COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY REPORT

Gibson Street - Streetscape Upgrade
September 2024

Prepared By:

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We engaged with community from 30 August 2024 to 19 September 2024 on the Gibson Street Streetscape Upgrade and street tree options.

The community engagement activities were undertaken in accordance with Part 3 of Council's Public Consultation Policy (PCP). The level of engagement was **'consult'**.

The objectives of this engagement were to:

- The endorsed concept plan and project Information regarding the Gibson Street improvements is provided to the Charles Sturt community and key stakeholders to ensure they are informed and aware of the project intent and have an opportunity to make comment prior to designs being finalised.
- Our community has easy access to the appropriate information and accessible ways to provide feedback.
- The process is transparent and builds positive relationships between Council and the community, and positions Charles Sturt as an organisation that is providing sound management decisions.
- The Charles Sturt community is informed of any decision and the reasoning for the decision.

The engagement was promoted via:

- Your Say Charles Sturt project page & project launch email campaign
- Direct notification to property owners and residents in the area (approx. 750)
- Direct notification to precinct stakeholders

We received 58 responses to the Gibson Street, Streetscape Upgrade & street tree options online, one (1) written comments, and we met with 4 key business stakeholders of Gibson Street.

There was majority support (67%) for option 1 - keep the existing bottlebrush trees and plant more of them to increase the tree canopy in the street, with 33% supporting option 2 – removing bottlebrush and replanting Crepe Myrtle trees.

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

2. BACKGROUND

Since 2017 we have been progressively delivering a range of traffic management, asset and streetscape improvements throughout the Bowden precinct in response to requests from the community. Works have focused on delivering an accessible and connected path network, improved traffic flow, increased greening and tree planting and improved general amenity of the area.

An overall concept plan was developed in 2015/16 to lead the future direction of a streetscape upgrade for Gibson Street and to also consider the impact and viability of a one-way system and upgrades to adjacent streets within the precinct. Two options for Gibson Street were considered at the time being:

Option One – One-way North Bound

- Upgraded threshold along the major bikeway link along Ninth Street.
- Rest stop/ seating node. Opportunity for wayfinding
- Signage & artwork
- Significant widening to verge and footpath on both sides of the street
- Village feel – paved shared zone, one way traffic with parking lane (Eleventh to Hawker)
- Upgraded intersection at Hawker Street. Potential façade treatment to corner building, gateway artwork and raised paved threshold.

Option Two – Two-way with Driveway Link

- A driveway link and enhanced planting at Emu Park.
- Upgraded threshold along major bikeway link along Ninth Street.
- Rest stop/seating node. Opportunity for way finding.
- Signage and artwork
- Slight widening of verge and footpath to East side of street
- Two-way road with protuberances at intersections and indented parking
- Upgraded intersection at Hawker Street. Potential facade treatment to corner building, gateway artwork and raised paved threshold.

At the time, Council endorsed Option 2 - Two Way with Driveway link concept.

Since that time, we have been progressively delivering key elements from the endorsed vision including:

- Construction of the Gibson Street driveway link adjacent Emu Park (completed)
- Implementation of the one-way system (with two-way traffic on Gibson Street) throughout the Bowden precinct as per a resolution in 2017. (Eighth Street between Gibson and Drayton remains two-way).
- Streetscape upgrades (paths, tree planting, parking controls) on Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh (partial) streets.
- Progressed renewal of the paths and roadway in Gibson Street adjacent Emu Park between Seventh Street and Eighth Street (23/24 FY program).

The upgrade of the balance of Gibson Street (Eighth Street to Thirteenth Street) is now planned for the 2025/26 financial year.

Undergrounding of the powerlines was a consideration, however due to high cost and public risk (during removal), we are not proceeding with a formal application to the Powerline Electrical Committee (PLEC) for their removal. However, as part of the project Council will seek to underground isolated sections of powerlines where the cost is not prohibitive and there is a need to achieve DDA compliant access along the path network. This approach was endorsed by Council in November 2023.

Thanks to the keen interest and participation from the local community, we've identified the following elements as the most important and should be addressed as part of the streetscape design:

- Improved Walkability
- More trees and landscaping
- Low speed road environment
- Business support

A concept plan was developed and endorsed by Council that responds to earlier feedback, but we still required community help on a few remaining details.

We sought feedback on the street tree options that align with our Tree Canopy Strategy.

Option 1: Keep the existing bottlebrush trees and plant more of them to increase the tree canopy in the street.
This option would retain all 36 existing bottlebrush trees and add an additional 16 bottlebrush trees to ensure the trees in the street are all consistent and the tree canopy is not impacted by the project.
→ This option will increase tree canopy coverage from the current 10.35% to 13.6% when the trees reach maturity
→ The canopy when mature will be equal to 891 square metres

Option 2: Replace the Bottlebrush trees with Crepe Myrtles to match the completed upgraded streets either side of Gibson Street within the historic Bowden precinct.
This option would mean that all the bottle brush trees are removed and replaced with Crepe Myrtles trees.
→ Tree canopy coverage will initially be reduced to 0.77% when the young trees are planted but will reach 13.6% when mature
→ Canopy when mature will be equal to 891 square metres

3. 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

All residents and property/landowners within the catchment area (refer **Figure 1**) were directly notified of the opportunity to engage with the project proposal and submit feedback via our Your Say Charles website.

Additionally, business and other key stakeholders along Gibson Street and within the precinct were invited to attend a meeting prior to public engagement starting, to understand the proposal and share feedback on business needs and requirements.

The engagement/promotional activities and participation levels are summarised in **Table 1: Community Engagement Activity.**

The feedback from the public as detailed in this report will be considered by staff and will inform an outcomes report with recommendations on next steps for Council consideration.

Figure 1: Local Property Catchment Area
Highlighted properties are included in the catchment area.

