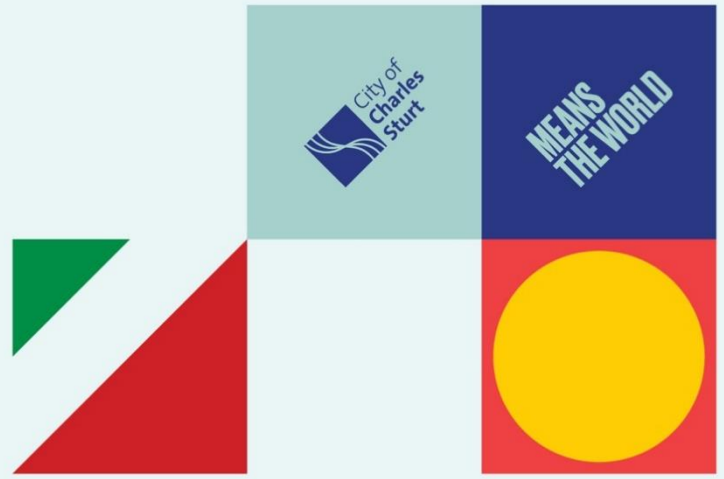
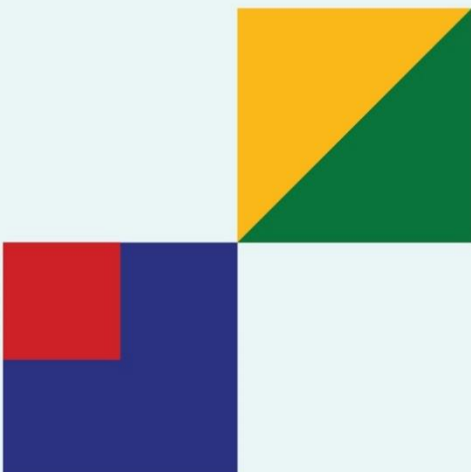




COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Gibson Street Upgrade
Tree planting - Hybrid Solution
April 2025



Prepared By:

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1. BACKGROUND

Following consultation on tree planting in Gibson Street in 2024, we're introducing a new **hybrid solution**, which combines the best elements of both. We also know the community wants more variety in tree species along Gibson Street. This new plan includes different types of trees to create a healthier and more diverse urban canopy.

The initial two options provided were:

- Option 1: Keeping bottlebrush trees and plant more:** This option kept the existing bottlebrush trees on both sides of the street and planted more bottle brush trees between them.
- Option 2: Replace bottlebrush trees with crepe myrtles (and add more trees):**
This option removed all bottlebrush trees and replaced them with crepe myrtle trees, as well as planting more in gaps, for a more uniform look and better tree cover.

The hybrid solution:

Based on community feedback and to get the best outcome, we now suggest the hybrid tree solution which combines elements of both previous options:

- 1. Western side – Keep bottlebrush trees and plant new crepe myrtle trees:** The existing bottlebrush trees on the western side of Gibson Street will stay. More crepe myrtle trees will be planted between the bottlebrush trees where possible to improve greenery.
- 3. Eastern side – Replace bottlebrush trees:** The bottlebrush trees on the eastern (city) side will be removed and replaced with crepe myrtle trees, or Chinese Pistachios where verge width/space allows, for a more even tree canopy.

A total of 25 participants took part and provided their feedback about the proposed hybrid solution. Consultation was open for a 3-week period from 3 March to 24 March.

Further analysis of the community engagement feedback and stakeholder feedback is provided in Sections 5 of this report. All open comments received from community are presented in the back of this report in **Appendix A**.

2. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

This consultation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of Council's Public Consultation Policy (PCP), Part 3 requirements and any additional, discretionary activities. The engagement level was 'consult'. Public feedback was open for a 21-day consultation period to ensure the public was given reasonable opportunity to review the proposal and concepts developed following the first round of engagement about the tree planting in Gibson Street.

Consultation was open for a 3-week period from 3 March to 24 March 2025.

All residents and property/landowners and businesses within the defined catchment area (refer **Figure 1**) were directly notified of the opportunity to engage with the project and submit feedback, either directly via our Your Say Charles website or email submission. Previous consultation participants and the wider public were made aware of the consultation and opportunity to participate via direct communication and/or Your Say Charles Sturt.

3. ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLES

Figure 1: Consultation brochure



Figure 2: Concept Plan



4. ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS AND KEY THEMES

A total of 25 respondents took provided feedback in response to the updated tree planting proposal for Gibson Street Upgrade. This included 21 Your Say Charles Sturt online submission forms, three (3) written email submissions and one (1) hardcopy written submission.

