

**Report to the Future Melbourne Committee**

Agenda item 6.8

**Exhibition Street Stage 2 bike lane and Streetscape upgrade**

18 May 2021

**Presenter:** Roger Teale, Acting General Manager Infrastructure and Design**Purpose and background**

1. The purpose of this report is to present to Future Melbourne Committee the draft Exhibition Street Public Realm Concept Plan and Community Engagement approach for approval to consult with the community and stakeholders, prior to finalising the concept plan for endorsement.
2. In May 2019, the Future Melbourne Committee endorsed the installation of continuous protected bike lanes in Exhibition Street. Project delivery was split into two stages. Stage 1 (Flinders Street to Bourke Street) and Stage 2 (Bourke Street to La Trobe Street) due to differing consultation requirements.
3. Through the development of the project an opportunity was identified to improve pedestrian connectivity and achieve urban forest objectives by undertaking additional streetscape upgrade works.
4. Plans to install a kerbside protected bike lane on Exhibition Street were accelerated last year to accommodate the increasing number of people choosing to cycle into the city as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The protected bike lanes and associated median reconstruction works for Stage 1 were completed in February 2021, and construction works for Stage 2 are scheduled to be completed in early June 2021.
5. The remaining public realm works, comprising of streetscape improvements in key locations and some additional bike lane enhancements will be delivered in the 2021-22 financial year, subject to the future endorsement of the concept plan.

**Key issues**

6. These works predominantly involve the construction of permanent bluestone footpath expansions in front of the Comedy Theatre and Her Majesty's Theatre, and permanent footpath widening and raised kerbside protected bike lanes in front of Marriott Hotel and Rydges Hotel.
7. The concept plan (Attachment 2) outlines four key actions: expanded footpaths, upgrades to cycle infrastructure, planning for trees and improved street furniture.
8. The new design provides additional area for pedestrians, patrons, and public amenity including furniture and trees. It provides for access to existing buildings and maintains disability parking and loading zones.
9. Motorcycle parking will be accommodated in the central median area, creating additional pedestrian space in the footpath areas.
10. Tree species have been selected as per Council's Urban Forest Strategy. The Central City Urban Forest Precinct Plan 2013-2023 highlights a target of 40 per cent canopy cover for Exhibition Street.
11. The outcome of consultation with key stakeholders was that the majority did support the proposal. Refer Attachment 1 for more detail.

**Recommendation from management**

12. That the Future Melbourne Committee:
  - 12.1. Endorses the Draft Concept Design for the Exhibition Street Stage 2 bike lane and streetscape upgrade, and the proposed community and stakeholder engagement approach

12.2. Authorises the General Manager Infrastructure and Design to;

- 12.2.1. Include in the final design on-street pick and drop-off areas for car share, taxi and public use to support retail and hospitality businesses including those adjacent to 80 Collins Street, Melbourne
- 12.2.2. Review and report back on bike lane operation, safety and disabled access
- 12.2.3. Make any further minor changes to the Draft Concept Design prior to exhibition for community engagement.

**Attachments:**

- 1. Supporting Attachment (Page 3 of 15)
- 2. Draft Concept Design (Page 4 of 15)

**Supporting Attachment**

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**Legal**

1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendation from management.

**Finance**

2. The current works are funded within the FY20-21 Council Works Budget. Future funding will be subject to approval of the FY21-22 Annual Plan & Budget.

**Conflict of interest**

3. No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a general or material conflict of interest in relation to the matter of the report.

**Health and Safety**

4. The Project will result in significant improvement in pedestrian areas. Expanding the public realm in front of the theatres will increase the pedestrian safety.

**Stakeholder consultation**

5. Targeted engagement with key stakeholders had been undertaken in 2019, and this same group was given an opportunity to discuss the Project again in early 2021. Feedback from key stakeholders such as Her Majesty's Theatre, The Comedy Theatre, Rydges Hotel, Marriott Hotel and The Elephant and Wheelbarrow was positive.
6. Initial meetings with Neighbourhood associations in early 2021 occurred with further follow up meetings scheduled in May 2021.
7. An 'Inform' approach will be taken to broader community engagement due to limited opportunity to accommodate any community requests for changes to the project.

**Relation to Council policy**

8. The current proposal delivers on the City of Melbourne's Transport Strategy 2030, Urban Forest Strategy 2032 and Bicycle Plan 2016-2020.

