



WAVERLEY  
COUNCIL

# BIRRELL STREET RENEWAL

Consultation  
Report  
February 2023



Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidjigal, Birrabirragal and Gadigal people, who traditionally occupied the Sydney Coast, and we pay respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders both past and present.



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## Executive summary

Waverley Council is exploring a number of improvements to Birrell Street, between Newland Street and Henrietta Street to make it safer and improve the appearance for pedestrians, bike riders and motorists including:

- Road resurfacing and rehabilitation
- Intersection improvements (kerb extensions, continuous footpaths etc.)
- Increased greenery with new trees planted
- Replacement of traffic calming devices
- Upgrades to bike riding infrastructure, without any loss of parking

This consultation ran from 16 November – 7 December 2022 and sought community feedback on the proposed improvements to Birrell Street. A number of engagement methods were implemented to enable community members to submit feedback in a way that was easy and convenient, including:

- Dedicated page on the Have Your Say website
- Online survey
- Letterbox drop to approx. 1237 properties in close proximity to the proposed project location
- Online information session for the Waverley Precinct Executive Committee
- A Have Your Say day held on 24 November 2022 for community members to talk to Council officers

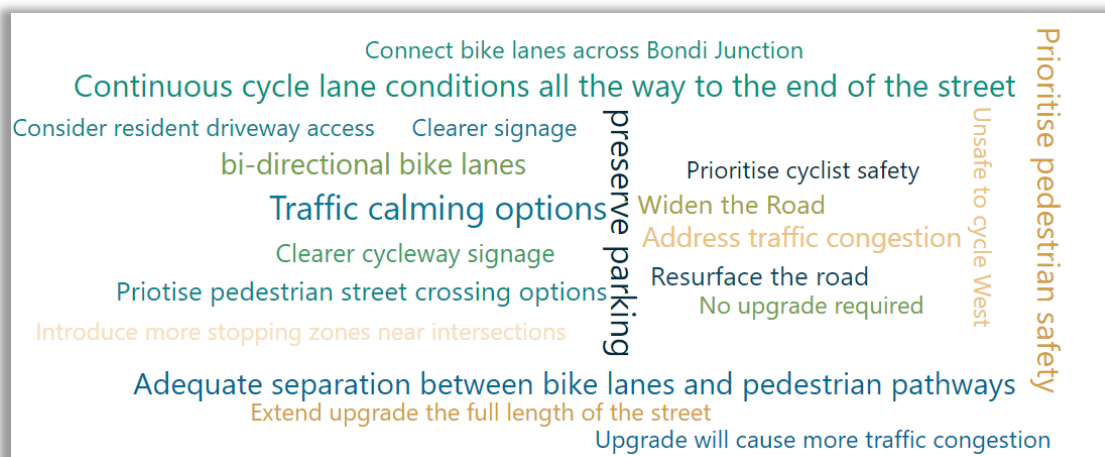
### Overview of feedback

A total of 219 submissions were received during the consultation period.

Overall there was strong support for Option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) of the proposed separated uphill bike path which involves a separated uphill bike lane and mixed traffic downhill arrangement between Henrietta Street and Newland Street. A number of key concerns and suggestions were also highlighted by the community, including preserving parking, introducing traffic calming, ensuring connectivity of the bike lanes, and prioritising safety for pedestrians and bike riders.

With regards to the replacement of the refuge islands at both Isabella Street and Stanley Street intersections, the survey results also showed a clear preference for Option 1, for kerb extensions and continuous crossings to be built.

The word cloud below highlights some of the frequent comments received from respondents. The larger the font, the more frequent the comment.



## Background

Birrell Street is a major road in Waverley, connecting people to several community hubs in the east and beyond. It is well utilised by drivers, cyclists and pedestrians but after many years of use it has a number of aging, dated and failed infrastructure assets which need to be addressed.