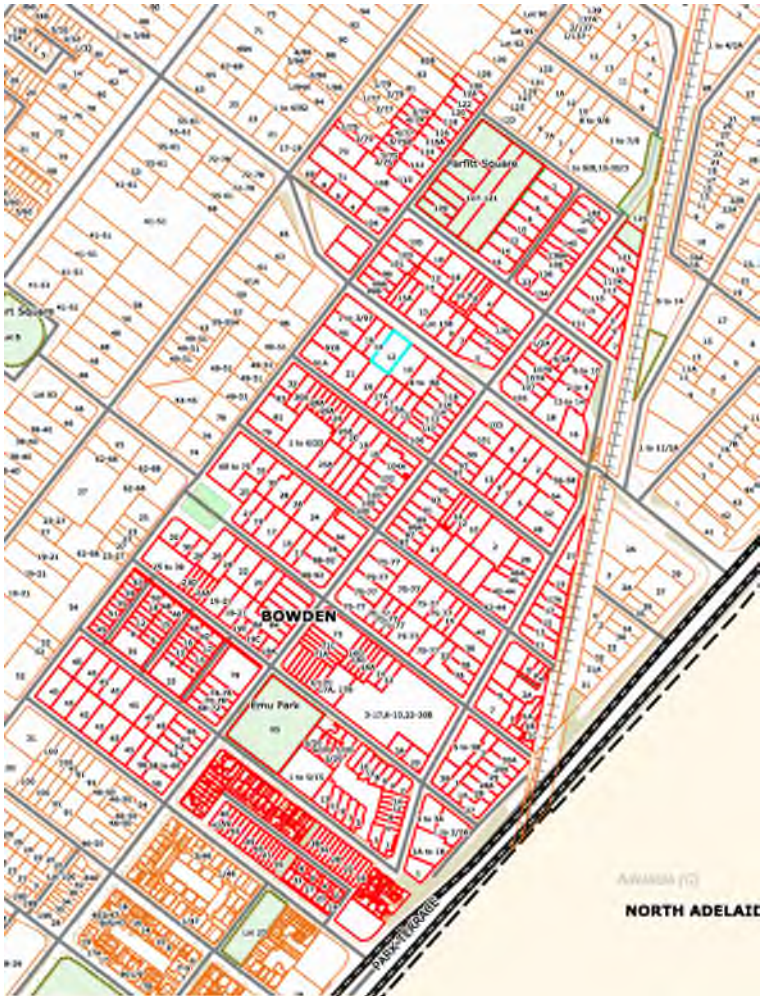


TABLE 1: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY

What	Engagement activity	Details	Participants
Consultation promotion	Your Say Charles Sturt new project email campaign – **Gibson Street Streetscape Upgrade**	New project email campaign sent on 30 August 2024 to those with interest categories – Transport, Engineering, Bowden.	Sent to 820 registered Your Say members. 399 opened (49%) 47 click-through (5.7%)
	Local Area Direct Notification	Maildrop to 540 properties and posted to 207 absent property owners in the within the catchment area (refer Figure 1, pg. 4)	-
Your Say Charles Sturt Project Page	Your Say Charles Sturt online project page – **Gibson Street, Streetscape Upgrade**	https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/gibsonstreetupgrade Open to everyone Launched 30 August 2024.	608 page views 320 page visits 243 unique visitors 40 project followers
Feedback & Submissions Received	Online community survey (Your Say Charles Sturt), email & hardcopy submissions	*30 August 2024 to 5pm, 19 September* *(This report captures responses from 30 August to 21 October)*	58 online contributions
Stakeholder Specific Engagement	Pre-engagement stakeholder information meetings.	Workshop with businesses held on 20 June 2024 at Against the Grain Bakery.	4 business representatives (3 businesses)

4. ENGAGEMENT EXAMPLES

Consultation brochure



GIBSON STREET, STREETSCAPE UPGRADE

Eighth Street to Thirteenth Street

Project background:

Since 2016, we've been working closely with the Bowden community to develop a plan that delivers streetscape improvements across the historic streets between Hawker Street/Drayton Street/Park Terrace and the new Bowden development.

Significant progress has been made, and more work is planned for the coming years, including the upgrade of Gibson Street. To learn more about past projects and decisions, please visit the Charles Sturt Your Say page here: www.yoursaycharlesstturt.com.au/GibsonStreetupgrade.

What we have previously heard from you:

Thanks to the keen interest and participation from the local community, we've identified the following elements as the most important and should be addressed as part of the streetscape design:

- IMPROVED WALKABILITY
- MORE TREES AND LANDSCAPING
- LOW SPEED ROAD ENVIRONMENT
- BUSINESS SUPPORT

We still need your help:

A concept plan has been developed and endorsed by Council that responds to earlier feedback, but we still need your help on a few remaining details.

To help us finalise the design for Gibson Street, we are seeking feedback on the street tree options that align with our Tree Canopy Strategy.

We also welcome any additional thoughts on the streetscape upgrade.

We have two options for street trees in Gibson Street which we would like the community to consider and provide feedback on.

Option 1:
Keep the existing bottlebrush trees and plant more of them to increase the tree canopy in the street.

What does this mean for the street?

This option would retain all 36 existing bottlebrush trees and add an additional 16 bottlebrush trees to ensure the trees in the street are all consistent and the tree canopy is not impacted by the project.

→ This option will increase tree canopy coverage from the current 10.35% to 13.6% when the trees reach maturity

→ The canopy when mature will be equal to 891 square metres

Option 2:
Replace the Bottlebrush trees with Crepe Myrtles to match the completed upgraded streets either side of Gibson Street within the historic Bowden precinct.

What does this mean for the street?

This option would mean that all the bottle brush trees are removed and replaced with Crepe Myrtles trees.

→ Tree canopy coverage will initially be reduced to 0.77% when the young trees are planted but will reach 13.6% when mature

→ Canopy when mature will be equal to 891 square metres



The table below provides some further information regarding the context of trees and their nativity with respect to tree canopy cover

Tree	Bottlebrush Only	Crepe Myrtle Only
Native species	Yes	No
Canopy cover	Low	Low

You can find out more information about both species online below:

Bottlebrush infill - Callistemon 'Harkness'
https://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/Plants/Details/3080

Crepe Myrtle infill - Lagerstroemia indica
https://plantselector.botanicgardens.sa.gov.au/Plants/Details/3149

How to provide your feedback:

To provide your feedback on these options you can:

→ Complete the online feedback form at www.yoursaycharlesstturt.com.au/gibsonstreetupgrade or download a hard copy feedback form

→ Request a hard copy form be sent to you by calling us

→ Call us to take your feedback over the phone

Additional project information is also available at www.yoursaycharlesstturt.com.au/gibsonstreetupgrade

Consultation closes 19 September.

For further information or queries about the consultation, please contact:

Kath Mardon
Community Engagement Officer
engf-consultation@charlesstturt.sa.gov.au
8408 1270

Consultation concept plan



Feedback Form



FEEDBACK FORM
GIBSON STREET UPGRADE

We need your help with street trees

We have two options for street trees in Gibson Street which we would like the community to consider and provide feedback on. This survey will take approximately 3-8 minutes to complete depending on your level of interest.

Please read all the information about the options prior to completing the survey.

You can send your completed form to City of Charles Sturt, Attn ESA Consultation, PO Box 1, Woodville SA 5011 or scan and email to eng-consultation@charlesstturt.sa.gov.au

Provide your feedback no later than 5pm, Monday 19 September 2024

1. How do you think each tree species will impact the overall look and feel of the street? (Please provide your thoughts for both Bottlebrush and Crepe Myrtles)

2. What specific features of Bottlebrush do you find appealing? (Select all that apply) Required

Select all that apply
☐ Bright flowers
☐ Unique foliage
☐ Attracts birds/bees etc
☐ Other

3. What specific features of Crepe Myrtles do you find appealing? (Select all that apply) Required

Select all that apply
☐ Beautiful blossoms
☐ Varied colours
☐ Deciduous nature (seasonal interest)
☐ Low maintenance
☐ Other

4. What is your most preferred street tree option for Gibson Street? Required

Select one answer only
◯ Option 1 - Keep the existing bottlebrush trees and plant more of them to increase the tree canopy in the street.
◯ Option 2 - Replace the Bottlebrush trees with Crepe Myrtles to match the completed upgraded streets either side of Gibson Street within the historic Bowden precinct

5. Is there anything else you would like to comment on about the draft concept plan for Gibson Street?

You can provide any information you feel we need know about the streetscape upgrade.