**Environmental sustainability**

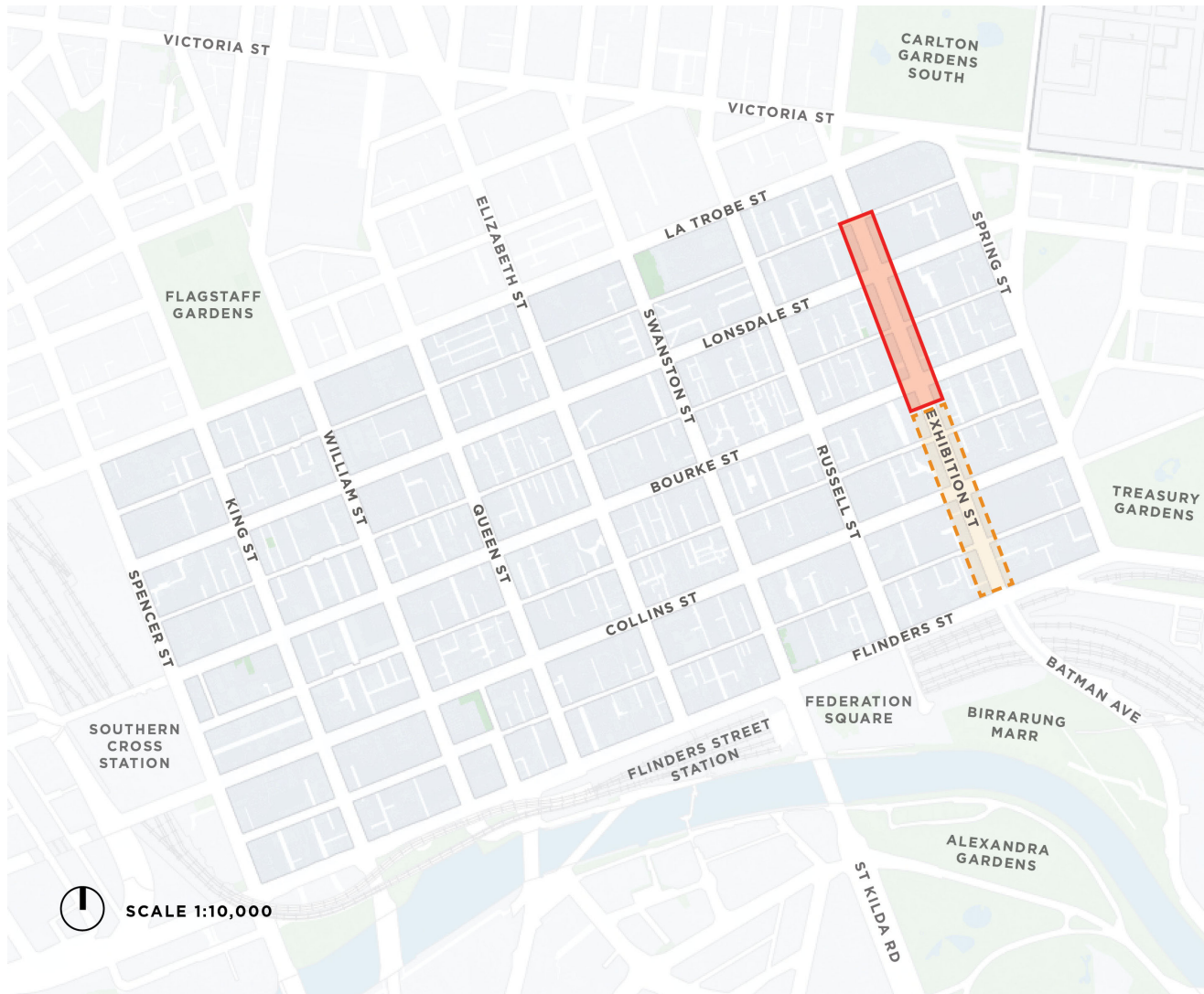
9. Environmental sustainability will be supported through the delivery of the Project by providing improved cycling infrastructure and anticipating a reduction in the carbon footprint due to an increased use of cycling as a transport choice.
10. Existing tree growing conditions have been deemed unsuitable and are resulting in unhealthy trees. The removal of unhealthy trees, replacement with new diverse species and improvement of soil media will support Council's Urban Forest Strategy and increase urban canopy in Exhibition Street.





# Exhibition Street Stage 2 bike lane and streetscape upgrade – Concept Design



# LOCATION PLAN



## LEGEND

-  **STAGE 2B**  
Lt Lonsdale Street to Bourke Street
-  **STAGE 1**  
Bourke Street to Flinders Street

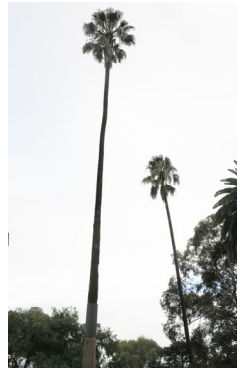
# CONCEPT DESIGN – TREES



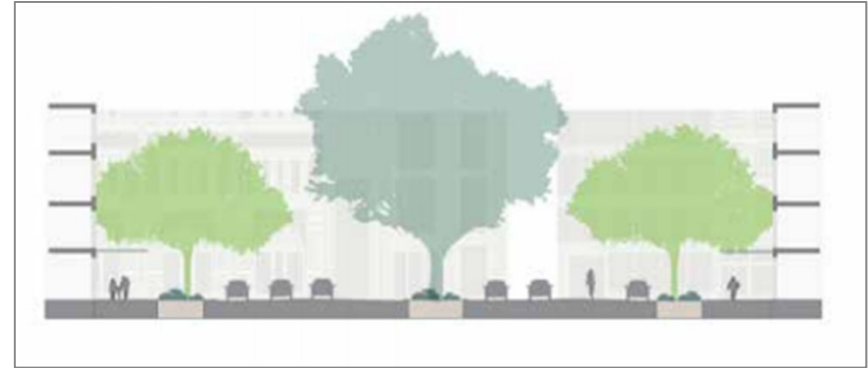
*Cinnamomum camphora*



*Liquidambar styraciflua*

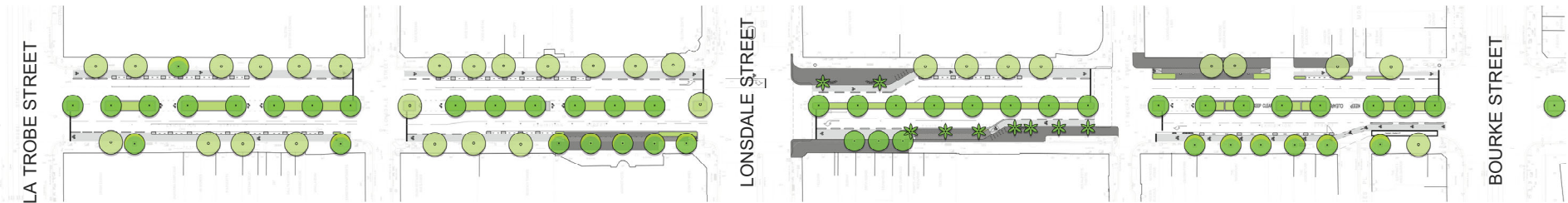


*Washingtonia filifera*



MAJOR STREETScape REDESIGN OPPORTUNITIES  
As identified in Urban Forest Precinct Plan – Central City