Assets that require attention include:

- Road pavement resurfacing and rehabilitation
- Intersection treatments
- Replacement of traffic calming devices
- New pavement line markings

Through funding from the NSW Government's Regional Roads Program, Waverley Council proposes to upgrade these assets and improve road safety through strategic design. Through community consultation, the project has explored options for a separated uphill bike lane coupled with downhill mixed traffic lane. This component of the project is driven by Waverley's People, Movement and Places Strategy which identifies providing safe cycling infrastructure and improving pedestrian safety as a key priority. Feedback from the 2021 Waverley Bike Plan consultation further reinforced this when 62% of respondents said that the main barrier preventing them from cycling more was a lack of safety riding on mixed-traffic roads.

## Approach

A mix of online and face-to-face engagement methods were employed to gather feedback and suggestions from residents and other community members.

The consultation objectives were:

1. To inform the community about the proposed renewal and obtain overall feedback.
2. To obtain community feedback on two options for a separated uphill bike path on Birrell Street.
3. To obtain community feedback on two options for the upgrade of the refuge islands near the Isabella Street and Stanley Street intersections.

(See appendix A for examples)

## Engagement methodology

A range of engagement methods were used to maximise the opportunity for community participation. The engagement process aligned with Waverley Council's adapted IAP2 model for community engagement.

Method	Overview	Date	Response
<b>Have Your Say page and survey</b>	<p>Council dedicated a Have Your Say page and survey to get feedback on the key elements of the proposed renewal.</p> <p>See appendix A for survey questions.</p> <p>URL:  <a href="https://haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/birrell-street-renewal">https://haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/birrell-street-renewal</a> </p>	<p>HYS page- November 2022-ongoing</p> <p>Survey- November 16 to December 17 2022</p>	<p>1,714 visits to the page</p> <p>212 submissions</p>
<b>Letterbox drop</b>	<p>Letter issued to approx. 1237 properties in close proximity to the proposed project location to notify of the consultation and encourage feedback.</p> <p>See Appendix C for map.</p>	November 2022	N/A
<b>Stakeholder outreach</b>	<p>Emailed key stakeholders to advise of the consultation and encourage feedback, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precincts</li> <li>• Councillors</li> <li>• Waverley College notified</li> <li>• Waverley Cycling Advisory Committee</li> <li>• BIKEast</li> <li>• Bicycle NSW</li> </ul>	November 2022	Submissions received from: BIKEast, Bicycle NSW and Queens Park Precinct
<b>Social media posts</b>	<p>Facebook (2 posts)</p> <p>See appendix E.</p>	<p>Post one- 9 November 2022</p> <p>Post two-22 November 2022</p>	<p>Total accounts reached: 12,204</p> <p>Total accounts engaged: 2,434</p> <p>Total comments: 111</p>
	<p>Instagram (1 post)</p> <p>See appendix E.</p>	Post one-9 November 2022	<p>Total accounts reached: 3,684</p> <p>Total accounts engaged: 185</p> <p>Total comments: 73</p>
<b>Joint Precinct meeting</b>	Online information session via Zoom for the Waverley Precinct Executive Committee to notify of the consultation and encourage feedback.	24 November 2022	Individuals encouraged to submit feedback via online survey
<b>Have Your Say say</b>	Council officers held one face-to-face session to talk to residents about the proposed renewal	26 November 2022	24 submissions were received and added

	and collect feedback at Bondi Market and Bondi Beach Public School.		to the online survey page.
<b>Waverley Weekly e-newsletter</b>	Story in Council's weekly e-newsletter. See appendix E.	10 November 2022	N/A
<b>Council website</b>	Dedicated page on the Waverley Council website: <a href="#">Birrell Street Renewal</a>		N/A

