The Liebig Streetscape Project is a key part of the City Centre Renewal, Council’s number one priority. Community workshops on May 20 resulted in a flood of ideas and the development of concept plans with the aid of design firm, Outlines Landscape Architecture.

Manager City Centre Renewal Tanya Egan said the community response to the concept plans had been very positive.

“What we heard was that people were prepared to be accommodating to a wide range of views,” Ms Egan said. “For instance some people might not have liked the idea that the plane trees might be replaced but liked many other elements of the concept plan so on balance they viewed the plans as heading in the right direction.”

The next step in the process involves the plan being reviewed next month by the Victoria Design Review Panel (VDRP) from the Office of the Victorian Government Architect.

“The peer review process is important and helps ensure we have the best possible design for Warrnambool,” Ms Egan said. Once the plan has been reviewed by the VDRP highly detailed plans will be drawn up.

“The community will have the chance to comment once more on the draft plans – most likely in August – before a final plan goes before Council to be adopted.

“We hope to have a final plan prepared by the end of September with the possibility that, pending external funding, we can see on-ground work in 2015.

The development of the Liebig Streetscape Plan is being supported with a $150,000 State Government grant and $75,000 from the Council.

For more information go to cbd.warrnambool.vic.gov.au

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FEEDBACK ON THE CONCEPT PLAN

Movement and connection

- Disabled access
- Need more level walkways etc.
- Roundabouts - often too high to see blinkers of oncoming vehicles.
- Return to 2 lanes of traffic. Four lanes create a very dangerous area for pedestrians.
- To encourage people to linger, have free parking.
- Widen footpaths - create seating/gardens.
- Raised Zebra crossings will enhance the city and further increase safety and ensure vehicles slow down.
- Moving the trees further out
- Separate bike lane and then the cars.
- More pedestrian crossings.
- Raised pavement at roundabouts.
- I think free parking.
- Get rid of cars/parking metres.
- Pavers on the foot path.
- Move taxi rank to Coles car park and incorporate with bus deposit.
- Left turn lane at roundabouts.
- No gutters.
- Angle parking - happy with 30 degrees - not parallel.
- Parallel parking.
- Motor bike parking space.

Activities and experiences

- Integrate more green spaces, seating - love it.
- Agree with the art.
- Landscaping needs to be interactive and fun.
- Areas that allow for small groups to meet up and chat, around busy mode areas.
- Create an environment people want to be in, create an atmosphere that's not so busy and get in, get out. Have things that make people stay and look.
- Move plants/trees & activities.
- Night lighting.
- Community gardens.
- Plane trees out.
- Seating essential.
- Inner city living with shops, townhouses, apartments.
- Roof bar.
- Music – radio.
- Mock roofing.
- Install hanging flower baskets in the CBD each summer.
- Undercover sailed area with comfortable seating.
- An area where people are able to bring lunch from home and eat in a beautiful undercover area, separate to the café and coffee shops.
- I think the plane trees should be preserved
- Play areas for children;
- Update library;
- Close off some inner streets;
- Dining in the sun;
- Flower boxes;
- Outdoor seating for non-consumers;
- Public environment designed to ‘feel’ safe, encouraging the general public (young and old) to come out in the evening.
- Focus on the historical buildings
- Highway amenities.
- Vertical gardens
- Pop up sites for ticket sales or street vendors as additional income
- More, cleaner toilet facilities.

Identity and reputation

- Roundabouts lousy - flowers so pretty.
- Cleaner all day.
- Shops need to be repainted.
- Make rent on shops affordable to encourage business in the CBD.
- Towns identity
- By making the streets attractive it will bring more people into the business centre.
- It is a fantastic idea to redevelop Liebig St to make it more interesting and a place for people to enjoy spending time.
- Toilets
- Poor shopfronts.
- Attractive and worthwhile so that the community will enjoy it and take pride in it.
- Encourage owners of buildings to paint upper story (maybe have a fund where low interest loans can be taken out, or subsidise them)
- Love the new concepts.
- What is the purpose of Liebig Street?
- Bring back Friday night shopping.
- Future proofing of services.
- Improved highways and historical signage.
- How can you deal with the strong wind?
- Incorporating the historic/heritage aspect of including snippets of information about who/why streets were named.
- Give the youth and future residence some ownership.
- It is a fantastic idea to redevelop Liebig Street to make it more user-friendly and a place for people to enjoy spending time.
- C.C.T.V.
- More smoke bins.