## Overall Landscape Plan



NOT TO SCALE

 Existing Trees  
To be retained and protected

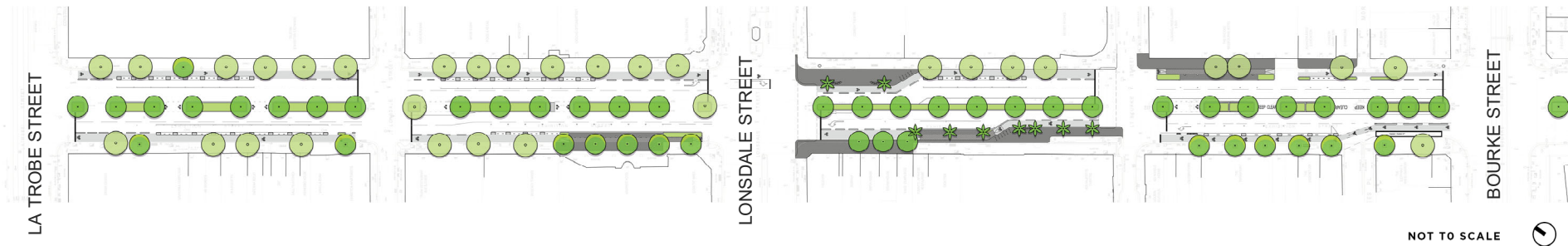
 Proposed Trees  
*Cinnamomum camphora*  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*

 Proposed Palm  
*Washingtonia* or *Livistona*

# CONCEPT DESIGN – FURNITURE AND MATERIALS



## Overall Landscape Plan



Proposed Motorbike Parking  
- all other median car parking removed

New Separated Bike lanes  
- accelerated program

Proposed Bluestone Paving  
- Footpath expansion  
- New raised bike lanes

Proposed Bike hoops  
- CoM Standard

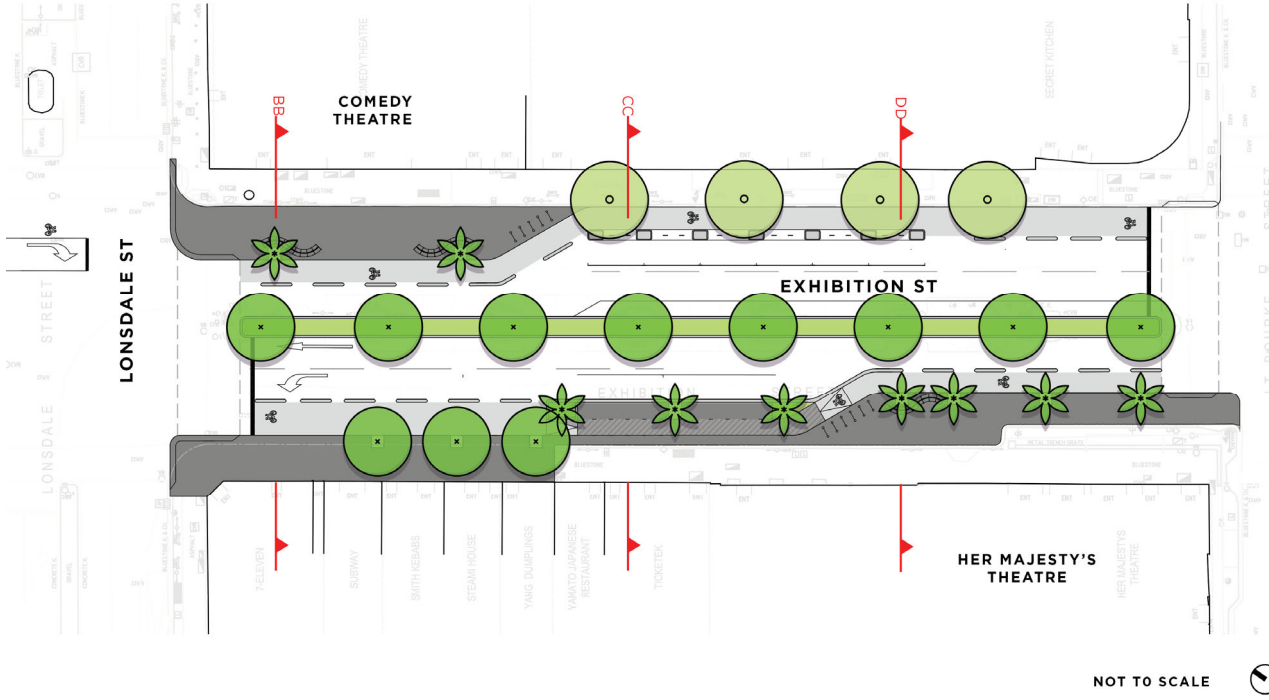
Proposed raised bike lanes  
- bluestone treatment