## Data overview

<b>Online survey</b>	<p>A total of 212 submissions were received.</p> <p>Respondent demographics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 56% identified as male</li> <li>• 42% identified as female</li> <li>• 2% did not wish to indicate how they identified</li> </ul> <p>Respondent support for separated uphill bike path options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47% support option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16)</li> <li>• 12% support option 1 with changes</li> <li>• 26% support option 2 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16)</li> <li>• 3% support option 2 with changes</li> <li>• 10% indicated other</li> </ul> <p>Respondent support for refuge island upgrades options near Isabella Street:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 60% support option 1</li> <li>• 28% support option 2</li> <li>• 11% indicated 'other'</li> </ul> <p>Respondent support for refuge island upgrades options near Stanley Street:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 58% support option 1</li> <li>• 28% support option 2</li> <li>• 13% indicated 'other'</li> </ul>
<b>Have Your Say day</b>	Hard copy submissions from the Have Your Say day were input into the online survey.
<b>Online information session</b>	<p>An online information session for the Waverley Precinct Executive Committee was held on 24 November 2022 to notify them of the consultation and hear feedback.</p> <p>The majority of committee members preferred option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) for separated bike path options. Committee members were concerned about the downhill travel of both bike lane options as cyclists will share the westbound lane with motorists resulting in road congestion and danger to cyclists</p> <p>Suggestions were also made for a single west bound cycle lane to be located on Queens Road and a single east bound cycle lane on Birrell Street.</p>

<b>Stakeholder outreach</b>	Three key stakeholder groups lodged written submissions, BIKEast and Queens Park Precinct and Bicycle NSW.
<b>Email feedback</b>	Seven pieces of feedback were received via email, including the three submissions from key stakeholder groups as mentioned above.

## Detailed results – Online survey

The survey received a total of 212 submissions, including 24 hard copy surveys completed at the Have Your Say day. Hard copy surveys were input into the online form and a summary of all results is below.

### Relationship to Birrell Street:

- 78% drive through the street
- 67% walk through the street
- 51% bike through the street
- 24% use public transport along the street
- 24% park on the street
- 19% live on the street
- 3% work at a business on the street

### How frequently respondents ride a bike in the area:

- 36% always ride
- 15% often ride
- 18% sometimes ride
- 12% rarely ride
- 16% never ride

Respondents were also asked to indicate on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being completely unsafe and 5 being completely safe), how safe they feel riding through Birrell Street in its current form. The majority indicated low feelings of safety with the current state of the Birrell Street bike lanes.

1	2	3	4	5	Count	Weighted Average
38.24%	43.14%	13.73%	3.92%	0.98%	102	1.86
39	44	14	4	1		

### Would respondents consider riding through Birrell Street if the bike lanes were upgraded?

- 62.5% Yes
- 37.5% No

A majority responded yes to this question, however concerns were raised and further comments made when asked to explain why. The most common ideas expressed were:

- Suggestion for a separated uphill and downhill bike lane to make travel for bike riders safe in both east and west bound directions
- Bike lane upgrade on Birrell Street unnecessary as most cyclists use Queens Park Road bike lane or Oxford Street cycle way to travel east
- Traffic calming options are needed on Birrell Street to address the safety of cyclists

**Would respondents feel safer riding through Birrell Street if the bike lanes were upgraded?**

- 97% yes
- 3% no

**Do respondents support upgrades to street crossings and intersections on Birrell Street (at the Isabella and Stanley Street crossings)?**

- 84% yes
- 9% no

In relation to the upgrade of pedestrian refuges near the Isabella Street and Stanley Street intersections, the majority of respondents preferred option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) - kerb extension and continuous crossing.

Isabella Street

- Option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) 60%
- Option 2 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) 28%
- Other 11% (most respondents either disliked both options or didn't think any change was necessary)

Stanley Street

- Option 1 59%
- Option 2 28%
- Other 13% (most respondents either disliked both options or didn't think any change was necessary)

**Additional comments and feedback**

At the conclusion of the survey, respondents were asked if they had any further comments or suggestions to make Birrell Street safer for all road users. Responses were grouped by theme and each theme was given a tag. The frequency of each tag is shown in the table on the following page.



