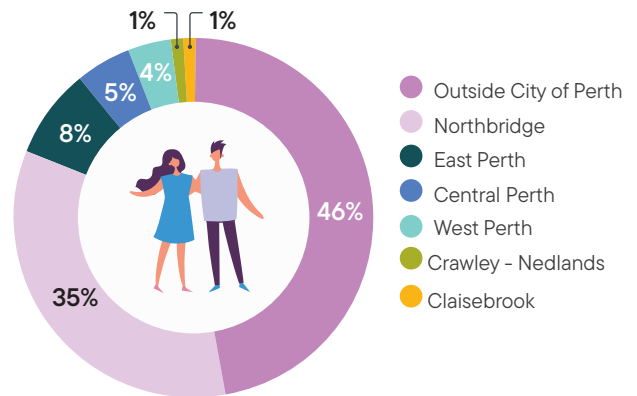
From **16 June to 15 August 2025**, we invited the community to share their thoughts on the draft concept through the City's online platform, Engage Perth.

A total of **264 people** completed the survey, and the page attracted more than **2,800 visits**. This valuable feedback will help shape a final plan that truly reflects the community's expectations.

Overall Support



Where do respondents live



What did we hear

Top 5 reasons why respondents are interested in the James Street project

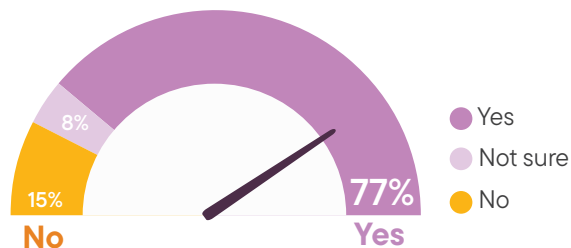


What did we hear?

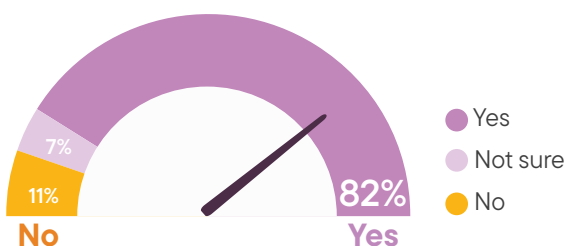
Top 5 priorities for James Street...



Do you support converting parking bays to footpath space



Do you support retractable bollards between William and Lake St

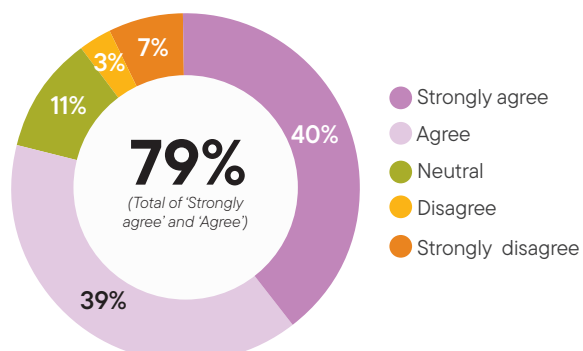


How respondents currently use parking on James Street...

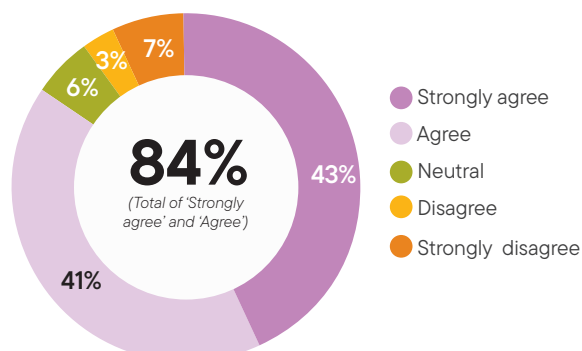


How the community responded:

Improves the connection between key destinations like Northbridge Piazza, Russell Square, and the Perth Cultural Centre

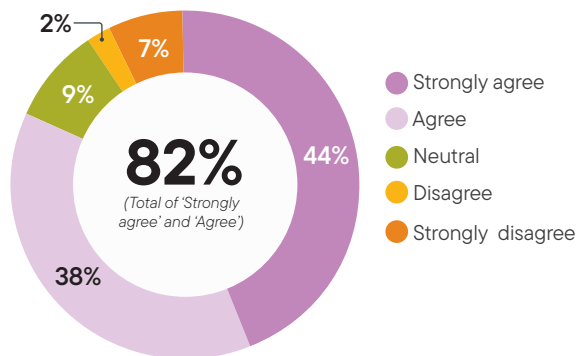


Supports street activation with opportunities for events, outdoor dining, and creative activity

