

Proposed traffic changes no-right turn bans into Cowderoy Street



Engagement Summary Report

January 2023





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Project background

In recent years Council has received requests to address increased traffic on Cowderoy Street, St Kilda West. Recent traffic data indicates that the current vehicular volumes on Cowderoy Street exceed those expected for a local road.

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 19 October 2022, with in-principal support from the Department of Transport, Council endorsed consultation be undertaken with the local community on a proposed trial of a right-turn restriction (4.30 PM to 6.30 PM, Mon-Fri) on Canterbury Road at the intersection with Cowderoy Street, St Kilda West.

What we set out to achieve

We wanted to understand:

- If the local community supported a trial of a no-right turn into Cowderoy Street.
- Understand experiences of traffic congestion in Cowderoy Street.
- Understand what perceived impacts positive or negative, a no-right turn into Cowderoy Street would have on the wider local community.

We asked participants the following questions:

- Do you support the proposed trial?
Answer options: yes or no.
- If answered yes: Tell us why you support the trial?
- If answered no: Tell us why you don't support the trial

Engagement activities

Engagement period

Engagement was conducted between Friday 18 November to Tuesday 20 December 2022

Have Your Say project consultation page.

The key avenue for engagement was via a project page on Council's Have Your Say website: <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/cowderoy-street>

A letter arrived in the mailboxes of 5,222 owners and occupiers of properties in St Kilda West, on the 18 November 2022 detailing how to provide feedback on the proposed no-right turn in Cowderoy Street.

An email was sent 371 subscribers from Have Your Say on 17 November 2022 notifying them that the consultation program would commence from 18 November 2022.

Feedback could be provided by:

- Completing an online survey with a yes-no question, with a further option to provide comments.
- Direct email to the Transport Safety team (email address and other contact details were provided by a mailout to residents).

Participation

Participation via Have Your Say

Council received:

- 333 pieces of feedback from 283 participants, through a survey hosted on Have Your Say.

Data validity was compromised.

- Council received 73 different responses from 19 IP addresses (An IP address is a unique address that identifies a device on the internet), which brought into question the validity of some responses. This is particularly relevant to the question *Do you support the proposed trial* - 19 respondents voted several times from the same IP address. In the analysis those that voted more than once from the same IP address were counted as one vote.

- Respondents that voted several times, also listed that they lived in different streets in St Kilda West and Middle Park. This had made it difficult to understand the impact the proposed no-right turn would have on local residents.

Participation via email to Transport Safety team

- Council received 40 written email responses.

Key findings:

Respondents that support and don't support the trial, raised similar concerns about the proposal and suggested comparable solutions.

Key themes:

- A no-right turn onto Cowdrey Street, will redistribute the traffic problems to surrounding streets, predominantly Langridge, Fraser, York, McGregor and Deakin.
- Extending the no-right turn trial to all streets from Armstrong or McGregor Street would be a better outcome.
- A comprehensive traffic management plan for the whole area is needed.
- Traffic should be channelled through the main thoroughfares including Kerferd Road, Canterbury Road to Beaconsfield Parade and not the quiet suburban streets.
- The Langridge Street and Park Road intersection are dangerous.
- Traffic congestion at the Fitzroy Street and Canterbury Road intersection is slow, unsafe for cyclists, pedestrians and has high accident rates - improvements are needed.

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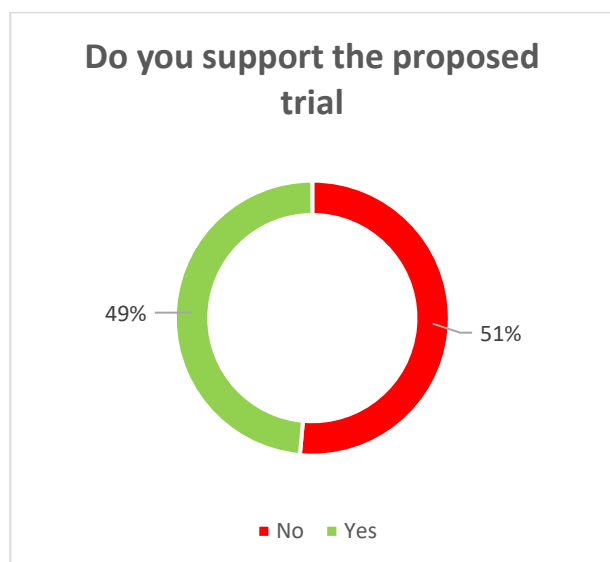
Results:

We asked: Do you support the proposed trial?

Three hundred and eleven responses were received from our community, via our Have Your Say platform and emails sent to the project team.

What we heard:

Yes	No
151 (49 %)	160 (51 %)



Who was included in this vote?