tag	percent	count
preserve parking	7.38%	9
Traffic calming options	7.38%	9
Continuous cycle lane conditions all the way to the end of the street	5.74%	7
Prioritise pedestrian safety	5.74%	7
Adequate separation between bike lanes and pedestrian pathways	4.92%	6
bi-directional bike lanes	4.1%	5
Address traffic congestion	3.28%	4
Prioritise pedestrian street crossing options	2.46%	3
Widen the Road	2.46%	3
Resurface the road	2.46%	3
Clearer cycleway signage	1.64%	2
Introduce more stopping zones near intersections	0.82%	1
Prioritise cyclist safety	0.82%	1
Clearer signage	0.82%	1
Connect bike lanes across Bondi Junction	0.82%	1
Extend upgrade the full length of the street	0.82%	1
Upgrade will cause more traffic congestion	0.82%	1
No upgrade required	0.82%	1
Unsafe to cycle West	0.82%	1
Consider resident driveway access	0.82%	1

## Detailed results – Email

Seven pieces of feedback were received via email and included:

- Four submissions from community members including a representative of Waverley College
- Three submissions from identified stakeholder groups (BIKEast, Bicycle NSW and Queens Park Precinct)

### Of the four community member submissions:

- All were in support of an upgrade to the current traffic islands
- One respondent was unsupportive of any kind of cycling infrastructure upgrades due to concerns for the safety of cyclists on the shared westbound road and also concern that the eastbound bike lane could potentially create further traffic congestion and complications at the Birrell Street and Bronte Road intersection.
- There was overall support for road pavement resurfacing and rehabilitation

### Additional feedback regarding the area (not specific to choosing bike lane or pedestrian refuge options):

- More greenery needed
- Sharing of the road westbound is dangerous on such a major road
- All parking should be maintained as it is scarce in this area
- Reduce the turning radius for cars turning left from Botany Street onto Birrell Street, shorten the crossing distance for pedestrians, and ideally, install a continuous footpath
- Birrell Street and Bondi Road should be one way in opposite directions

## BIKEast, Bicycle NSW and Queens Park Precinct submissions

Written submissions were received from BIKEast, Bicycle NSW and Queens Park Precinct.

Queens Park Precinct do not currently support the proposed renewal and would like to see Council address the motorist and cyclist blockage at the intersection of Birrell Street and Bronte Road before considering the proposed bike lane and pedestrian refuge.

BIKEast and Bicycle NSW expressed support for the plan to upgrade Birrell Street and shared further suggestions and concerns as listed below.

### BIKEast submission summary

- Supports option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) for the eastbound cycleway as it will improve conditions for people cycling in an uphill direction, though this option does not provide protection for cyclists travelling in a downhill direction
- Council should investigate the implementation of a separated cycleway in both directions along Birrell Street, either through a bi-directional cycleway or a one way pair
- The current proposal does not address a critical section of Birrell Street between Tamarama and Henrietta Streets
- Current proposed options do not take into account the need to create a safe and convenient crossing point on Birrell Street between Bourke and Brisbane Streets where the Birrell Street bike route intersects the existing bike route linking Bondi Junction and Randwick regional centres via Queens Park (see Appendix D image 1 for map of proposed new zebra crossing location)
- The shared path on the north side of Birrell Street should also extend the full distance between Botany and Council Streets. This will give westbound cyclists access to quieter streets towards the Bondi Junction CBD via Botany Street
- For less confident west-bound cyclists, extending the separated cycle lane west of Goldie Avenue towards Council Street/Carrington Road, and including shared paths on Birrell Street either side of Carrington Road to facilitate cyclists crossing Carrington Road

### Bicycle NSW submission summary

- Supports option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) for the eastbound cycleway with changes
- Need to rebalance movement and place on local streets and prioritise road space for active transport by removing some parking
- Concerns that bike riders heading downhill are expected to mix with fast traffic, with no protection from opening car doors
- The current proposal does not address a critical section of Birrell Street between Tamarama Street and Henrietta Street
- The plans do not include a safe crossing point on Birrell Street between Bourke and Brisbane Streets for the bicycle route between Bondi Junction and Randwick
- Birrell Street has adequate width to incorporate a bi-directional cycleway
- Create a shared user path on the downhill side of Birrell Street to accommodate less confident cyclists
- Remove the slip lanes at the junctions of Birrell Street with Carrington Road and Bronte Road
- Implement traffic calming measures
- Extend the cycleway for the full length of Birrell Street
- Construct continuous footpaths at side street intersections (option 1 for Isabella and Stanley Street)
- Ensure that the Birrell Street bicycle path is inclusive
- Traffic light phasing and sensors must favour active modes to encourage more people to walk and cycle