Overall, the feedback shows support for the updated Hybrid Solution proposal (Option 3);

The **majority** of responses are supportive of Option 3, emphasising:

- Improved canopy cover and biodiversity.
- Aesthetic improvements.
- Appreciation for Council's efforts and community engagement.
 - Many respondents express gratitude and enthusiasm:
 - *"Love the new leafy additions in option 3!"*
 - *"Amazing effort by all."*
 - *"Thank you for listening to our community."*
- **Neutral to Mildly Concerned:**
 - Some respondents support the plan but want:
 - More native species.
 - Specific existing trees retained.
 - Clarity on footpath works.
- **Negative Sentiment (Minority):**
 - A smaller representative expressed:
 - Strong opposition to removing native bottlebrush trees.
 - Disappointment over using non-native species.
 - Frustration over perceived contradictions with Council's biodiversity policy.
 - A belief that community preferences were disregarded.

Despite these concerns, most of the feedback is favourable, reflecting an overall positive community sentiment toward the hybrid solution with pockets of concern over native biodiversity and footpath safety.

A full list of comments received are available in the back of this report as **Appendix A**.

5. NEXT STEPS

The project team will review the feedback as provided in this report and look to make a final decision on the tree options.

Updates about this consultation will be provided direct to consultation contributors and online project followers to ensure they are informed of next steps and any decision(s). The broader community will be able to access updates by visiting the public website and/or Your Say Charles Sturt project page or applicable social media updates.

APPENDIX A: OPEN FEEDBACK COMMENTS

Contribution ID #	Comments
21939	Very supportive of this as the pavement is in poor condition and can be a hazard. I hope that intersections will be raised to slow vehicles down. Street parking should also be removed to improve cyclist safety
21938	Option 3, hybrid solution
21937	I'm in support of the updated Gibson Street hybrid solution.
21936	I would love to share my appreciation for the efforts of all involved to work towards this amazing outcome. Council has worked hard to underground services where possible, widen footpaths, retain parking, listen to locals about short term and long-term goals for green cover, etc etc. I most happily support the latest plan and thank everyone involved in getting to this outcome. Amazing effort by all.
21935	Thank you for the latest update. I am generally in support with the proposal. I wish to note the following matters however. There is one additional existing tree that has not been included at on the plan. It is just north of Hawker Street on the western side. It is the same tree as 2 others nearby. I ask that the unrecorded tree also be retained as it is good condition and of the same species as another nearby tree that is proposed to be retained. In addition, there appears to be scope for an additional tree or two in this same section of street (Between Hawker Street and 128 Gibson Street). If possible, could a Chinese Pistachio be included here to help fill the missing gap in the tree provision.
21934	I support option 3. Think it is the best one
21933	OPTION 3 REALLY APPEALS TO ME
21890	1. Western side - Keep bottlebrush trees: The existing bottlebrush trees on the western side of the street will stay. Very pleased 2. Western side - Add Crepe Myrtles: More Crepe Myrtle trees will be planted between the Bottlebrush trees where possible to improve greenery. Very disappointed as does nothing to attract native birds. 3. Eastern side - replace bottlebrush trees: The bottlebrush trees on the eastern (city) side will be removed and replaced with crepe Myrtle trees for a more even canopy. Very disappointed as does nothing to attract native birds. Tree removals - a total of 18 Bottlebrush trees are proposed for removal, including all trees on the eastern side of the project area and one on the western side, allowing for an overall increase in tree numbers. Very happy with an increase in tree numbers Proposed new plantings - Up to 54 new trees are proposed, which will consist of: - 41 Crepe Myrtle trees - 13 Chinese Pistachio trees (to be planted in areas where larger verge widths permit) Very disappointed in the fact that any Australian Native tree(s) is/are not suitable for street trees. I am really not sure that introduced trees like Crepe Myrtle and Chinese Pistachio trees match what is stated in your own Charles Sturt Biodiversity document "We're working to protect and enhance our flora and fauna habitats". I really feel that more research needs to be done into finding suitable Australian Native trees for using as street trees