New Steel Rod Seats  
- CoM Standard

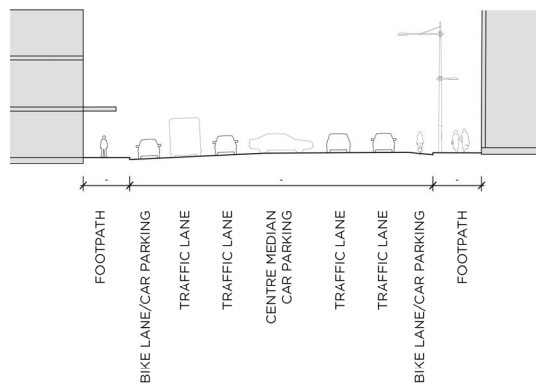


# CONCEPT DESIGN - 'THEATRE PRECINCT'

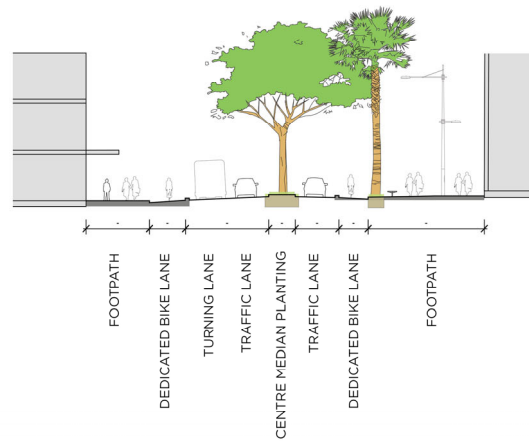
## Enlargement Plan – Lonsdale Street to Little Bourke Street



### Section BB - Existing



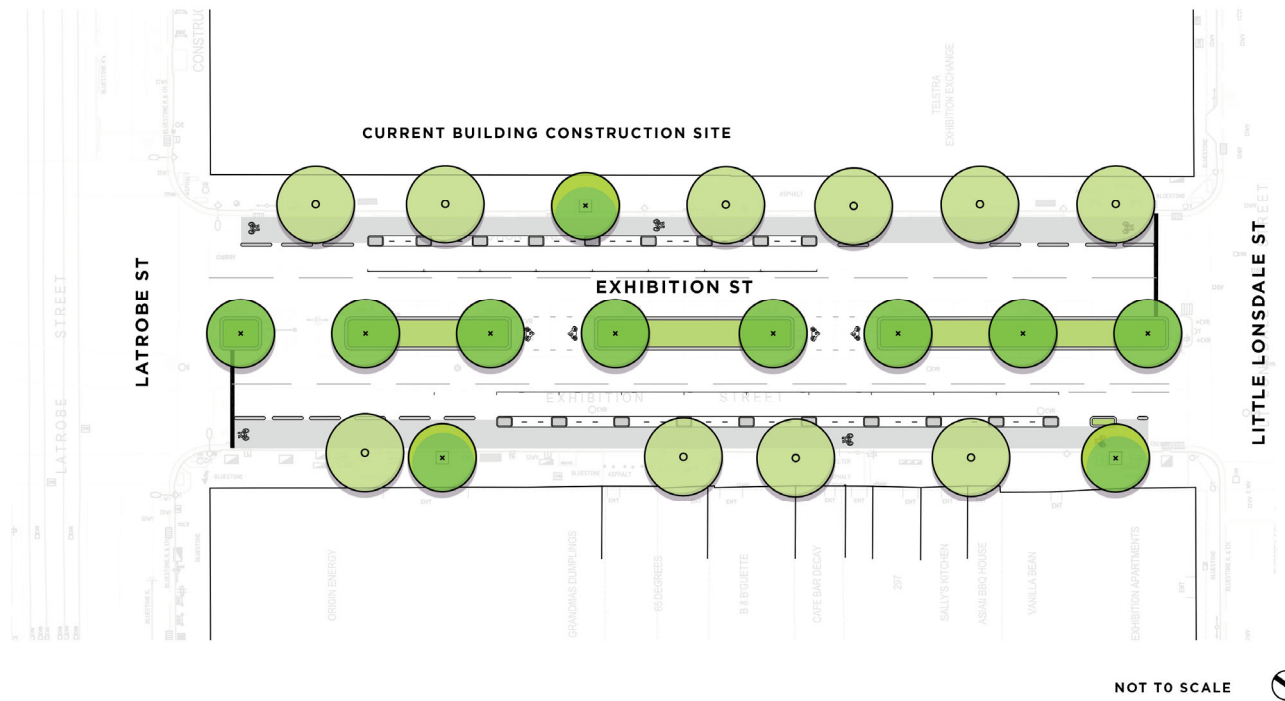
### Section BB - Proposed




COMEDY THEATRE 'PARKLET'  
 - footpath expansion  
 Image courtesy of Comedy Theatre  
 14 April 2021