## Conclusion and recommendations

Community feedback favours option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) for the bike lane – an uphill cycleway on Birrell Street (between Newland Street and Henrietta Street) positioned between the kerb and parked cars and a shared downhill mixed use road for cars and bikes (between Newland Street and Henrietta Street).

Other key ideas expressed related to preserving parking, introducing traffic calming, ensuring connectivity of the bike lanes, and prioritising safety for pedestrians and bike riders.

Option 1 was also the community's preferred option for the pedestrian refuge points on Birrell Street at Isabella and Stanley Streets - kerb extension and continuous crossing.

Overall the community supports road pavement resurfacing and rehabilitation.

### Recommendation

Proceed with option 1 (Refer to Appendix A, p15-16) for both the cycleway and pedestrian refuges, taking the following into consideration:

- Focus on maintaining existing parking spaces where possible
- Ensure adequate separation of bike lanes and footpaths
- Install traffic calming devices
- Ensure pedestrian safety
- Ensure clear signage is installed

## Appendix A – Survey questions and proposed upgrade examples

### BIRRELL STREET RENEWAL PROJECT

**NAME:**

**EMAIL:**

**1. What is your relationship to Birrell Street?**

Select all that apply

- ☐ I walk through the street
- ☐ I drive through the street
- ☐ I use public transport along the street
- ☐ I bike through the street
- ☐ I live on the street
- ☐ I park on the street
- ☐ I work at a business on the street
- ☐ Other (please explain)

**2. The existing bike lanes on Birrell Street are too narrow and faded to be used safely.  
Two options are being considered to upgrade them, without any loss of parking.**

(PLEASE REFER TO BIKE LANE CONCEPT OPTIONS)

- ☐ Option 1
- ☐ Option 2
- ☐ Option 1 with adjustments (please comment further below)



- ☐ Option 2 with adjustments (please comment further below)

**3. How often do you ride a bike?**

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely (once every few years)
- ☐ Sometimes (once every few months)
- ☐ Often (once every few weeks)
- ☐ Always (once or more per week)

**4. Would you consider riding through Birrell Street if the bike lanes were upgraded?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**5. To help improve pedestrian safety, Council is exploring options to upgrade some intersections and crossing points.**

(PLEASE REFER TO PEDESTRIAN CROSSING CONCEPT OPTIONS)

**6. Are you supportive of street crossings and intersections being upgraded?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Other (please explain)

- 7. Birrell Street has a number of refuge islands for pedestrians to use. The islands near Isabella Street and Stanley Street are no longer best practice. Two options are being proposed to improve them.**

*Option 1: Remove the refuge island and reduce the length of the road for pedestrians to cross. This would be done by extending the kerbs on both sides of the street so that the crossing distance is shorter.*

*Option 2: Construct new refuge islands that are in line with best practice design. Please note this option will result in the loss of 5 to 6 parking spaces per location.*

- 8. In relation to the traffic island near Isabella Street, which do you prefer?**

- ☐ Option 1
- ☐ Option 2
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- 9. In relation to the traffic island near Stanley Street, which do you prefer?**

- ☐ Option 1
- ☐ Option 2
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- 10. Do you have any further comments or suggestions on how we can make Birrell Street safer for all road users?**

## Bicycle Lane upgrade option 1



## Bicycle Lane upgrade option 2





### Refuge island upgrade option 1 – kerb extension and continuous crossing



### Refuge island upgrade option 2 – best practice compliant island





## Appendix B – Notification letter



WAVERLEY COUNCIL

Waverley Council  
PO Box 9, Bondi Junction NSW 1355  
DX 12006, Bondi Junction  
Customer Service Centre  
55 Spring Street, Bondi Junction NSW 2022  
ABN: 12 502 583 608

Ref: A22/0414

### Re: Have your say on the Birrell Street Renewal

Dear resident,

Birrell Street is a major road in Waverley that is well utilised by drivers, cyclists and pedestrians. After many years of use the road infrastructure is aging, dated or failing and needs to be addressed.