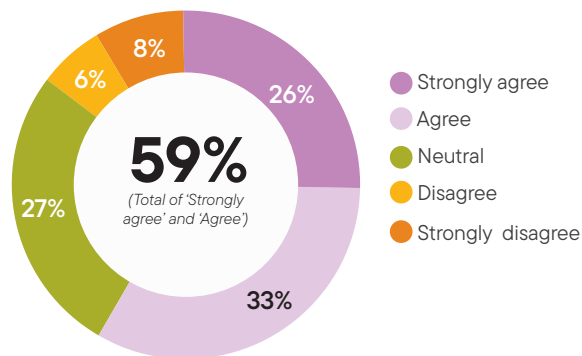


How the community responded:

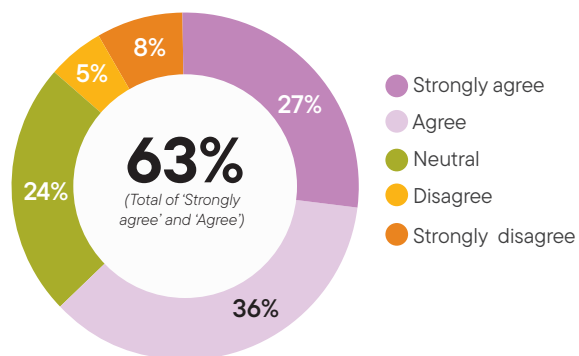
Creates a more welcoming and enjoyable space for walking, gathering, and spending time



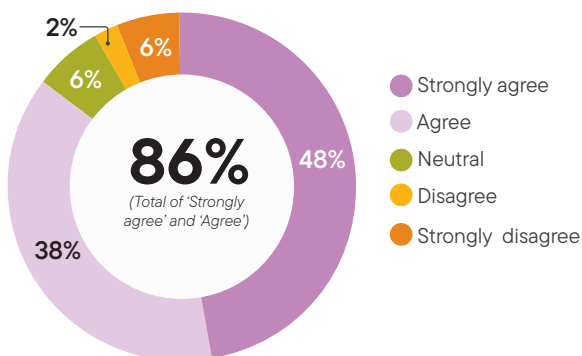
Celebrates the cultural identity and heritage of the area



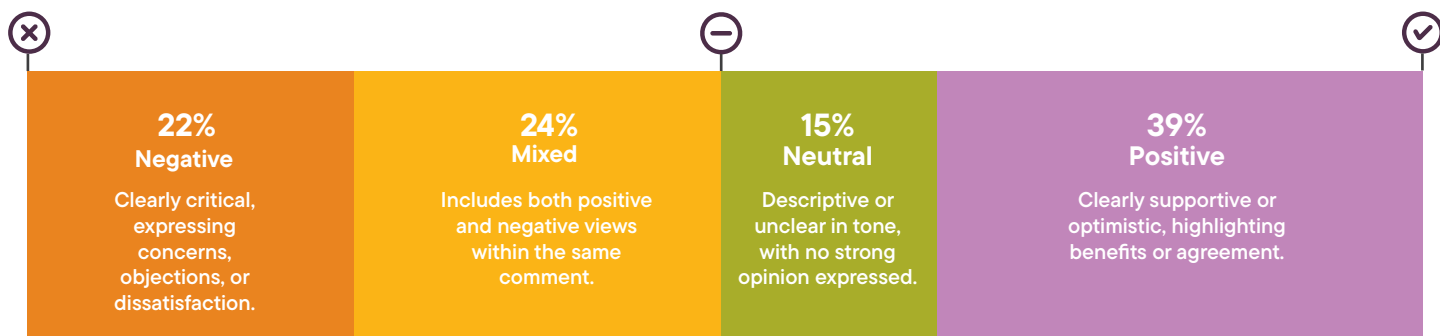
Provides a variety of experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds



Includes lighting that helps people feel safe and can be programmed for different displays, seasonal decorations, and night-time events



Other feedback - Do you have any other feedback on the draft concept plan?



*159 community comments were reviewed and graded to understand overall sentiment.