Your Details

1. Your Name Required

2. Address Required

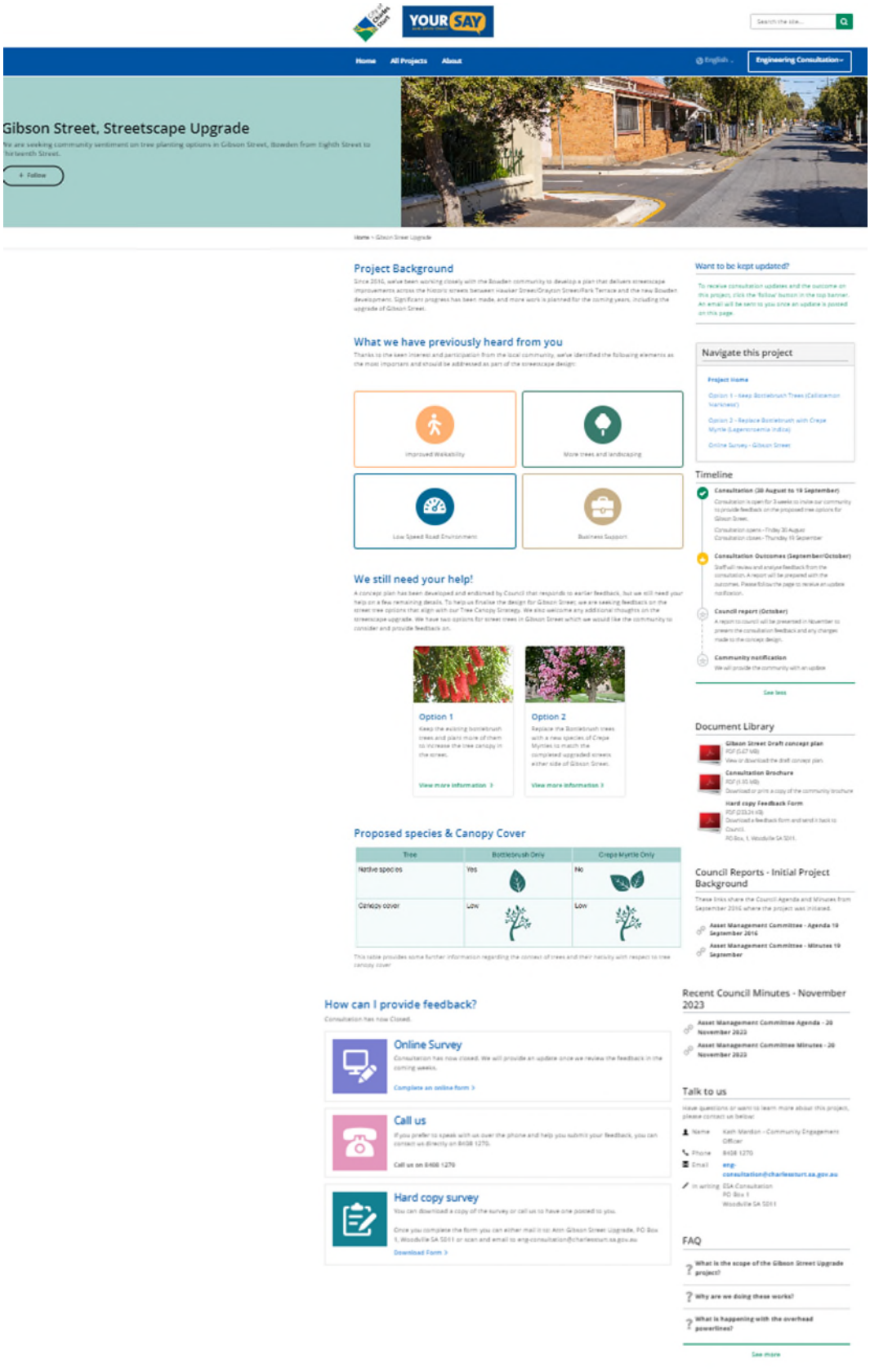
3. Phone number Required

4. Email Required

Thank you for taking the time to submit your feedback about Gibson Street.

YOUR SAY CHARLES STURT PUBLIC PROJECT PAGE:

https://www.yoursaycharlessturt.com.au/gibsonstreetupgrade



5. ENGAGEMENT FINDINGS & KEY THEMES

A total of 58 respondents took part and provided their feedback online on the Gibson Street Upgrade and street tree options. One (1) respondent provided written comments. Consultation was open for a 3-week period from 30 August to 19 September 2024. A number of people responded past the close date; however, this report captures responses from 30 August to 21 October 2024.

Participants were asked to share their position and sentiment on the proposed two (2) street tree options, which were to keep existing bottlebrush trees and to infill with additional bottlebrushes, or to remove existing trees and plant all new Crepe Myrtles. We were also open to understanding any new feedback about the streetscape upgrade.

All submissions were received online through the online Your Say Charles Sturt feedback form.

Majority of the participants supported Option 1 – keep existing bottlebrush trees and plant more of them to increase the tree canopy in the street (67%). With others supporting Option 2 – Replace bottlebrush tree with Crepe Myrtles to match the completed upgrade streets either side of Gibson Street wit in the historic Bowden precinct (33%).

5.1 Who we heard from

Approximately 72% of participants who made a submission lived in or surrounding Gibson Street (Bowden/Brompton/West Hindmarsh) with 64% residing in Bowden, 7% in surrounding suburbs (Croydon, Ridleyton, Allenby Gardens/Kilkenny). The remaining participants resided in other City of Charles Sturt suburbs (10%) or in other suburbs in South Australia (3%), with one being interstate (2%). Refer Figure 2, below.

Figure 2: Number of participants by Location

Suburb	# of respondents
Bowden	37
Brompton/West Hindmarsh	5
Croydon/Ridleyton	2
Allenby Gardens/Kilkenny	2
Woodville Park / Woodville	4
West Lakes Shore	1
Richmond	1
Ovingham	1
Tatachilla	1
Adelaide	1
ACT – interstate	1

Table shows 58 contributors that provided their address

The respondent who sent in writen comments was addressed from North Adelaide, however this has not been included in the table above.

5.2 How do you think each tree species will impact the overall look and feel of the street? (provide your thoughts for both Bottlebrush and Crepe Myrtle)

We asked how people felt about each tree options before seeking their most preferred species. From the 58 respondents, 51 provided their feedback about their experience and knowledge on the trees.

BOTTLEBRUSH

Aesthetic appeal

Many respondents describe the bottlebrush trees as beautiful, partiularly when in bloom, highlighting their vibrant red flowers. This seasonal burst of colour was viewed as an asset to the streetscape. Some comments emphasised that the evergreen nature of bottlebrush trees keeps the street looking alive and colourful throughout the year.

Connection to nature

The native status of Bottlebrushes resonates with many residents, who appreciate their role in supporting wildlife, particularly birds. This connection to nature enhances the overall character of the street, making it feel more vibrant and alive.

Several respondents noted that the bottlebrush trees can create a messy environment due to flower debris and fallen seed pods. This debris was cited as a drawback that could detract from the street's overall aesthetic.

Impact on walkability

Many residents expressed that the low canopy and overgrown branches of bottlebrush trees obstruct walkways, making the street feel less accessible and safe. This has a negative impact on the overall feel of the street, particularly pedestrians.

Established look / feel

Some comments reflected a sentiment that the existing bottlebrush trees contribute to a sense of maturity and familiarity in the streetscape, which residents value. Removing these established trees could disrupt the sense of place.

CREPE MYRTLES

Visual appeal

Crepe myrtles were often described as aesthetically pleasing, with many respondents appreciating their seasonal colour changes and structured growth. The variety of blossoms and the potential for attractive autumn foliage were highlighted as positives.

Tree variety / tidiness

Respondents noted that crepe myrtles are less messy than bottlebrushes, as they don't produce the same level of debris. This was viewed as beneficial for maintaining a tidy streetscape, which can contribute positively to the neighbourhood's overall look.

Canopy & shade

Many residents expressed that crepe myrtles provide a better canopy and shade than bottlebrush trees. They were seen as having the potential to create a more inviting and comfortable environment for pedestrians, especially during the hotter months.