All respondents that voted via the survey tool on Have Your Say. (Respondents that voted multiple times from the same IP address are included in the count, but only given one vote).

Respondents that emailed Council stating they support or do not support the trial, are included.

Respondents that emailed Council but did not clearly state that they support or do not support the trial, are not included in the count.



Tell us why you don't support the trial?

A careful analysis of all feedback shared via the Have Your Say survey was conducted. The key themes from those that support and don't support the trial were identified and are listed below.

Key themes were identified from the 179 survey comments provided from respondents stating they don't support the proposal.

Listed below in order of community priority are the key themes:

- A no-right turn onto Cowdrey Street, will redistribute the traffic problems to surrounding streets, predominantly Langridge, Fraser, York, McGregor and Deakin. (86 respondents)
- The main issue is traffic congestion at the Fitzroy Street and Canterbury Road intersection – it's notorious for being slow, having accidents, being unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians, including children trying to safely cross the road. (20 respondents).
- Traffic lights are inefficient throughout the area, particularly at Canterbury Road and Fitzroy Street intersection. Council needs to synchronise the traffic lights and pedestrian crossings (7 respondents).
- A traffic management plan for the whole area is needed. Including an in-depth investigation and scoping of alternative options, to reduce the traffic build up at the Fitzroy Street and Canterbury Road intersection. (17 respondents).
- The Langridge Street and Patterson Street intersection is used for rat-running, creating heavy traffic in peak times. (12 respondents).
- If a right-turn ban is imposed at Cowderoy street, the same must occur for all streets in the area, for example McGregor Street. (7 respondents).
- The proposal will Increase commuting time and limit access to residents' property (7 respondents).
- The proposal will make speeding and rat-running worse, pushing more traffic onto surrounding streets, like McGregor Street - Increasing congestion, idling cars will increase emissions. (7 respondents).
- Council is being reactive to feedback from Cowderoy Street residents, without considering the redistributed traffic and effects on other local Streets and residents. It is inequitable to rank the concerns of high property value residents on side streets higher than the concerns of your mid value-property residents. We all pay rates and deserve to be treated equally. (6 respondents)

- Place and enforce Local Traffic signs - encourage motorist to use Fitzroy Street and Kerferd Road or main thoroughfares. (4 respondents).
- The area is over-regulated. (2 respondents)
- Remove bike lanes, raised pavements and street narrowing along Fitzroy Street. (2 respondents)
- Cowderoy Street has traffic lights at the intersection with Beaconsfield parade and traffic doesn't bank up, it's a safer street for traffic to go through, less residents in Cowderoy compared with other streets. (4 respondents)
- This proposal will make safety issues for pedestrians trying to cross the streets, such as McGregor, in during peak hours (2 respondents).
- Residents require access to a U-turn at Cowderoy Street from southbound Canterbury Road, to go back up Canterbury Road northbound between Cowderoy Street and Fraser Street. There are many residents along this strip, that need to do a U-Turn at this intersection. (2 respondents).

Other comments:

- The trial will make the roads more dangerous for drivers, pedestrians, cyclists, and residents (1 respondent).
- Langridge Street needs a Stop sign, instead of the Give way sign (1 respondent).
- Restrict heavy vehicles using Canterbury Road. My house moves/vibrates whenever a heavy vehicle goes past it (1 respondent)
- I need to make this turn to get home and am not bothered by the traffic during peak hours.
- The council is out of its depth. Anything they do is an expensive disaster. The bike paths and Acland Street is just a couple to mention. Acland Street was vibrant and full of energy and now it's blocked off it's a drug den of crime and a dangerous place to go (1 respondent).
- Google maps/GPS systems send cars down Langridge Street (1 respondent).
- Traffic noise pollution a major problem that will be shifted from Cowderoy to Langdrige. (1 respondent)
- This will create more issues for me accessing my private property. (1 respondent)



What we heard

Tell us why you support the trial?

Key themes were identified from the 151 survey comments provided from respondents stating they support the proposal.

Listed below in order of community priority are the key themes:

- Non-local traffic is using Cowderoy Street in the afternoon peak, making it completely congested and unsafe. (32 respondents)
- This trial will redistribute the congestion problem to surrounding streets Fraser, McGregor, York & Langridge. The trial restricting traffic turning right from Canterbury Road into all streets is needed. (28 respondents)
- There's a massive traffic hazard at Park Street roundabout, cars illegally using tram tracks to continue their journey. (23 respondents)
- Risk to pedestrians and cyclist during pm peak hour, the traffic is at gridlock, notably around Park Street roundabout. This is impacting on pedestrian safety and flow, in a street that has a park and playground that attracts so many children after school. (21 respondents)
- Rat runner traffic, speeding, aggressive, dangerous driving in our local residential streets is far too high. (22 respondents)
- Traffic often blocks trams and buses, some motorists drive along the tram tracks, which is incredibly dangerous. (17 respondents)
- Cowderoy Street has become dangerous because of the volume and speed of vehicles cutting through. (10 respondents)
- Safety issues for pedestrians crossing the street during peak hours. (12 respondents)
- Cowderoy Street becomes jammed with traffic trying to access Beaconsfield Pde. A comprehensive traffic plan for the Kerferd Rd, Beaconsfield Pde, Canterbury Road and Fitzroy Street area is needed. (10 respondents).
- The noise pollution is very bad, reducing traffic flow into Cowderoy Street will help. (10 respondents).
- In the morning and evening, traffic using Cowderoy Street, as a through street between Canterbury Road and Beaconsfield Parade is constant. (7 respondents)