The key themes that emerged from the comments were:



Access

What we heard: 39% of respondents (62 comments) provided feedback on access. Responses were generally positive, supporting the proposed changes for James Street. Some business owners expressed concern about reduced accessibility, while others favoured full pedestrianisation with improved crossings and better support for active and public transport.



"It's really a bunch of nothing to be honest. I've been running business in Northbridge for 30 years and because what was done with Roe St, it just made James st more congested. Closing James st off will probably just mean less business for all due to inaccessibility"



"The whole area needs to properly address the needs of modes of transport other than cars. I'm not sure why cars even need to use this section of this street."



"The lake Street - James Street roundabout is usually well understood by drivers and pedestrians"



"Close James street permanently to traffic from Lake to William. Make it fully pedestrian like the Hay and Murray St mall areas"



Perception of safety

What we heard: 28% of respondents (44 comments) provided feedback on perception of safety. Overall, respondents highlighted significant safety concerns, with calls for better lighting, increased CCTV, and a stronger police presence to address antisocial behaviour and improve the overall sense of security and comfort.



"I feel the plan lacks direction in regards to pedestrian safety from (as mentioned in the summary) displaced people or people sleeping rough while overemphasizing pedestrian safety from vehicles."



"There is antisocial behaviour and it's not a place people want to be because it's dark and has little police presence"



"More CCTV and lighting is needed to prevent crime and homelessness."



"Looks great! Making the street more safe is a must!!"



Parking

What we heard: 21% of respondents (34 comments) provided feedback on parking. Responses were mixed, with some Northbridge businesses concerned about the proposed loss of parking and reduced bay time limits, while others supported reducing on-street parking to create more space for pedestrians.



"15 minute parking will achieve nothing and be counter productive. Parking bays should not be removed"



"I oppose the restricted parking and vehicle access. Harder for customers to be accessible to the restaurants"



Changes to parking seem necessary but parking in Northbridge is already limited/ expensive so some more parking elsewhere or more incentives to use public transport would be nice.



"Supportive of reducing car numbers where possible. More pedestrians will be there in the future.. need to be progressive"

Who did we hear from?



Business owner / Property owner



Worker



Visitor



Resident



Footpaths

What we heard: 14% of respondents (22 comments) provided feedback on footpaths. Opinions were mostly mixed, highlighting the need to upgrade and maintain footpath surfaces to enhance cleanliness, safety, and accessibility. While some supported aesthetic improvements such as colour, texture, and anti-slip materials, others emphasised that regular cleaning and ongoing maintenance should be the priority.



"The footpath material choice is horrendous. I see this everywhere in all of the cities as well as urban projects in Perth. I often witness people slipping and falling because the surface is too sheer."



"The granite is nice but a bit more colour and character is needed, adding interesting elements, colour and unique design details will enhance the space."



"Yes once complete regular maintenance is needed particularly in relation to keeping the footpaths clean."



"Cleanliness and safety will bring vitality to James Street – people will want to open restaurants/businesses which will then bring the people."



Greening

What we heard: 11% of respondents (18 comments) chose to comment on greening. Feedback was mostly mixed, with supporters highlighting that more trees and greenery would enhance vibrancy and safety, though some raised concerns about blocking sightlines, drainage, and reducing parking.



"Current trees are a nuisance, blocking drains and gutters"



"Please dont plant london plane trees. Please plant Western australian native trees and plants."



"I think certainly make it more green and more lights at home to make it feel safe and comfortable to hang around"



"More green is always welcome as Perth lacks trees in general."



Art

What we heard: 11% of respondents (18 comments) chose to comment on art. Feedback was mostly positive, with strong support for reinstating iconic works like The Arch, adding murals, and including interactive or engaging public art to enhance the street's identity.



"I would love it if it included a plan to refurbish and reinstall The Arch in the intersection of Lake and James Streets. There's a sense of comfort in seeing familiar good works of art and I miss The Arch."



"I really like the over-street disco balls and hope they end up in the final plan. Not supportive of the projectors projecting light onto the pavement that the City has used in other areas, very tacky."



"I'd love to see more pop ups and art around James Street little random things that just happen not only big events or planned stuff it makes the place feel alive and interesting you never know what you'll walk into and that's the fun of it"



"More art!"



Furniture

What we heard: 11% of respondents (17 comments) chose to comment on furniture. Feedback was mostly positive, highlighting support for comfortable seating, outdoor dining, shade, and social spaces, though a few raised concerns about misuse.