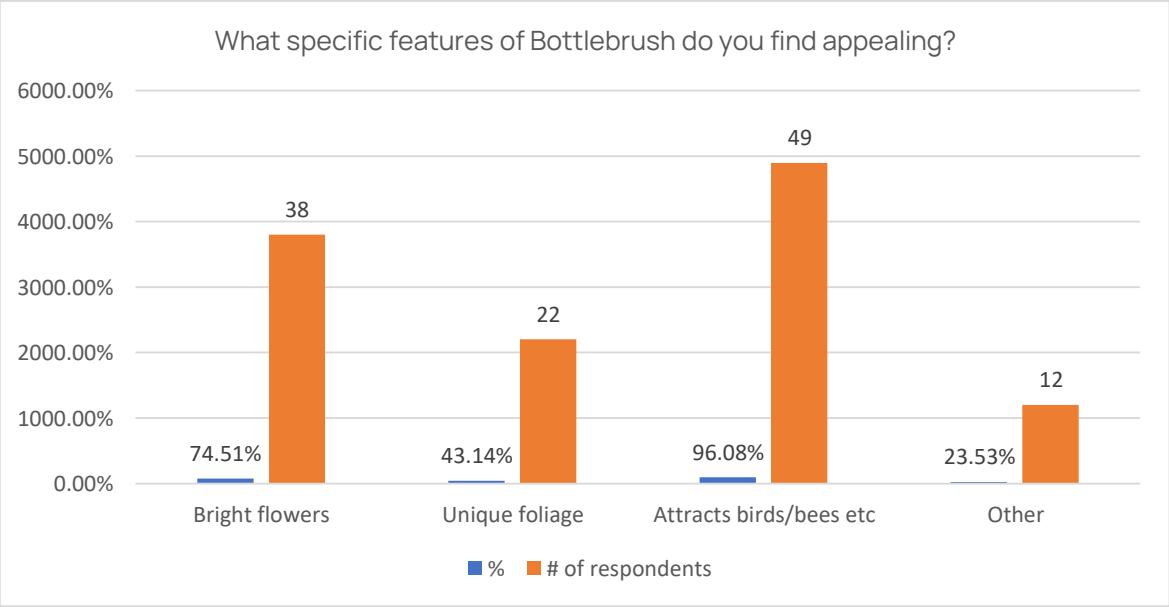
Design cohesion
Some participants indicated that replacing bottlebrush trees with Crepe Myrtles could help create a more uniform and cohesive look across the street, aligning with recent developments and potentially enhancing the overall appeal of the area.

Overall, bottlebrush trees were generally perceived as colourful and connected to local biodiversity, but concerns about messiness, low canopies, and walkability detract from their overall positive perception. They contribute to an established, vibrant streetscape that many residents. The Crepe Myrtles were viewed as attractive and tidy, with potential for improved walkability and shade. However, concerns about their seasonal appearance and the loss of established native trees raise questions about their overall contribution to the street's character.

5.3 Specific features of Bottlebrush

Respondents were asked to provide their feedback on what features the Bottlebrush appealed to them. The responses show a large proportion find they attract birds/ bees and provide bright flowers, which is evident in the feedback.

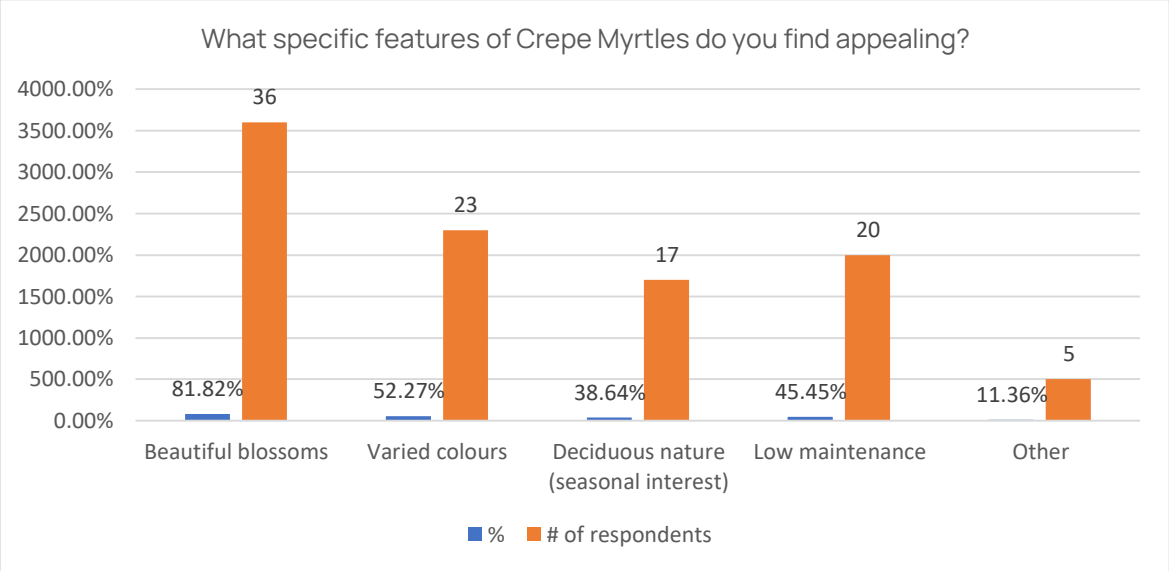
Figure 2 – Specific features of a bottlebrush respondents find appealing



5.4 Specific features of a Crepe Myrtle

Respondents were asked to provide their feedback on what features the Crepe Myrtle appealed to them. The responses show a large proportion find they attract birds/ bees and provide bright flowers, which is evident in the feedback.

Figure 3 – Specific features of a Crepe Myrtle respondents find appealing

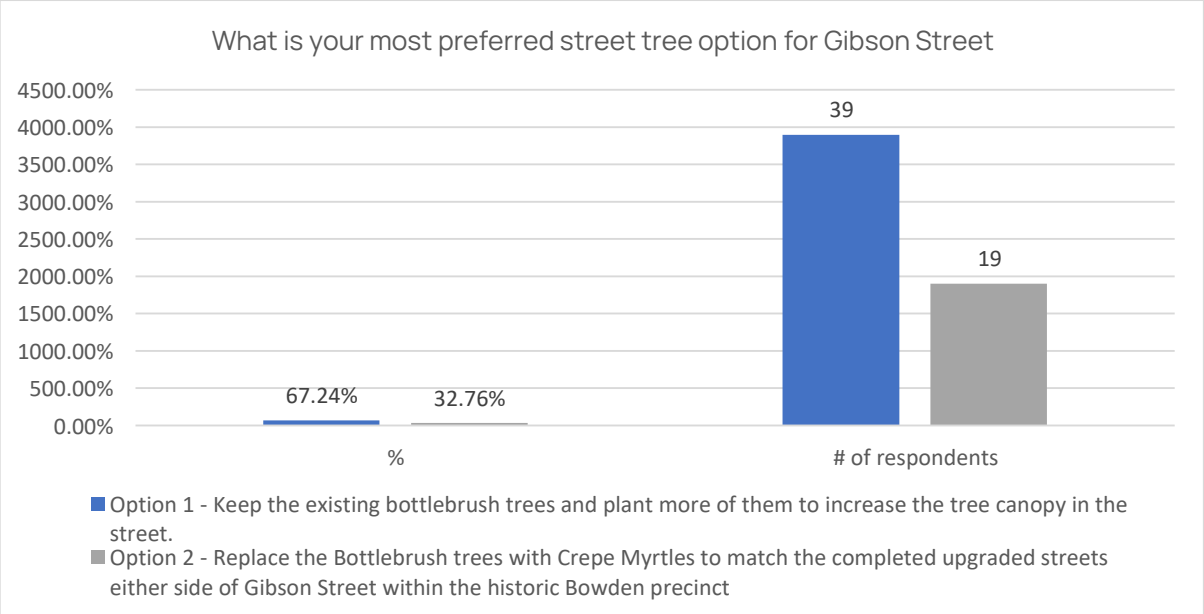


5.5 Most preferred street tree option

In November 2023 Council resolved to consult on options for the tree species for the street to improve the tree canopy with suitable tree species for Gibson Street. Staff have identified two suitable options for trees in the street. They are Bottlebrush trees and Crepe Myrtle trees.