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21887	I support Option 3. Thank you for listening to our Community, the Hybrid Option clearly offers the best possible outcome for biodiversity, canopy cover & visual appeal. After a rather protracted process I look forward to finally having footpaths that are safe and DDA Compliant! Sadly, it shouldn't have taken this many years to get to this point.
21885	I support Option 3 the Hybrid Solution as it ticks all the boxes for: Increased Biodiversity, Increased Canopy Cover & Improved Visual Amenity
21865	I like Option 3. The Crepe Myrtle trees are very pretty. Thank you.
21855	Love the new leafy additions in option 3! Can't wait to see the finished product :)
21854	I strongly support the new hybrid plan with the retention of some of the bottle brush trees (which are not impacting on the surface of the footpath) and the inclusion of crepe Myrtle's and the Chinese pistachio trees. It is really important to create as much tree canopy as possible along the street
21852	Hi, i prefer keeping as many bottlebrush as possible, 18 seems like too many to remove. They are native trees, Evergreen, established and provide food for nectar loving birds and animals. Crepemyrtles are lovely but they are not native and provide less nectar. I am glad to retain 38 trees but would like to retain more. Thanks for opportunity to give feedback.
21850	I would like option 3 for Gibson Street.
21847	I am a local resident and am in support of option 3, the hybrid solution. My only comment or observation is that I cannot see in the information what the intention is in regards to footpaths and "walkability". It does appear on the map image that new paths will be installed on both sides along Gibson Street, but there didn't appear to be anything written about it. (Apologies if I have missed it). I think this is critical to the project. Currently walking along Gibson Street (and some other surrounding streets) is very unsafe, with very sloped, narrow, cracked and damaged paths. Ideally there will be some widening and flattening of the path to allow for safer pedestrian traffic down Gibson Street. Especially catering for prams, mobility scooters etc. A good example is further up Hawker Street. The new paths there are great. Thanks.
21845	I agree the new hybrid option appears to be the best and most logical. I am the owner of [REDACTED]. We have two Nashi pear trees in front of our house. Can these be retained as this year they have given abundant fruit which has been enjoyed by us and our neighbours.

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21844	I absolutely support Option 3 for hybrid planting of Crepe Myrtles and Chinese Pistachios. I agree that this option will improve the tree canopy and the overall aesthetic of the street and am pleased that Council listened and responded to residents' concerns about the initial survey. I did find the letter to residents very confusing. It does not clearly state that Option 3 is the preferred option by Council and if not read carefully, it still infers that there are three choices for selection.
21840	i fund this outrageous as most people voted to save all the bottle brushes and plant more trees - whose lobbying has council bowed to - or was the survey just a pacifier for community members who believe in tree conservation and want to hold Charles Sturt accountable to its own policy of increasing tree coverage ? this proposal decreases tree coverage and destroys iconic unique trees
21838	I really like the hybrid approach for the Gibson Street tree planting plan. The improvement in tree canopy in particular will welcome. I am also a fan of the Chinese pistachio as a tree species.
21837	I like the idea of the hybrid solution. The hardest thing however is the footpaths are terrible and dangerous if not walking during daylight. I usually walk on the road if it is dark (to go to gym) due to tripping hazards. Are footpaths also being looked at as part of this process? On a separate note - kudos to the Charles sturt council as I think they do a great job maintaining the parks and gardens around the Bowden area - thank you
Written	Do not keep bottlebrush. Get rid of bottlebrush I am a ratepayer. These trees are a complete waste providing they attract bees and block drain and have residue in driveways. Where do we put our bins! You people don't live here. You have no idea as you are not residents or rate payers.
Email 1	Hi Kath I would very much support option 3. Thank you for coming back to the community with this new option, it is much better. On the map it's not clear where the pistachio trees are going as generally the paths are very narrow and I can't work out where would be wide enough to fit them. On another matter, the plans that are currently lodged for units to be built at market place/ hawker street by uniting sa, we are strongly opposed to. The proposal provides poor amenities for the proposed residents and would be a parking and traffic nightmare for Market Place/ Gibson Street- no matter how much the developer says the residents will not have cars this is an absolute nonsense- the residents of Nightingale have cars and no cars day one is not no cars forever. We know approval is outside of councils hands but would appreciate the councils continued objection against the development and an objection to any changing of the mound or design of Market Place, would greatly assist in getting this development brought back to a more appropriate scale/ car parking/ traffic management / waste management/ preservation of tree canopy/ more appropriate green space. Regards