"Fixed seating is prone to attracting anti social behaviour"



"The additional public seating needs to be comfortable and accessible. Benches need to have backrests, and be comfortable for the elderly or people with disabilities to sit for while, not just perch for a minute."



"It would be helpful to have more dog water stations and businesses that encourage or make it easy for canine visitors to attract a weekend morning crowd."



"Places to sit, eat and enjoy restaurants and cultural spectacles would be amazing"

Additional Stakeholder Engagement

Alongside the online survey, we engaged directly with landowners and business operators on James Street and in the wider Northbridge neighbourhood, as well as State Government agencies, community and cultural organisations. We also presented to advisory and special interest groups. The feedback gathered through these conversations is summarised below:

Landowners and Business Operators

- Stakeholders highlighted the importance of completing works in smaller, staged sections to maintain access, including 24/7 access to entrances.
- Parking concerns centred on retaining existing parking, while also reviewing time limits, loading bay allocation, weekday access to loading docks, and formalising drop-off/pick-up areas to prevent misuse.
- Mixed opinions emerged on trees, bollards, and street furniture: some saw them as reducing flexibility, alfresco space, and access, while others supported elements that improved safety and amenity.
- Broad support for improved drainage, durable paving materials, and raised intersections that calm traffic and improve pedestrian safety.
- Preference for retaining existing roundabout at Lake Street for traffic circulation. Mixed views for full road closures during major events.
- Lighting upgrades were widely supported, not only for ambience but also to address safety concerns, anti-social behaviour, and perceptions of security.
- Calls were made for more frequent, higher-quality street cleaning and ongoing upkeep of public improvements, alongside enforcement of maintenance standards for poorly maintained private properties to ensure the wider area benefits.
- Interest in integrating permanent services (e.g., power and water) to support events, reducing reliance on temporary solutions.
- Adjacent public spaces including laneways and the Piazza were seen as important to upgrade to support the area's role as an event and nightlife hub.
- Some property owners felt early consultation had been insufficient, leading to frustration about not being involved sooner in shaping the draft concept.

Advisory and Special Interest Groups

- Supported retractable bollards and formalised short-term parking for drop-off/pick-up, while requesting clarification on how the bollards would function generally and during events, including lessons learned from previous trial closures.
- Suggested exploring one-way or full-closure street models for safety and event flexibility.
- Noted potential issues with catenary systems interfering with parade floats and concerns about lighting glare into residential apartments.
- Asked for improved safety measures in residential areas beyond the core activation zone.
- Advised against the use of paving materials similar to those at Elizabeth Quay, citing accessibility and comfort concerns.
- Emphasised the importance of balancing pedestrian amenity with business access.

State Government Agencies

- Broad support across agencies was expressed.
- Strong support for improving pedestrian amenity, acknowledging the need to reduce parking in order to make public realm improvements.
- Indicated potential funding support for key infrastructure, such as retractable bollards.
- Similar concerns to other stakeholders about anti-social behaviour – suggested lighting upgrades, CPTED, CCTV, and removal of blind spots.
- Requested detailed traffic management studies and emergency response time modelling to be provided once available.
- The James Street closure trial was cited as improving safety outcomes, enabling better patrols and reducing serious incidents. It was stated that permanent retractable bollards must allow for rapid emergency override.
- Called for consistent communication and timelines between agencies and need to coordinate with adjoining projects (e.g., Perth Cultural Centre upgrades, ECU campus) to avoid fragmentation.
- Identified laneways and side streets as important pedestrian links.

Community and Cultural Organisations

- Strong support for retractable bollards, both for day-to-day safety and for enabling events without permanent obstruction.
- Support for integrating concealed power and water supplies into the streetscape to better accommodate event operators.
- James Street was consistently described as central to parades and festivals, with its cultural importance highlighted and event scheduling (e.g., Chinese New Year) needing consideration in construction planning.
- Some groups highlighted specific technical requirements, such as float dimensions (~4.5m high), universal access routes, and safe staging areas.
- Support for embedding local heritage and cultural narratives (e.g., multicultural and LGBTQIA+ visibility) into street design, murals, and artworks, with requests for cultural sensitivity and inclusivity as guiding principles.
- Laneway and rear access were flagged as essential for weekend events, with concerns that bollard placement could obstruct necessary movement.
- Several organisations expressed formal written support, underlining the project's alignment with their event needs and long-term vision for the area.