Bottlebrush trees are already existing in the street and offer vibrant floral displays and attract local wildlife. Crepe Myrtles provide seasonal flowers and a compact canopy, making them ideal for urban settings. Both species are well suited to the existing above and below ground infrastructure and road width.

Respondents were asked to provide their most preferred option for street tree planting in Gibson Street.



5.6 Is there anything else you would like to comment on about the draft concept plan for Gibson Street?

From the 58 responses, 39 respondents provided additional comments about the concept plan and overall Gibson Street project. These responses are categorised in key themes and overall sentiment.

Native vs Non-native vegetation

Strong support for retaining and increasing native species, particularly bottlebrush trees. Concerns about replacing native trees with non-native Crepe Myrtles due to potential negative impacts on biodiversity and aesthetic appeal. There were also requests for a diverse range of native tree species instead of a monoculture.

Infrastructure Improvements

Many comments favour replacing overhead powerlines with underground solutions to improve aesthetics and safety. Calls for wider, safer footpaths and better traffic calming measures to enhance accessibility, especially for people with mobility issues.

Community Safety /Accessibility

A significant number of residents express concerns about the current state of footpaths, citing hazards like uneven surfaces and tree roots. Suggestions for improved street lighting and pedestrian crossings to enhance safety for pedestrians.

Environmental / Aesthetic

Emphasis on maintaining the area's distinctive coastal character and attractiveness throughout the year. Acknowledgment of the need for landscaping that supports local wildlife, particularly birds.

Maintenance

Concerns about leaf litter and maintenance requirements associated with deciduous trees versus the low-maintenance appeal of native species. Requests for more effective designs that minimise litter while enhancing the streetscape.

Community Sentiment

Positive Sentiment: Many residents express strong support for the proposed improvements, especially regarding native planting, safer footpaths, and the undergrounding of powerlines. There's enthusiasm for the potential revitalization of the streetscape.

Negative Sentiment: Some community members express frustration with the council's proposals, particularly regarding the consideration of non-native species. There's disappointment over past landscaping efforts and a sense that the community's needs are not fully being taken into account.

Neutral/Constructive Criticism: Several comments provide constructive feedback, suggesting alternatives or expressing specific preferences regarding tree species, design elements, and maintenance considerations.

Verbatim comments from respondents are in **Appendix A**

6. NEXT STEPS

The project team will review the feedback as provided in this report and make any necessary updates to the detailed design of Gibson Street along with the selected tree species, determined by community feedback.

Project updates will be provided direct to all 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: VERBATIM OPEN COMMENTS

Contribution ID	How do you think each tree species will impact the overall look and feel of the street? (Please provide your thoughts for both Bottlebrush and Crepe Myrtles)
20241	Both would be great. I prefer the bottlebrush, especially since they are native and add a distinctive look to the area.
19971	Bottlebrush currently drop a lot of flower debris which makes the street and sidewalk untidy. The Myrtle should be a more tidy modern option in keeping with the local area
19838	The bottle brush is less attractive for most of the year, but it's native and the birds love them. My vote goes to keeping them.
19786	Both trees will are great. I'm not sure why this is being consulted on. My view is that council should keep the existing trees. Why waste money replacing the trees for little-no benefit? The only argument 'for' replacing the trees seems to be that the species will match other streets and that the trees are deciduous. All other arguments against include an increase in the urban heat island for 5-10 years while the trees grow, no increase in canopy cover, and importantly, costs to council. This is an overwhelming argument against replacement in my view. I am against replacing these trees for all of the reasons listed above. In relation to the street trees matching the other surrounding streets, why not enable hawker street to have a distinct character, separate from the other streets?! In relation to the crepe myrtles being deciduous, doesn't this result in greater costs for council to maintain these trees and clean up after them?! Further, housing along this portion of Hawker Street is low rise (1-2 building levels) meaning access the winter sunlight and shade is summer is less of a priority than that of apartments (typically built up to the street boundary or with minimal street setbacks, and having less windows directed toward light. I presume this was a councillor decision to consult again only this time on the trees. In my view, this is another waste of council resources. I'm sure many (including the neighbours I've spoken with) and would much prefer that the streetscape upgrade happens sooner rather than later!!
19731	
19728	Bottlebrush is outdated and gives a feel of a poor and low rainfall suburb. The existing bottlebrush trees have not been well maintained either. Crepe Myrtle are a beautiful option. And the variation over them seasons bring interest. They're a more regal tree. And definitely being a more affluent feel.
19727	Please don't remove the bottlebrush, they are established and beautiful. Attract birds and native insects.
19726	I think that the Bottlebrush should be removed as their roots damage the footpaths making them unsafe to walk on. Bottlebrushes should be planted in our local parks to attract birds and bees where their roots are not an issue. I would prefer that Crepe Myrtle's be planted in Gibson St as it will create a lovely "boulevard" effect and will not damage the new footpaths.
19715	The bottle brush are already established and have considerable growth. While I enjoy both tree species, I am preferencing the Bottlebrush as it is native and attracts native birds. The overall look and feel of the street is already looking vibrant with the lipstick red flowers of the bottle brush.
19714	I think that the Bottlebrush is a poor specimen for street planting. As is evident currently that footpath surface is uneven and broken in many places due to the roots of the existing bottlebrushes. The canopy hangs low with these trees. I am 186 cm tall and I find I am constantly dodging branches or moving onto the road to avoid them. The Crepe Myrtles can be shaped to elevate the canopy, are an attractive tree (flowers, trunk) and appear to be kinder on the footpath surface.
19713	The Bottlebrush trees are a poor street tree choice which is evident in Gibson Street currently. The damage to the footpaths is profound with roots lifting the pavement making this street unsafe for pedestrians and impossible for elderly citizens to walk with frames, parents with prams, wheelchairs etc. I see parents with prams walking on the road which is highly dangerous for all road users. When I lived in Croydon the council removed most of the Bottlebrushes and replaced with Jacarandas, much to the relief of residents. The flowers are attractive to birds but we are actively encouraging native planting in other areas of Bowden.
19710	I prefer the look of the Bottle Brush trees as they are native, evergreen, flower twice per year and provide a wildlife corridor, attract and feed bees, New Holland Honeyeaters, Rainbow Lorikeets and Rosellas. Crepe Myrtles are also a nice tree, but they are deciduous and look like dead sticks in Winter, they have colourful flowers but only attract and feed bees.
19699	I think Bottle brush (while native) are ugly and distorted, and messy - they drop a lot of material that will increase the cost of cleaning to the council
19697	
19693	Bottlebrushes are green all year round, a good cover of foliage all year round. Colourful, nice shape, attract native birds. Crepe myrtle are bare too long throughout the year and make the area look drab and unattractive. They don't have good coverage or shape and look unsightly for too long during the year when you need it to be brighter
19692	Crepe Myrtles - Option 2. Despite not being a native species, these trees offer a high amenity value with respect to their canopy and vibrant flowers. They also have more stable and consistent growth, thus limiting maintenance requirements.
19678	Evergreen nature of Bottlebrush keeps the street feeling alive all year. Year-round birds and insects. Feels more natural and goes well with our lovely parklets. Crepe Myrtles drop their leaves in winter making the streets seem barren. Nothing for animal habitat of food. Lagerstroemia's are also prolific suckering plants after they have been pruned once. The council would need to maintain a constant schedule to ensure these suckers are trimmed before they become unsightly. They are described as so, but due to suckering they are NOT low maintenance.
19669	
19658	my husband and I really in favour of bottlebrush. like the look of them and both feel their native and important the birds come in the street, v's another tree that is not native and does not attract native wildlife.
19634	If bottle brushes are maintained properly, they will add to street appeal, cool the pavement and road, and encourage native fauna which is good for the suburb. Crepe Myrtle's are pretty, but can look very bare during winter which might detract from the street appeal. Whilst birds are attracted to their flowers, not sure they make great trees for nests.
19623	I think the Bottlebrush should remain, the trees are native, attract birds and have a connection to Bowden. I think interspersing the sidewalk with Crepe Myrtles would look great too. The more trees the better, but please as a council rates payee I really think it would not be good use of money ripping out perfectly healthy trees. I live on [redacted] (townhouse) and the back access road to my carport has zero trees and is a heat trap in summer, believe the original design had trees, planting Bottlebrush here would be great too !
19610	Your own Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2030 states: "This is the first biodiversity-focused plan for the City of Charles Sturt. We're working to protect and enhance our flora and fauna habitats". As most (if not all) of the new tree planting in Bowden has been Crepe Myrtle there is already almost a monoculture of one species of tree. This does NOT promote biodiversity and does NOTHING to promote native flora and fauna. Your own Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2030 states: "This is the first biodiversity-focused plan for the City of Charles Sturt. We're working to protect and enhance our flora and fauna habitats. We are doing this through ongoing management of new and existing sites. It will improve and minimise threats to urban biodiversity. "I would like someone to explain how having (nearly) all the street trees in Bowden (and certainly all the ones planted since the redevelopment started will "improve and minimise threats to urban biodiversity." As a birdwatcher I often see our native bird species in the Callistemons but have yet to see any native bird activity in Crepe Myrtles. If you planted 16 new Callistemon trees on Gibson Street along with the 36 existing bottlebrush trees, then at least you have a Native tree corridor which would allow the smaller native birds to access Emu Park / Ninth Street Reserve etc in a more protected manner. This I feel is in the spirit of your Biodiversity Action plan
19569	The bottle brush already exist as magnificent mature trees, are native and perennial. Green cover will be reduced to .77 by removing them which is counter to the idea of an upgrade. Charles Stuart has a very low green coverage score compared to other Adelaide council areas. The crepe myrtle will take years to grow and are spindly and deciduous. - they have no character and homogenize Bowden into something bland.
19565	Bottlebrush attract more birds/bees, are evergreen and cause less hayfever. The additional bottlebrush trees would be a perfect result without having to waste what is already quite established.

