

# CBD Streetscape Upgrade Project

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **1. Why doesn't one job get finished before the next one is started?**

There are many separate pieces of work in the project which are undertaken by different teams. These teams sometimes work on other projects on the South Island, so are not based in Ashburton for the duration of this contract. This means that at times work has to start in different locations, such as when raingardens are constructed. A different team will then install the pipework and backfill the excavation, and then another team will be involved in the kerbing later on.

The rain gardens and garden beds are installed at intersections before the intersection upgrade work commences so when the kerbing is installed, the concrete garden base is in place and ready to have the kerbing installed.

Unfortunately changes were made to the construction programme after some of the work had commenced. This was to accommodate requests for the East Street intersections to remain open during construction. Originally all intersections were to be closed to traffic, however this was changed, which required the contractors to relocate from other sites to concentrate on the intersections to complete them within a shorter timeframe.

### **2. Why are the gardens so big?**

There are two types of gardens being installed:

- a) Rain gardens capture and filter pollutants from stormwater runoff before it goes into our stormwater network. These gardens need to be large enough to cope with high rain fall events, and they proved their worth in the May/June rain event where no flooding occurred in the CBD due to these rain gardens being in place. The location and size of the rain gardens depends on the stormwater catchment in the adjacent area.
- b) Garden beds are smaller, they provide colour and enhance the aesthetics of the CBD.

### **3. Why have we lost so many carparks?**

There has been a loss of carparks in the CBD with the installation of rain gardens and garden beds. Part of the CBD design work included car parking surveys being carried out, which indicated that

many of the existing carparks were not being used to full capacity and they were in fact being used less than 80% of the time with some having a much lower usage percentage.

Council is currently reviewing parking across the township and investigating other possible options going forward.

#### **4. *How do I get into town?***

While the upgrade work is underway there will be disruption to people's usual access into the CBD.

While the Moore Street/East Street intersection is being upgraded, East Street will remain open but Moore Street will be closed to through traffic. Vehicles can travel along Moore Street (from Cass Street) towards East Street, but cannot drive through the intersection. Parking is available along Moore Street and pedestrians can access all the East Street shops from there.

However Havelock Street is fully open to traffic and is an easy way to access East Street. Full vehicle access is available along both Tancred and Burnett Streets.

If you do not want to drive along East Street, then the easiest way to access the CBD is to park in the West Street carpark and walk across either of the railway pedestrian crossings. Pedestrian crossings are in place for crossing over East Street to the shops. There is plenty of two hour parking spots.

The East Street disruptions will continue through to late October as the road surface between the four intersections will be completely upgraded and a new footpath surface is laid along the shop frontages.

#### **5. *Where else can I park if I am an older person?***

Unfortunately while the work is happening, parking can be limited especially where machinery is operating. There are some businesses who provide parking at the rear of their buildings. You could check with the shops you regularly visit and see if they have somewhere close you could park when visiting their shop.

Alternatively you could use the West Street carpark or Tancred and Burnett Streets which have been fully upgraded. The Eastfield carpark which is easily accessed from Cass Street is very close to the central CBD and offers all day parking for a small fee. All upgrade work has been completed along Cass Street.

#### **6. *Why don't the contractors work at weekends?***

The contractors have been working some weekends over the past 18 months. They have undertaken dig out works, concrete laying, road sealing and sandblasting to help prevent disruption especially for pedestrians.

#### **7. *Why don't the contractors work at night?***

The contractors have carried out a lot of night works – they have worked shifts either from 5pm to after midnight or from midnight through to 8am. Most of this night work has been to new pipelines and laterals into footpaths to enable the footpaths to be open during the day for pedestrians. A lot of the construction work cannot be carried out as safely at night as during the daytime.

**8. When will the work be completed?**

The contractors are on programme to complete the majority of the upgrade by 22 November this year. However please note that weather events (such as rain days) may affect the work programme.

**9. Where are the parks for those with mobility cards? Or where will they be when the work is finished?**

There are five mobility parks in the CBD, this is two more than we previously had. Three are located on Tancred Street outside Stirling Sports, the ANZ Bank and the MSD/WINZ office. The other two are on Burnett Street, one outside the new MSA building with the second one in front of Somerset House.

Holders of mobility cards are permitted to park in any standard time-limited or smart eye parking meter carpark in the CBD – and they are entitled to parking in those spaces for double the listed time.

**10. Is it 30km/h all through the CBD? What about the paved sections on Burnett and Tancred Streets?**

A temporarily speed limit is currently in place but the entire CBD will be permanently 30km/h once the work has been completed. The exception is the two narrower paved sections of Tancred and Burnett Streets which will be 10km/h only. This is to allow the safe movement of pedestrians across the streets in those locations.

**11. Is there free parking in the CBD?**

All carparks that previously had a coin fed parking meter will have the same smart eye parking sensors installed as has been used along East Street over the past 2-3 years. As with the East Street sensors this will allow free parking for the first 30 or 60 minutes or as listed on the parking time signs located in the vicinity of that car parking space.

For those wishing to parking for free for a longer period, free 120 minute parking is available in the West Street carpark.

**12. Will the pedestrian crossings be more visible when the work is finished?**

The pedestrian crossings will have their pale strips painted white to make them very visible to both pedestrians and vehicle drivers. Standard pedestrian crossing poles and signage is being installed at all crossings.

**13. Whose job is it to weed the new gardens?**

The new gardens are the responsibility of the contractor to maintain and weed. This will remain their responsibility until 12 months following the completion of the work. At the conclusion of the 12 month maintenance period, Council's Open Spaces team will take over the care of the gardens.

**14. There have been crashes at the Cass Street/Havelock Street intersection since the roundabout was removed, are further changes planned to improve the safety of this intersection?**

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There have been several crashes at this intersection since the layout was changed. A safety audit has been carried out by an independent assessor and ADC is currently working through the report to determine what can be done to improve the safety of road users.

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