- The issue is the convergence of traffic at the Park Street roundabout, for access to Beaconsfield Parade - creating gridlock. (7 respondents)
- The proposal will improve safety and amenity for residents. (5 respondents).
- Limiting traffic will make it safer and quieter for residents. (3 respondents)
- The traffic is out-of-control. (3 respondents)
- Proposal will limit the traffic in Cowderoy Street, this issue will need ongoing attention. (2 respondents)
- Trial will provide evidence for how bad the traffic problem is. (2 respondents)
- There's 'Hoon behaviour' in warm weather. (2 respondents)
- Issues accessing private property in peak times. (2 respondents)

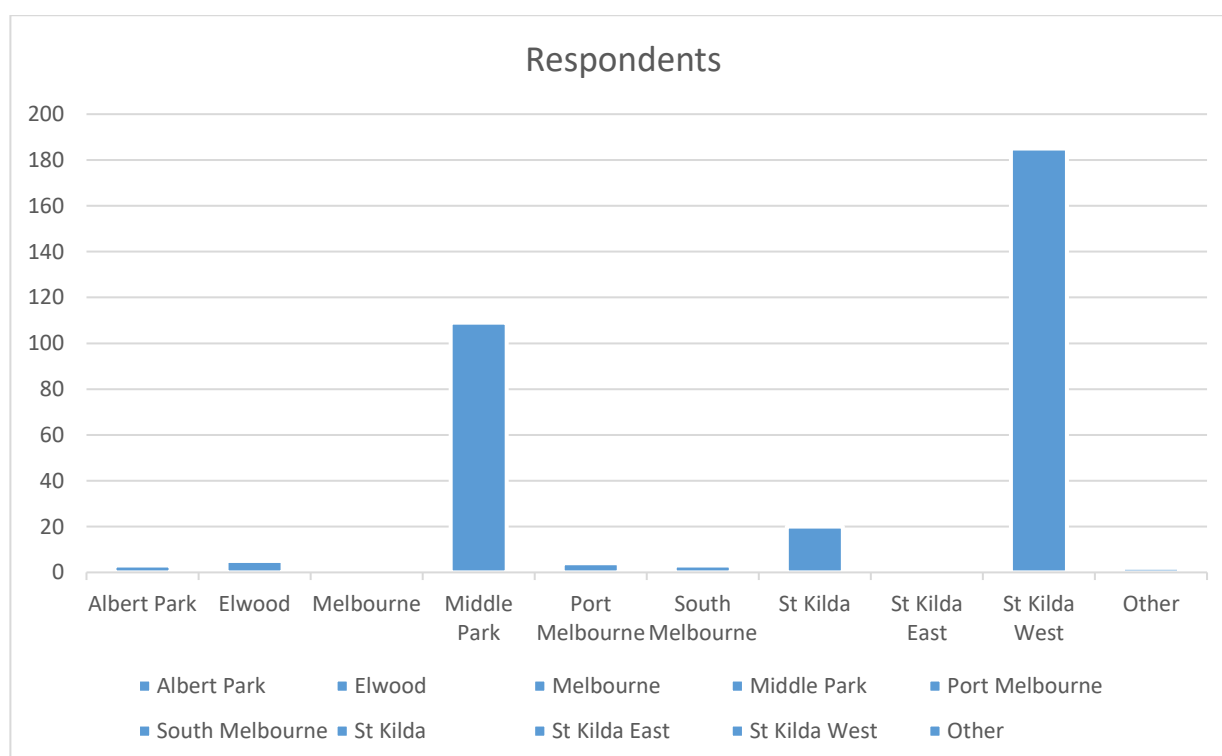
Other comments:

- Cars speed along Cowderoy to access Beaconsfield Parade. (1 respondents)
- Council needs to open main roads Grey Street and Fitzroy Street. (1 respondent)
- Need to revert to three through lanes on Beaconsfield Parade, right through to Jacka Boulevard /Marine Parade. (1 respondent)
- Google maps sends cars down Cowderoy. (1 respondent).