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19564	Both trees are nice, but I like that the bottle brushes are evergreen, have spectacular flowers and attract lots of bees and birds. Having different trees flowering and fruiting at different times gives insects and birds consistent sustenance. Having 'matching trees' reduces variety. (That is no need to have only one variety of tree-I would like a bigger variety if anything!) Removing established trees is costly and it looks like the bottlebrushes are really healthy. I was walking on Gibson Street last week and was struck with how lovely the bottlebrush trees were!
19563	Bottlebrush are beautiful trees, flower often & say "Australia". Best to keep this tree and keep existing canopy cover. Totally reckless to remove 36 mature native trees, leaving less for local birds & bees. You don't just kill the trees you kill wildlife too. Crepe Myrtle is a terrible idea, not native, need to kill mature trees for them and don't even get an improvement in canopy coverage. Totally needles waste of money and reckless destruction of trees.
19560	
19498	
19496	Both would look good
19495	I have a strong preference for native species being maintained.
19494	Prefer Australian native species
19493	I would vastly prefer the complete planting of Crepe Myrtles (with removal of all existing Bottle brush trees). Crepe Myrtles are a well-structured tree that has already beautified the streets where they have been planted. I love the blossoms and the shape of the trees. Most importantly, they also do not rip up the foot path with their root structures. One of the things I very much dislike about walking around my neighbourhood are the hazardous footpaths and this is mainly due to the bottlebrush roots making an uneven, dangerous walking surface. Additionally, the dropping seed pods from Bottle Brush trees make another hazard as you could roll on the pods and fall. Aesthetically, in my personal opinion they are an unattractive tree and detract from the street scape.
19492	The Bottlebrush trees are awful, I have lived here for over 20 years and the amount of time I trip on the roots of the tree are too many to count. The canopy is too low and being tall I constantly bang my head on the branches and leaves. They are also incredibly messy and have an uneven limb structure causing issues for on street parking. I am a professional Landscape designer and use Crepe Myrtles in nearly all of my projects they are an amazing, beautiful tree with colourful blossoms, interesting, dappled trunks and amazing autumn foliage. They also have a more regular and predictable shape and have recently been planted on 13th St to everyone's delight. In my strong opinion the Bottle brushes should be removed completely and replaced with the Crepe Myrtles
19491	Crepe Myrtles will provide a far nicer overall look and feel than the pre-existing bottlebrush. The bottle brush are a safety hazard and have created several high risk tripping areas. Crepe Myrtle would tie both old and new Bowden developments together
19490	I love both trees, but do not see a reason to remove mature healthy bottlebrushes. There is nothing wrong with them, they flower beautifully, and they are a haven for birds/bees.
19489	The bottle brush are beautiful trees that attract bird life and are gorgeous when in full flower.
19488	Given the narrow footpaths the street trees are a very dominant feature. The bottlebrushes tend to restrict vision and due to lack of maintenance often restrict walkability. The crepe Myrtles allow better vision but also restrict pedestrians until the trees are a number of years old and have been pruned well. Regular and skilled pruning does not seem to be in councils' capacity. I think there are about 12 of the bottlebrushes that make a positive contribution to the streetscape. These should be retained. New trees should be crepe Myrtles.
19487	Both are attractive but some Bottlebrushes are already planted and it's a pity to remove them. They are native so good for bird life. When they blossom they are truly spectacular. Crepe myrtles have lovely flowers but they're deciduous so bare for the winter months, so I think that's a minus. I don't think it's important to match the plantings with others further down Gibson Street. A bit of variety is good.
19486	The current Bottlebrushes have caused significant degradation of the footpaths, leading to a dilapidated overall look and feel. Most Bottlebrushes are currently overgrown and are not being adequately maintained by Council. Homeowners shouldn't have to deal with bottlebrush branches sitting in their gutters, and pedestrians are not able to walk the footpaths without having to regularly move out of the way of branches. This also contributes the overall look and feel of dilapidation. Crepe Myrtles are just as pretty, but based on the information provided, look like they will cause less damage over time. If, as the information provided indicates, Crepe Myrtles are lower maintenance than bottlebrushes, then hopefully this will contribute to a more 'maintained' look and feel. For both options, there is/will be a significant amount of leaf litter produced, which also contributes to an overall feel of dilapidation.
19485	The current bottlebrush trees remain green year-round but are difficult to walk under and around due to lack of pruning. The shade provided by both seems minimal. Gibson St is a major walking street for the neighbourhood and shade should be a priority. It is currently a 'warm' street during most of the year. (I won't get started on the other challenges of the street from a walking/movement/accessibility perspective)
19484	Bottlebrush have a strong advantage because they are evergreen trees and also, they are native. Keeping the existing trees and adding some more will be an economy with ratepayers' money, reducing mess and disruption to local residents. Besides, the existing trees are beautiful old friends that delight us when we walk on Gibson Street. It will be nice to add a few more and the rich red flowers with their unique shape are hard to beat. I don't think the crepe Myrtle are much of a replacement. I would be deeply disappointed to have those on Gibson Street, it would be a backward step. Especially as they are deciduous, and I have the experience of slipping on fallen leaves. Fortunately, my arm wasn't broken, just badly swollen. The pink flowers are much less interesting than the bottlebrush. I am strongly inclined to keep and appreciate the beautiful trees already there, rather than have the waste and disappointment of replacing them with an inferior tree.
19483	
19482	Bottlebrush attracts more native bird species. Crepe Myrtle are pretty but would prefer native trees and flowers
19481	Bottlebrush ate very popular with the birds. I'm worried decreasing them will decrease the bird diversity in the area. Established trees, especially native ones need to remain in our suburbs! Crepe myrtle are native so shouldn't be planted. I have concerns about their need for water and the lack of native habitat.
19480	I am strongly supportive of retaining bottle brush. As a native tree it promotes both bees and native birds. Crepe myrtles are not bird attracting trees.
19479	Bottlebrush is much better as it's native.
19478	Bottle Brush trees do not provide enough canopy, after a few years the Bottle Brush tree loses it appeal, more species should be available to choose from, more foliage trees and canopy trees that will provide a lot more shade.
19477	Prefer tree is bottle brushes. Birds and bees flock to them in much bigger numbers than to myrtles. Would prefer to promote natives above exotics. Both require maintenance so nothing to choose between them on that score
19476	Bottlebrush are straggly messy trees. They also overhang footpaths. Branches are not trained or trimmed properly and overhang properties or into power lines. Crepe Myrtle's are a nicer structure tree and have lovely flowers. The streets that have crepe Myrtle look very nice.
19475	Crepe Myrtle will make the street look better and possibly reduce lessen allergies for people who are allergic to Bottlebrush. However, I do not like the idea of destroying existing Bottlebrush trees.
19474	Crepe myrtle are a very attractive tree, but dull in winter. Bottlebrush are not amazing, but a place with biodiversity feels better.
19473	
19472	Bottle brush looks better and is already there meaning no short-term loss of shade.