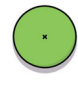



# LATROBE TO LITTLE LONSDALE STREET



## Landscape Legend

 Existing Trees  
To be retained and protected

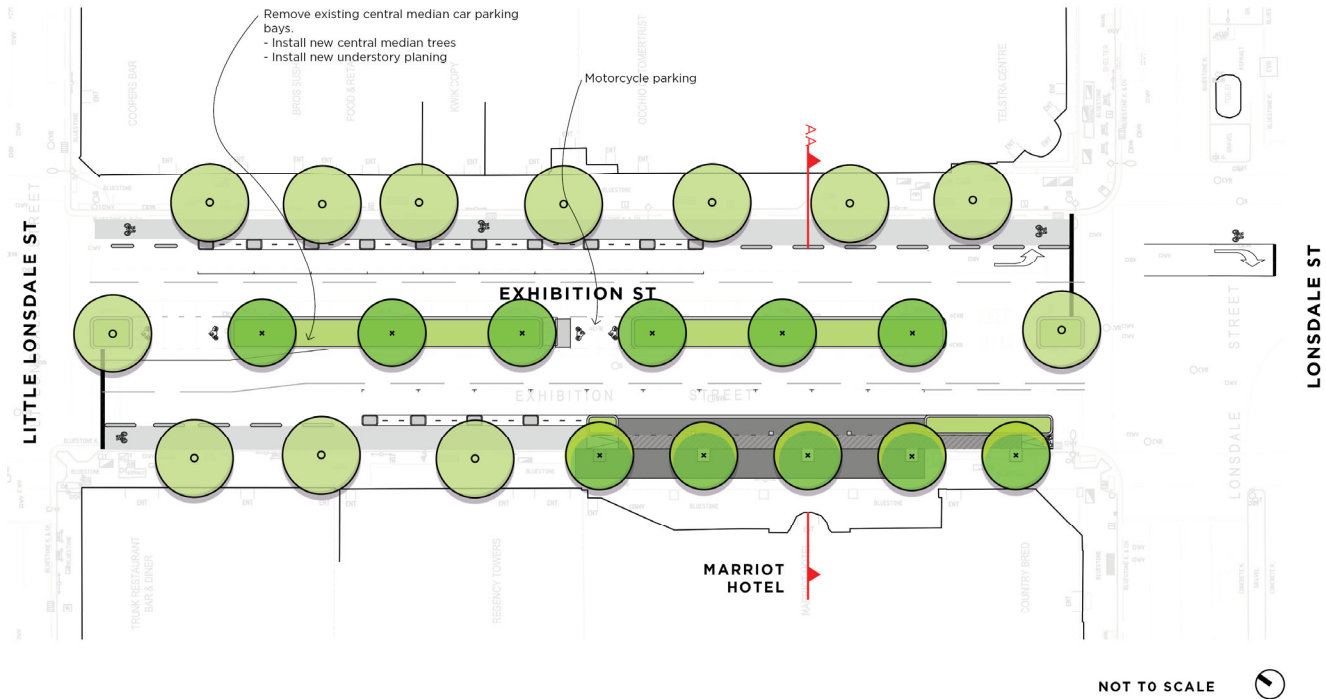
 Proposed Trees  
*Cinnamomum camphora*  
*Liquidambar styraciflua*

 Proposed Palm  
*Washingtonia* or *Livistona*

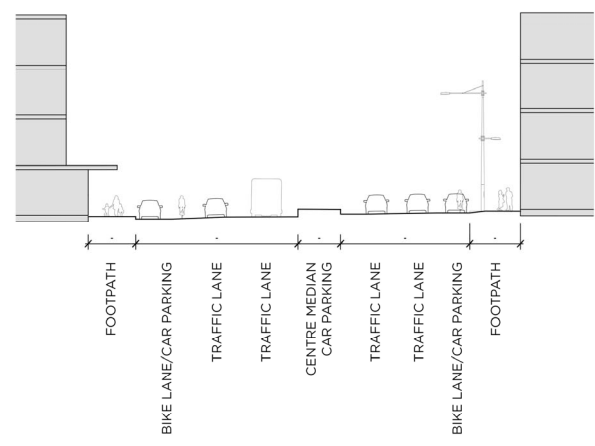
 Proposed Understorey planting  
- *New central median*  
- (*Elena – is this supported by Parks Services?*)