Demographics from Have Your Say

Question: What suburb do you live in?

We had 333 reponses to this question, from 283 participants. Therefore, this data isn't a true representation. Some participantss stated they lived muliple suburbs in response to this question.



Results

Most survey participants stated that they lived in St Kilda West (185) and Middle Park (109). Others answered that they lived in St Kilda (20), Elwood (5), South Melbourne (3), St Kilda East (1) and Melbourne (1).

Question: Which Street do you live in?

Residents that support the trial stated they live on:

Most respondents that support the trial stated they live on Park Street (30%) Cowderoy Street (18%) and Canterbury Road (16%).

Residents that don't support the trial stated they live on:

257 responses were received to this question from 141 respondents. Participants responded multiple times, giving varying responses to what street they live on. Therefore, this data is not a true representation.

	No.		No.
Park Street	39	Canterbury Road	42
Cowderoy street	24	Park Street	33
Canterbury Road	21	Cowderoy Street	27
Beaconsfield Pde.	12	York Street	20
Loch street st Kilda west	5	beaconsfield pde	18
Longmore Street	3	Park Road	15
Fitzroy Street	3	Langridge Street	11
Mc Gregor St	2	Fitzroy st	10
Deakin St	2	Richardson Street	9
Park Road	2	Mc Gregor St	9
Richardson Street	2	Loch Street	8
Mary Street	2	Fraser St	8
Jackson Street	2	Longmore Street	7
Langridge Street	2	Patterson St	5
Fraser Street	1	Mary Street	4
Burnett Street	1	Spray Street	3
Barnacle Mews	1	Deakin	3
Kerferd Road	1	Nimmo Sreet	3
Princes Street	1	Jackson Street	2
Nimmo St	1	Blessington	1
Spray Street	1	Albert Road	1
Palmer Street	1	Kerferd Road	1
Albert Road	1	Princes Street	1
Grand Total	130	Roycliff ct	1
		Stokes Street	1
		Dalgety Street	1
		Danks Street	1
		Meredith	1

Barnacle Mews	1
Mills St	1
Dow St	1
Waterloo crescent	1
Little Page	1
Burnett Street	1
Upper esplanade	1
Page Street	1
Palmer Street	1
Byrne avenue	1
Orrong Road	1
Grand Total	257

What we heard via email.

Support the trial

Summarised comments from emails:

- Lives on Beaconsfield Parade and uses Cowderoy Steet to go home and this would impact them.
- Remove roundabouts in Cowderoy Street to give right of way to cross streets.
- Reduced speed limit on Canterbury Road.
- "no left turn' into Beaconsfield Parade.

Do not support the trial

Summarised comments from emails:

- Intersection improvements needed for Fitzroy / Canterbury.
- Agree but wants treatment to be monitored and enforced.
- Trial should encompass all four streets Cowderoy, Langridge and McGregor.
- Wants improvements at Fitzroy / Canterbury / Grey
- Wants improvements at Kerferd road (e.g. right turn from Canterbury) and this would encourage using major roads.
- Prohibit parking for longer sections at Fitzroy / Canterbury / Grey to improve traffic flow
- The length of the trial is excessive and should be reduced to 4 months
- Cars will use nearby Streets which is far worse as they are narrower and have trams.
-

Did not vote - Support the trial

Summarised comments from emails:

- Wants pre-trial traffic data of study area to be publicly available prior to commencement/completion of installation.
- My concern is with residents', pedestrians', cyclists' and motorists' safety, and facilitating the movement of trams and evening peak traffic.
- The Langridge St and Park Rd intersection is already renowned for being dangerous. If you increase the flow of traffic on Langridge St, you will increase the likely number of collisions at this intersection.

Did not vote - Do not support the trial

Summarised comments from emails:

- Intersection improvements Fitzroy / Canterbury
- Will transfer traffic to other streets
- Raises rat running issues already present in surrounding area in particular McGregor Street. Seeking additional turn ban restrictions / closures than just Cowderoy Street alone
- Is a resident in the area and uses the intersection to perform a U-turn to access property without having to do a significant detour.
- Reduction in length of the Canterbury Rd turning lane, which is the longest of its type in the entire length of this road.



Did not vote - Neither for nor against

Summarised comments from emails:

- Hard to enforce / don't see the trial working
- Lives on canterbury and uses Cowderoy for shopping / medical app. Turn ban would create a long detour for local resident in the area and just shift issue into side streets.
- Petition recommending various alternative trial / raising other concerns

How this report will be used

A subsequent report will be provided to Council with the outcome of this community consultation, and a recommendation to proceed or not with the trial.

How to find out more

Visit: <https://haveyoursay.portphillip.vic.gov.au/cowderoy-street> for project updates

Or

Email: transport@portphillip.vic.gov.au