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19471	Bottlebrush create a negative impact when they are flowering, they add to a feeling of scorching heat along the street. They do not create much shade and are difficult to walk under due to their low canopy. They appear to have a significant, negative impact on the evenness of the footpaths. Crepe Myrtles have interest year-round and create shade in the summer. Providing the right variety is chosen, they create a canopy, potentially across the street. The crepe Myrtle's planted in the lane between sixth and seventh streets has created a canopy in a relatively short period of time and create a noticeable difference in temperature in the summer. Planting Crepe Myrtle along Gibson Street would tie the Renewal SA site, 9th st and the new planting on 13th St together to create a lovely feature
19470	Crepe Myrtle takes years and years to grow, and when large they are messy - leaves and flowers drop everywhere and block drains and are not native
19469	Both species are bright, colourful and will liven up the space. Bottlebrush will bring in native bird species, such as lorikeets and other parrots that are also colourful and lively. Crepe Myrtles are weedy in growth and require lots of maintenance to form a desirable habit. By contrast, bottlebrushes need their lower branches groomed occasionally to be suitable for the street.
19468	The bottlebrush trees provide a source of food to local birdlife that is sadly limited in the Bowden area. I think it is important that our green spaces feature native and nutritious food sources for the local wildlife. That said, the bottle brush trees on Gibson have not been well maintained. They hang low over the footpaths and their roots have raised parts of the paths creating tripping hazards. If the solution to maintaining safe clear walkways is to remove the trees, I hope the council can plant more bottlebrushes and other natives in the parks and green spaces around Bowden and Brompton to offset their removal.
19467	Bottlebrush preferred - native species which always have lots of Wattle Bird populations. To remove them would destroy the bird habitat.

Contribution ID	What specific features of Bottlebrush do you find appealing? (Select all that apply)				What specific features of Crepe Myrtles do you find appealing? (Select all that apply)				
	Bright flowers	**Unique foliage**	**Attracts birds/bees etc**	**Other**	**Beautiful blossoms**	**Varied colours**	**Deciduous nature (seasonal interest)**	**Low maintenance**	**Other**
20241	1	1	1		1				
19971			1		1			1	
19838	1		1	Native	1				
19786									
19731									
19728	1				1	1	1	1	
19727	1	1	1		1	1			
19726	1		1		1	1	1	1	
19715	1		1						
19714			1		1	1	1		
19713			1		1	1	1	1	
19710	1	1	1		1	1			
19699					1		1	1	
19697					1				Consistent colour of crepe Myrtles
19693	1	1	1	Year round green. Native					Not at all appealing or wanted
19692			1		1	1	1	1	
19678	1	1	1			1			
19669	1		1						
19658	1		1		1				
19634	1	1	1			1			
19623	1	1	1		1	1			
19610	1	1	1	It is a native tree					
19569	1	1	1	Existing green cover will be retained. It's too hot to kill any healthy tress.					
19565	1		1	Bottlebrush do not cause as much hayfever as the crepe myrtles	1				
19564	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	
19563	1	1	1						
19560	1	1	1	they are the Australian native		1			
19498			1		1				
19496	1		1		1	1	1		
19495	1	1	1						
19494	1		1						
19493			1		1	1	1	1	
19492			1		1	1	1	1	

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19491					1	1	1	1	
19490	1		1		1				
19489	1	1	1		1		1	1	
19488	1		1		1	1		1	
19487	1		1	Native to Australia	1			1	
19486	1		1		1	1		1	
19485			1	Native species			1	1	
19484	1	1	1	Established and evergreen and will save money.					To be honest I find the ones we already have a bit disappointing. I'm sure there are enough already. I think matching street trees is an area is a really bad monoculture idea as nature needs diversity to sustain us.
19483					1	1	1	1	Root system is less invasive to footpaths.
19482	1		1		1				
19481	1		1						
19480	1	1	1			1			
19479			1		1				
19478				All bottle brush trees are ugly trees they are not appealing to a street at all and should be kept as a fill in at parks, for the birds and other species of living creatures.	1	1			
19477	1	1	1						
19476					1	1		1	
19475			1		1			1	
19474		1	1	Can get to a good size. Suited and do well in Adelaide streets.	1				
19473	1	1	1		1				
19472	1	1	1				1		
19471			1		1	1	1	1	Potential to create canopy across the road. Easier to prune and maintain so not hazardous for pedestrians
19470	1	1	1						
19469	1		1						
19468	1		1		1		1	1	
19467	1	1	1	Native species and is not deciduous					