 Proposed Bluestone Paving  
- *Footpath expansion*  
- *New raised bike lanes*

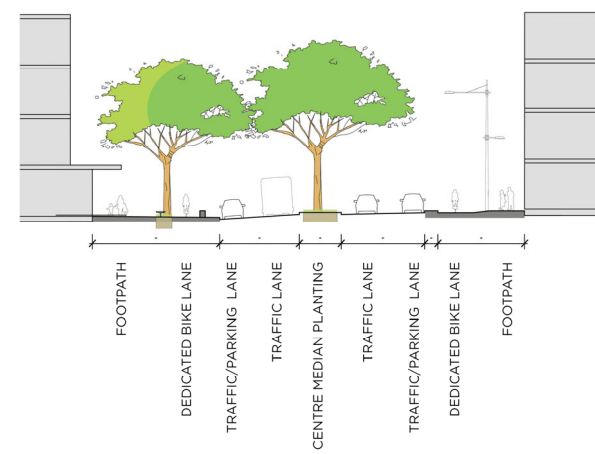
# LITTLE LONSDALE TO LONSDALE STREET



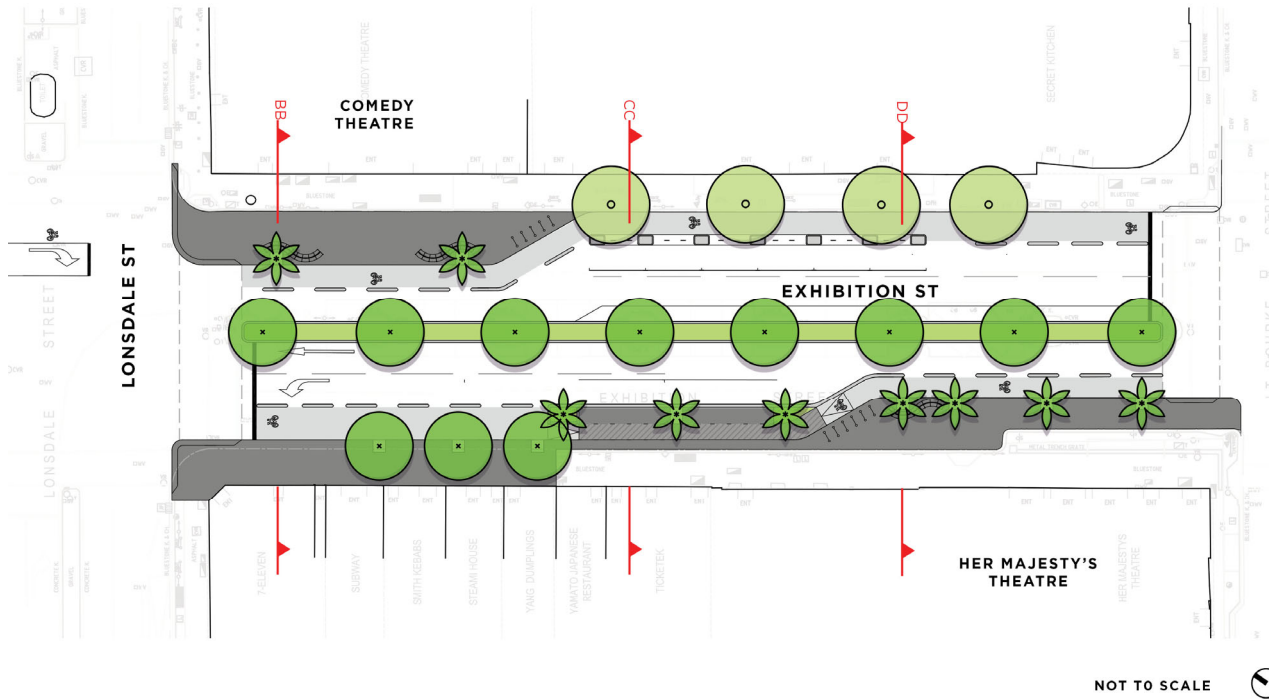
SECTION AA  
EXISTING (TYPICAL)



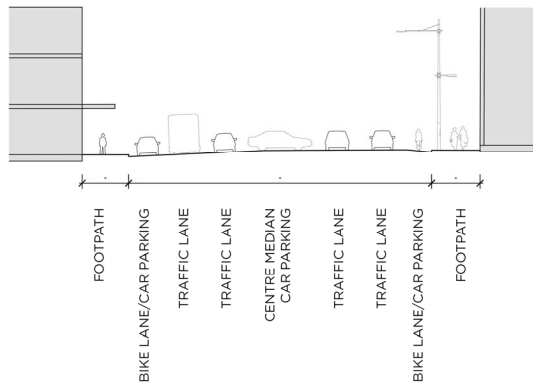
PROPOSED (TYPICAL)



# LONSDALE TO LITTLE BOURKE STREET – THEATRE PRECINCT



SECTION BB  
EXISTING (TYPICAL)

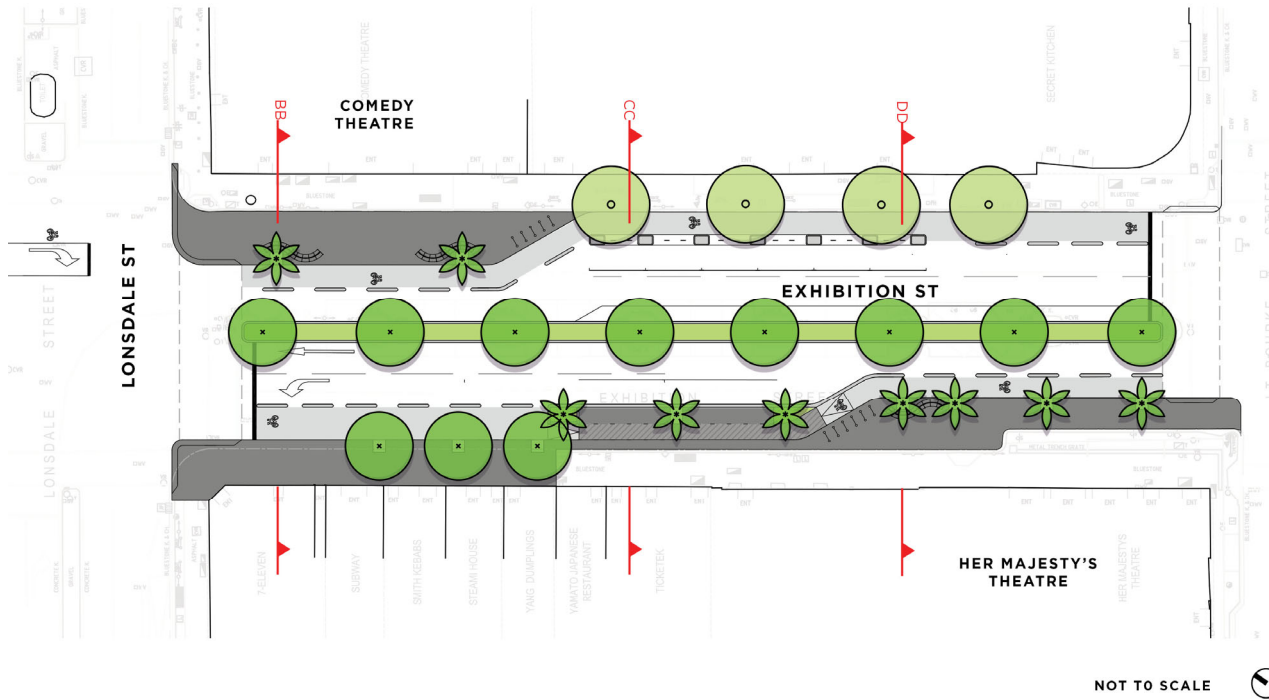


PROPOSED (TYPICAL)