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Email 2	Dear Ms Mardon, I am writing to you regarding the proposed changes to Gibson Street with the decision to removed the existing Bottle Brushes in order to underground the power poles and plants few larger trees. I am wondering where that proposal came from as a public survey which voted to retain all existing bottle brushes and plant more, is being overturned at Council in favour of a “hybrid solution” which has previously not been present to the public. Instead I propose Council consider: 1. Planing larger trees along with retaining the existing Bottle brush trees which are home to native birds, bees and lizards in a complex mature eco system; 2. Consider something other than skinny Crepe Myrtles and Box trees and potentially more native to this Karuna country on which we live for the new plantings; 3. Ensure that existing trees in Bowden/Brompton’s private homes and industry yards are not indiscriminately cut down to make space for parking lots and dipping pools - a startling example is the Uniting Care Bowden site which felled many mature shady tress to put little skinny ones in which have hardly grown- decreasing existing biodiversity and tree cover. The private land tree profile is thinning out alarmingly. As a long term resident I took part in many consultations on redeveloping Bowden. When we discussed tree coverage, street canopys and underground power I thought this was being implemented for the whole suburb, but have been so disappointed that for residents at the northern end of Bowden our tiny streets remain bitumen wastelands crisscrossed by ugly power poles and lines, with promises of semi-mature new planting in 11th St not eventuating. Council does not seem to look after these new plantings either - I weed and water and clean up three across the other side of the road from me as I want them to live, even tho they will be slight and ineffective shade and shelter providers. Imagine if we could reduce carbon emissions by having underground power and large tress shading our small streets, lowering the ambient temperature by 5-10 degrees, sucking up the emissions from the diesel train line and ring-road pollution, and reducing the dependence on those humming whole house aircon systems which are active 24/7. I look forward to your response.

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Email 3	Dear Ms Mardon, Thank you for the information that has been circulated about the proposed changes to Gibson Street, and the opportunity to comment on this. I understand the goals of the upgrade; that is to enhance the street's appearance and retain or increase tree cover. However, it seems to me that another relevant goal is to use the street upgrade to at least maintain, or better still, increase the native bird population in the area. As a member of BirdLife Australia (https://birdlife.org.au/) and Australian Conservation Foundation (https://www.acf.org.au/), as well as an avid bird watcher, I am very interested in the changes planned. Environmentalists are consistently highlighting the serious loss of native flora, fauna and birdlife due to the loss of appropriate food sources and habitat in all environments, including urban - with serious consequences for other parts of the ecosystem. The street upgrade provides a wonderful opportunity to explore what native trees, in addition to the native Bottlebrush, could be planted in Gibson Street to achieve the aims of improving the appearance of the street and increasing tree cover at the same time as re-building the local habitat for birds. It is of serious concern to me, that contrary to increasing the number of native trees in the area, the Council has proposed to remove many Bottlebrush trees and to replace them with trees that are not native to Australia, much less the western area of Adelaide. The native Chinese Crêpe Myrtle trees, as beautiful as they are for many people, are anathema to our Australian bird life. As a local Eleventh Street resident of some years, I have observed that birds do nest in and feed on the native trees around my home. However, I have never seen any such bird nesting, and very little feeding activity in the Crêpe Myrtle trees. We unfortunately only have Crêpe Myrtle trees in Eleventh Street (east of Gibson), now totalling twenty three (23x) trees. Therefore, I am very concerned about the proposed loss of the Gibson Street Bottlebrush trees and the planting of many more Crêpe Myrtle trees. Luckily, my immediate neighbours stretching from [redacted] through to [redacted] Eleventh Street all have collections of Australian native trees and bushes on their properties. Without their wonderful contribution we would not have our current largish population of native birds. Those birds being the New Holland Honeyeaters, Red Wattlebirds, Noisy Miners, Willy Wagtails, various Lorikeets, Adelaide Rosellas, Galas, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Long-billed Corellas, Little Corellas, Murray Magpies, Australian Magpies, Little Ravens and Striated Pardalotes. Unfortunately, excessive urban development has now made it impossible for the once common beautiful families of Silver Eyes to visit probably all of our gardens. The removal of property vegetation and the resultant loss of plant corridors has caused their loss. Crêpe Myrtle trees add very little to no environmental value for any of the above birds. Those trees might just as well be dead for the birds.

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Email 3, continued...	The Gibson Street upgrade is a fantastic opportunity to build the reputation of the Bowden area (and the City of Charles Sturt) as being committed to addressing issues in a manner that is consistent with valuing local flora and fauna for the benefit of our environment and community. I therefore request, as a matter of urgency, that there be a review of the Council's decisions to; 1. Remove well established and beautifully aged native Australian Bottlebrush (<i>Callistemon 'Harkness'</i>) trees and, 2. Replace them with Chinese Crêpe Myrtle (<i>Lagerstroemia indica</i>) and Chinese Pistachio (<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>) trees that are not local to the area, and that are in fact native to China. I am not a 'China hawk', but rather the exact opposite, having a great admiration for that country and their people. Yours sincerely