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Contribution ID	Is there anything else you would like to comment on about the draft concept plan for Gibson Street?
20241	From an environmental angle, I believe extending the bottlebrush will be the least invasive and will keep the distinctive colour of the area rather than having to completely refresh to have the area look more in alignment with the wider Bowden spaces.
19971	Looking forward to seeing all of the above ground powerlines being replaced with underground solutions.
19838	
19786	The balance of the concept looks great. Strongly support the retention of native species and additional tree planting. Wider footpaths and traffic calming measures at intersections are a fantastic outcome. I also support a reduction in on-street car parking.
19731	keep the calistomums and fix them up. don't waste money.no one has money powerlines should be undergrounded. Reconsider how to spend the money
19728	Let's get it happening, we need the street revamped. Not only is the streetscape ugly at present it's also a hazard to people with mobile issues with the footpath being so uneven with cracks, raised areas due to tree roots and the likes. I have witnessed an older woman fall and hit her head on the road due to tripping on the raised roots of a bottle brush tree.
19727	
19726	The Power lines should be underground while Gibson St is being upgraded!
19715	I think the concept plan really value adds to the character and accessibility/safety of the street for pedestrians especially. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute.
19714	Could we also consider the tree variety currently in Gibson St at the new development end. I believe they are Chinese Elms, they provide a better canopy than the Crepe Myrtles and would provide some continuity of the landscaping along this street.
19713	Firstly, why is there only two options for selection? There is also an option for Chinese Elms on the south side (city) of Gibson Street to continue the streetscape from new Bowden end of Gibson Street to Hawker Street, with Crepe Myrtles proposed on the north side of the street. This was put to council for consideration in my delegation earlier this year. This is disappointing and does not consider the wishes of some of the residents that live nearby. Chinese Elms have a much higher canopy and there are no power lines on the city side of the street
19710	Not at this stage.
19699	The Crepe myrtle will make it easier access for all along footpaths and have a lot less material drop for cleanup
19697	Powerlines should be removed from both sides.
19693	If you really believe you want a place to look better throughout the whole year, I don't understand why non-native and/or deciduous trees would even be considered. Visitors to the area often comment about how good the bottlebrushes look but also comment about how bad a street looks during the year when no leaves on the trees etc. And, as Bowden has much more high density living now we should be planting trees ie bottlebrush to keep and increase the number of native birds we attract to the area.
19692	
19678	The council is doing a great job! Please prioritise locally native species with all landscaping opportunities
19669	Make sure the footpaths are wheelchair accessible
19658	Nothing else really.
19634	
19623	My preference is to keep the Bottlebrush, but also interspersed with Myrtle
19610	I agree with the concept plan except that I think it absolutely beggars belief that native Callistemon trees could be removed and replaced with non-native Crepe Myrtles when the Charles Sturt 2017-2030 policy states "improve and minimise threats to urban biodiversity." Monocultures are a problem for biodiversity because they reduce the variety of plants present in a given area. This translates into a lack of food and shelter for many animals, including the very important pollinating insects. Two species of tree has got to be better than one!
19569	Would like more cobble stone effect paving at all the Gibson St intersections.
19565	
19564	I would also like to see more native trees and vegetation used in landscaping in the area. It is great to see more trees are going to be planted. Thanks!
19563	Incredibly disappointing that one option even being considered is the destruction of mature native trees along with the wildlife they support. Disappointing Charles Sturt.
19560	With the deciduous trees there is more litter and maintenance and more to sweep the street.
19498	Bottlebrush trees are not good for health and more cause for Asthma situations. Also would like to have trees with more flowers and changing colours in seasonally
19496	
19495	
19494	
19493	So far, I think the upgrade has been wonderful and I look forward to seeing the old run-down street areas match the new upgrade. If it was possible to add some further traffic controls to slow down vehicles on other parts of Gibson St, that would be most welcome.
19492	The footpaths and street-lighting are very important as Gibson st is our access point to Plant 4 and the Linear Park trails. At the moment it is safer to walk on the road than face the hazards of negotiating the undulating terrain caused by the out-of-control Bottle Brush roots. I also think more measures could be put in place to reduce traffic speed by the introduction of some more traffic calming systems like those used further down Gibson st in the new area, we still see cars moving far too quickly in this wonderful walkable suburb.
19491	
19490	I don't see the need to remove healthy trees, just to make the street match.
19489	It will be great to have the paving improved. I have noticed in Prospect on narrow streets they have street signs encouraging drivers to take care. It would be good to include similar signs in Gibson Street.

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19488	I don't support either option. Survey doesn't allow that option. I would prefer to see a mixture of species keeping the well-shaped bottle brush. Also keep the mature eucalyptus. Assessment should be made of the other 8 exotic trees in the section between hawker and thirteenth street. New trees could be crepe Myrtle. Don't support a monoculture of them though. The concept plan attached is poor, unclear and increases confusion. There are more bottlebrush just outside of 8-13th street that should be considered.
19487	
19486	Both options provided result in a significant amount of leaf litter, imposing additional maintenance requirements on residents - leaf litter in street gutters, house gutters, footpaths and front yards is a real problem. We also live in a heritage area - many houses were built before cars existed, and residents are required to park on the street. The current Bottlebrushes drop damaging sap and leaf litter, and it looks like the Crepe Myrtles will do the same. Surely, of all the trees that are suitable for streetscapes, there are some that create fewer issues for residents and pedestrians?
19485	I am reluctant to have native established trees replaced. I would encourage that even more are planted than shown on the plan and that the current trees are given correct pruning and 'spruce' up.
19484	Thanks for the botanical information about the trees. I hadn't known the crepe Myrtle's were subject to fungal infections. It's not just pollen that can trigger allergies, fungal spores can affect some people, so best not add to the risk already there. the plan includes clay pavers. I hope this will mean a reduced sideways slope on those areas of the paths where it is pronounced, as that will be safer for prams and the various mobility aids.
19483	
19482	
19481	The trees that drop leaves every season in the Bowden area are so frustrating. I wish you would plant more natives.
19480	Around Plant 4 area are multiple crepe myrtle trees, we need to mix things up outside of that area. Please focus on native trees to provide food for native birds.
19479	Please keep the bottlebrushes
19478	If Gibson Street gets a streetscape like Fairford Tce West Lakes Shore, it will be a waste of money. Fairford Tce had an upgrade recently and it is a disgraceful mess, nothing was completed as promised in the draft no new canopy trees planted, landscape is a complete mess the bottlebrush trees need replacing they look old and tired and provide no canopy shade. Myrtle trees a long Fairford Tce would be a nice welcome for the street, a lot of money was spent on upgrading the road, but the landscape fell short of what was promised, everything is half finished.
19477	
19476	Leaving it open for locals to drive through as we need to get around and leave as many parking spaces as possible. With more and more apartments being built it is an issue. I note bike riders fly over crossing over rail bridge and they need a permanent sign to slow down and look, as the solid walls make it hard for motorists to see.
19475	
19474	
19473	
19472	Please consider adding a raised pedestrian crossing or street calming measures where the bakery is located.
19471	Design looks fine- important to create paths that are level and not at an angle on at least one side of the street
19470	Plant natives
19469	I'm not sure why a third option of "a diversity of native tree species" isn't on the list. What is the Council's obsession with a monoculture in order to achieve the "avenue effect"? It shows a lack of imagination to follow that tired landscaping trend over and over. A competent landscape designer could put together a harmonious palette of native trees, bushes, and herbs that would contribute to the urban canopy, and would also meaningfully contribute to urban bio-diversity. Not only that, but diversity would LOOK BETTER.
19468	
19467	DEFINITELY KEEP AND INCREASE Bottle Brush trees on Gibson Street. I am against deciduous non-native trees being planted anywhere. There is always such a mess when they drop leaves and don't attract birdlife like natives - especially Bottle Brush which have lots of wattle birds. I like the Cobblestone pavers. I would like to see the metal posts containing historical items revigorated. After losing some items embedded in the resin to vandals it would be good to address reinstating these and using building method that cannot be vandalised. The footpaths on Gibson south of Hawker need to be paved properly.

APPENDIX A: WRITTEN COMMENTS

Absolute joke Gibson to Drayton Street via Eighth Street is the worst planned streetscape ever! How about the unfinished work and safety hazards? Less parking. Get rid of trees. We need more car parks. You people don't listen to residents. -Poor contractors - Unfinished work - Works that are not programmed - trip hazards - You have decreased parking in these areas. - Nothing ever happens when you raise issues. Copy to local councillor - 30/8/24

APPENDIX A: VERBATIM OPEN COMMENTS

APPENDIX B: VERBATIM OPEN COMMENTS

- Query regarding the construction and how deliveries may be impacted.
- What are the outdoor dining opportunities?
- DDA access to shops to ensure access for people living with a disability
- Business Grants – business will be shared a list of grant they can apply to Business Grants and Funding | City of Charles Sturt
- Parklet – currently resides next to the IGA in Bowden. Council looking to move it and there is a EOI going out shortly for businesses to apply to use it.