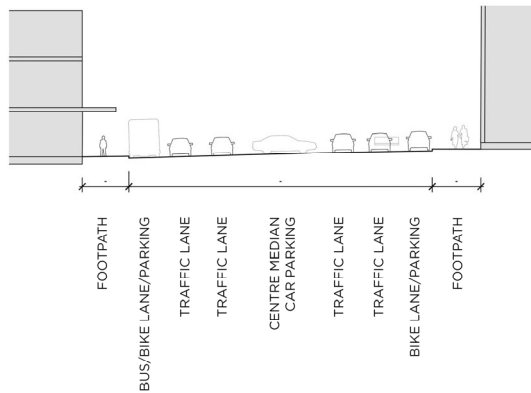


# LONSDALE TO LITTLE BOURKE STREET – THEATRE PRECINCT

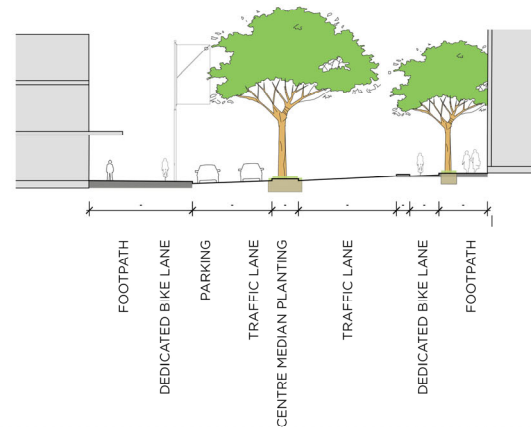


NOT TO SCALE

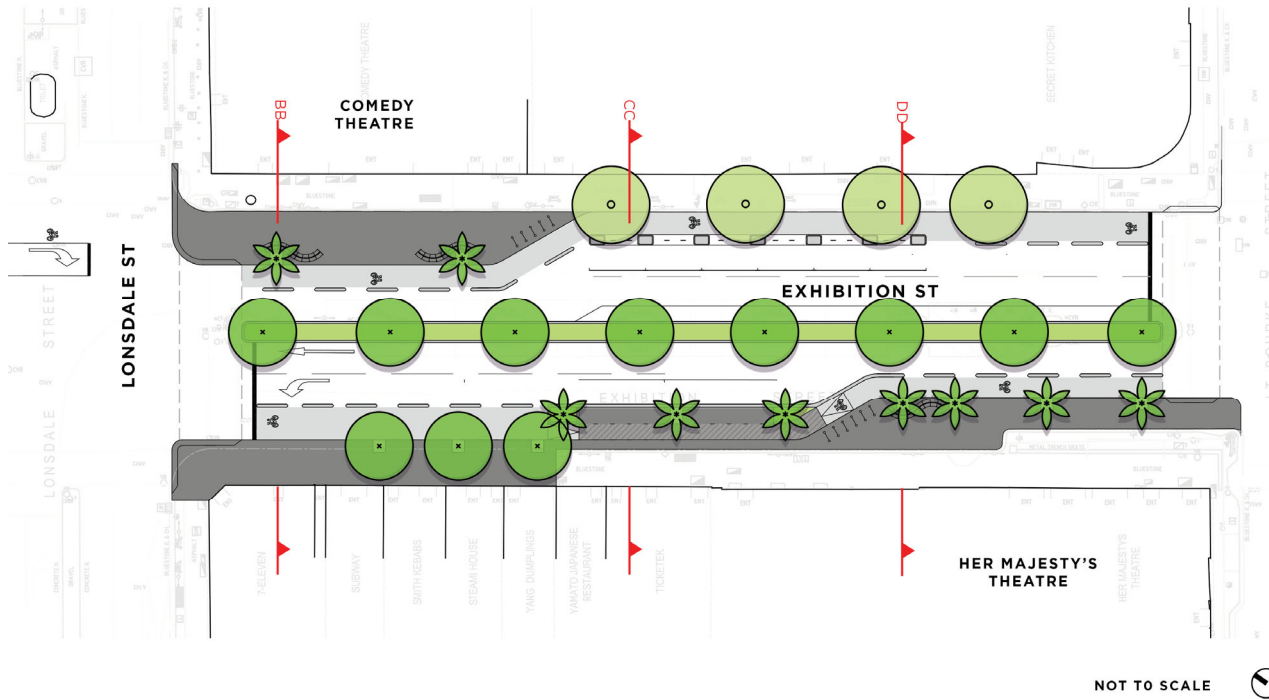
SECTION CC  
EXISTING (TYPICAL)



PROPOSED (TYPICAL)