#### What we're exploring

Waverley Council is considering improvements to Birrell Street, between Newland Street and Henrietta Street, including:

- Road resurfacing and rehabilitation
- Intersection improvements (kerb extensions, continuous footpaths etc.)
- Increased greenery
- Replacement of traffic calming devices
- Upgrades to bike riding infrastructure, without any loss of parking

#### What we want to know

To help inform the direction of the project, complete a short survey online by 7 December 2022.

To provide feedback scan the QR code or visit  
[haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/birrell-street-renewal](https://haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/birrell-street-renewal)

Should you have any questions, please email [majorprojects@waverley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:majorprojects@waverley.nsw.gov.au)

King regards,

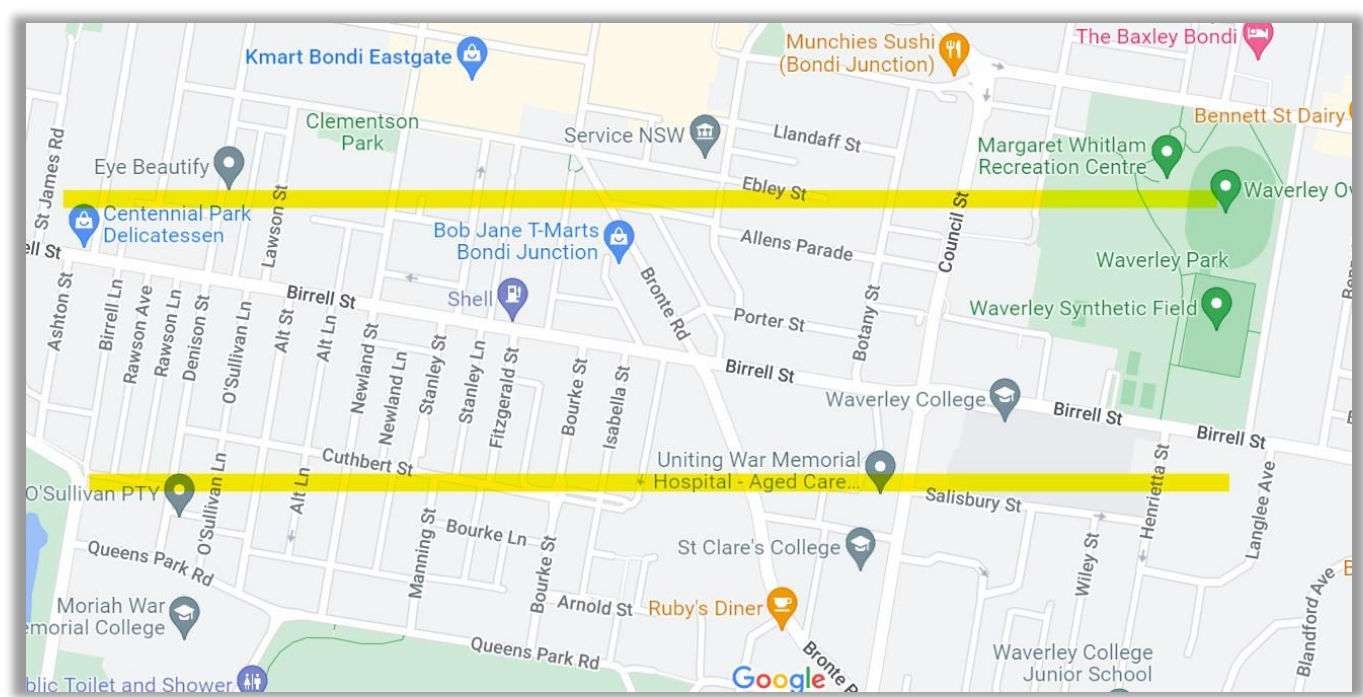
Cameron Eccles  
Project Manager, Waverley Council



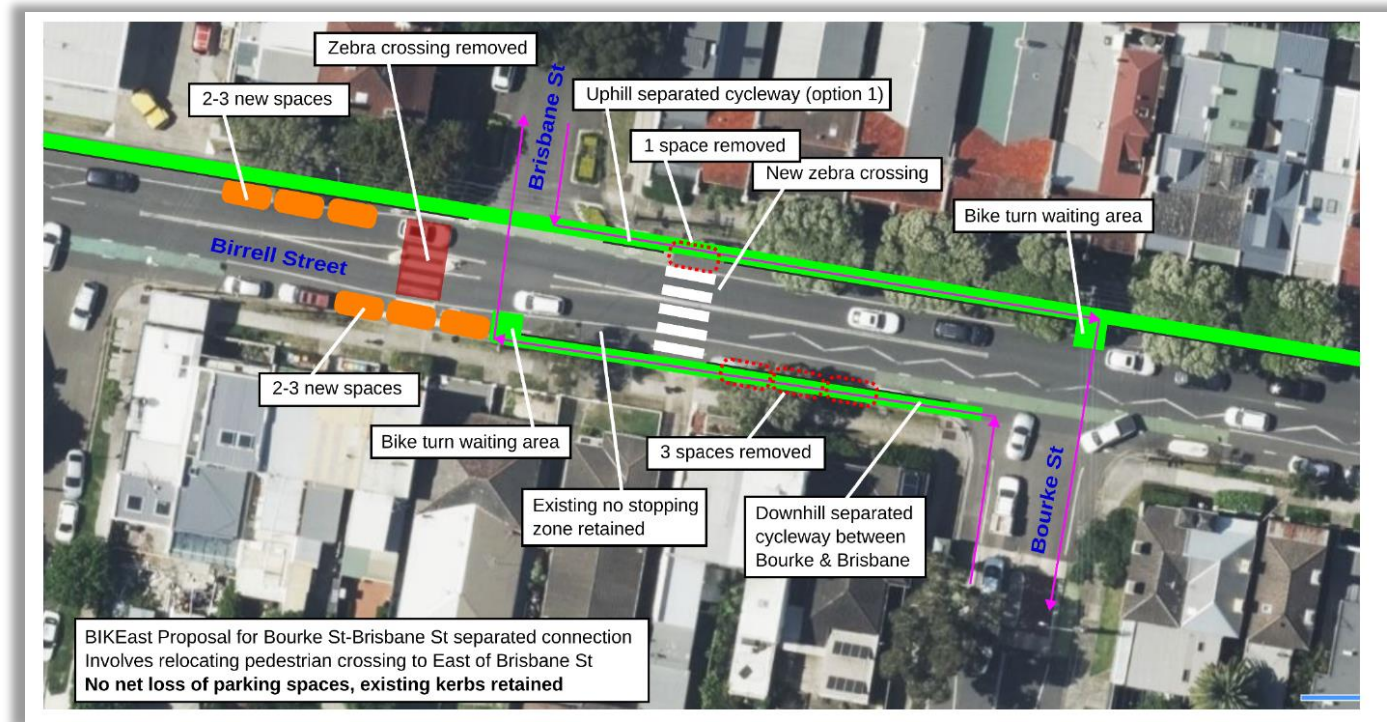
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Appendix C – Letter distribution map



Appendix D – Image 1



## Appendix E – Social media posts





## Appendix F – Waverley Weekly e-newsletter



### Birrell Street renewal

A number of aging assets need to be addressed to ensure Birrell Street, Bondi is safe. Share your thoughts on proposals including bike lane upgrades and crossing point improvements.

[MORE](#)