# LONSDALE TO LITTLE BOURKE STREET – THEATRE PRECINCT

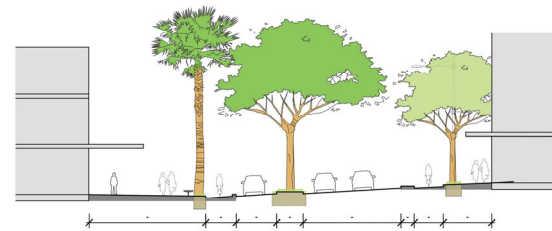


SECTION DD  
EXISTING (TYPICAL)



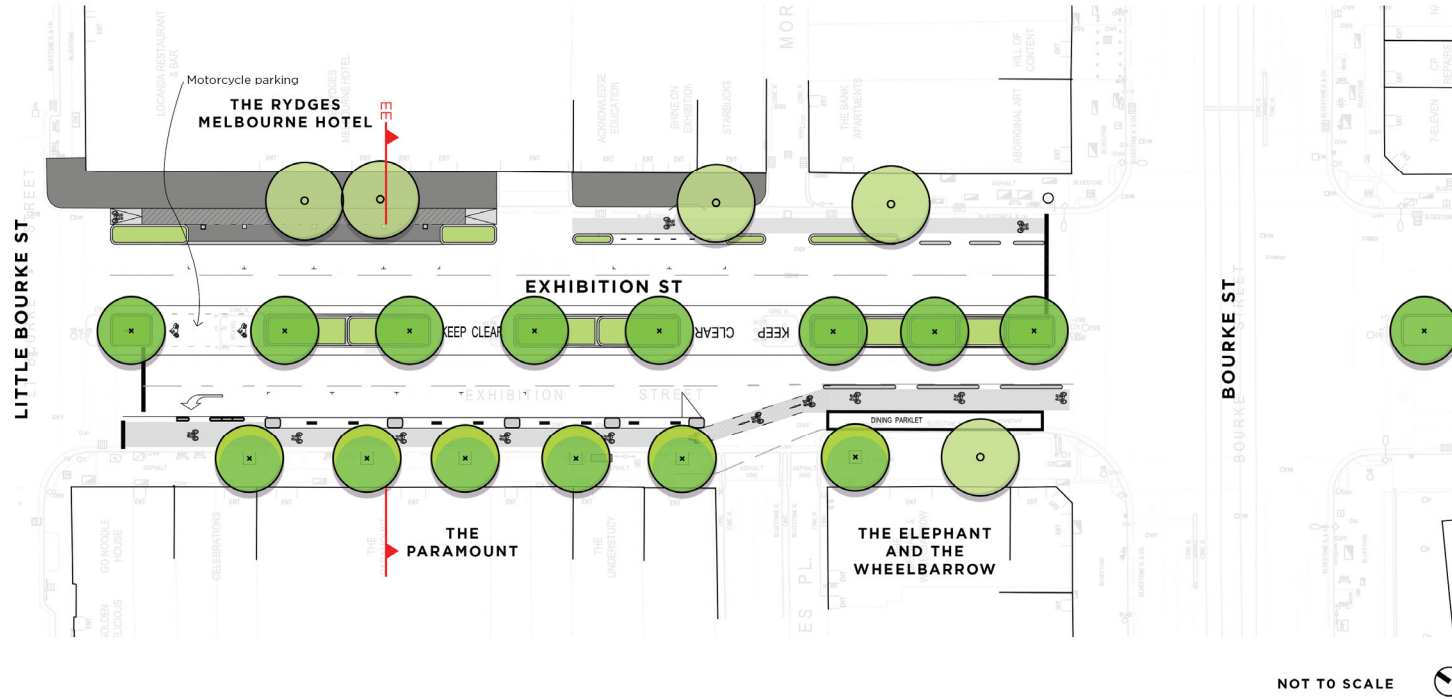
- FOOTPATH
- BIKE LANE/CAR PARKING
- TRAFFIC LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- CENTRE MEDIAN  
CAR PARKING
- TRAFFIC LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- BIKE LANE/CAR PARKING
- FOOTPATH

PROPOSED (TYPICAL)

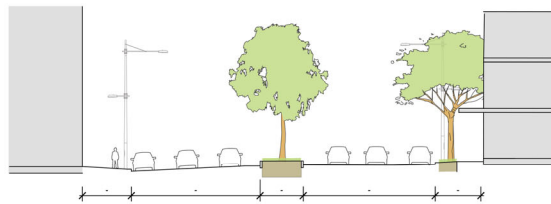


- FOOTPATH
- DEDICATED BIKE LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- CENTRE MEDIAN PLANTING
- TRAFFIC LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- DEDICATED BIKE LANE
- FOOTPATH

# LITTLE BOURKE TO BOURKE STREET

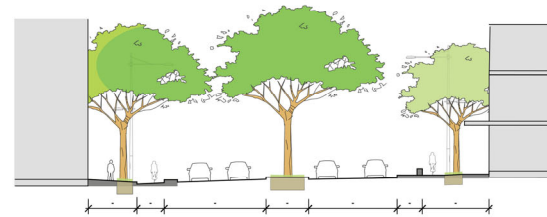


SECTION EE  
EXISTING (TYPICAL)



- FOOTPATH
- BUS LANE/CAR PARKING
- TRAFFIC LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- CENTRE MEDIAN CAR PARKING
- TRAFFIC LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- BIKE LANE/CAR PARKING
- FOOTPATH

PROPOSED (TYPICAL)



- FOOTPATH
- DEDICATED BIKE LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- CENTRE MEDIAN PLANTING
- TRAFFIC LANE
- TRAFFIC LANE
- DEDICATED BIKE LANE
- FOOTPATH





**CITY OF MELBOURNE**

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