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Big ideas and wildcards

- Permaculture food forest.
- Use rain water.
- Put Warrnambool on the world map.
- Shuttle bus.
- Make it smoke free.
- Olive trees
- Relocate traffic rank to Koroit St with buses and have office for drivers;
- Buses to Ozone;
- Parker car park - private- multilevel car park;
- Higher rates for dilapidated front types,
- Reduced rates for nice facades
- Round circle FREE bus around streets for older people - or people just visiting
- For business people, an office that has fast fibre internet connection that can be used by business people to conduct online virtual meetings.
- Simple playground equipment for young children.
- Install community musical instruments.
- Also I think it would be a good idea to try to get Spotlight or Lincraft to come back to the city centre because it is very inconvenient to have to go all the way out to where they are now.
- I think you should turn Liebig Street, into a mall,
- An undercover Mall, probably a very expensive idea, but would be fabulous for our city.
- Parking- median strip on hwy.
- A vacant shop could be leased to the police to open a police beat which would improve public perception of security and help maintain law and order.
- Need showers.
- Surrounding streets increased to 4 lanes to encourage traffic to those areas and drop the speed limit in the Liebig Street area between Koroit and lava to 20km.
- Entrance to the car park behind Centrelink have access from further down lava and Koroit street so access isn’t so close to Liebig Street.
- Dog watering stations.
- Bike lane in front of the parked cars.
- Outdoor art to announce entry to Liebig St
- Indoor art work being displayed in empty shopfronts featuring Warrnambool themes such as, whales, Fletcher Jones and Lady Bay, etc
- Larger department shops. JB Hi Fi, Big W.
- Walk of Fame – with names of famous people from Warrnambool; Valuable members of society; accomplishments.
- Free Wi-Fi.
- Underground power lines for Amenity.
- Update banks.
- Full roof over Liebig St between Koroit and Lava Street. Don’t worry about cost.
- More tattoo parlour.
- Water slides in the main street.
- Photo booth x5
- Massive water Fountain in the middle of the path.
- Extra visitor information centre in C.B.D
- Ability to clean shop fronts (access ti water from street)
- TV screen
- Encourage a coastal and maritime theme – in addition to business and regional centre.
- Graffiti board.
- Time dial for sunset, sunrise and High tide. The most dangerous time for rips to drag you out to the deep sea – educate visitors
- Maybe a “Tourist Info Kiosk” in the CBD (like the Ticketec in the Bourke Street mall in Melbourne.)
- Youth centres.
- Embrace heritage out a modern twist to it.
- Bubble taps.
- Bring the silver ball to the Koroit and Liebig St intersection.
- Bird feeding stations to keep them off food tables.
- Improves car parking underground.
- No skate boards.
- No roller skates.
- Sun screen dispenser.
- Hot water fountain on tap.
- More skate/scooter/roller blade / BMX shops.
- Highlights to include couta bats, whale boats, surf club reels, cray pots. (No fibreglass Whales!!!)
- 7/11
- Allow for pop up shops (styled as beach huts) to be used by CBD trader only. Huts to be hired from council.
- Street braziers, hot cashew nuts
- Vertical footpath hose sprays for little kids in hot weather
- Fleet of nickshaws

General comments

- Well done!
- Excellent!
- Be brave
- Community engagement has been really positive
- Extremely helpful staff on duty at display very well explained.
- Good idea!
- I think this is a wonderful effort to renew our beautiful city. Congratulations to all involved!
- Very informative awesome - thanks for your time
- I think it’s a wonderful idea.
- Thank you for listening to the public.
- Loves landscaping + Barn stone
- Congratulations to everyone concerned with the city centre renewal. This is a very exciting concept for us all. It would be appreciated further involvement if required (just let us know!) The suggestions to date are in the main. Excellent!
- The concepts are good, with a variety of facets being identified and linked.
- Good luck with the final design it might not meet all challenges that community members will pose but flexibility on the design could be included to keep refreshing the design to modernise the spaces. This would ensure Warrnambool keeps changing as we grow and evolve as a city. Hope the above makes sense. Happy to discuss further if not.
- Just like to send a big well done on the work that is being conducted regarding our main street.
- Sounds interesting. I will look forward to see what they decide to do.
- I love Liebig Street.
- We loved many of the proposals for Liebig Street.
- Well done on providing so many opportunities for community feedback and input.
- Like all ideas. Badly needs uplifting.
With the laneway events completed the final element of the festival will be a ‘permanent treatment’ of a CBD laneway. The Laneways Festival has been supported by a $150,000 State Government grant plus additional support from the Council.

Patloch Lane between Piccolo restaurant and Tir Na Nog Beauty Salon has been endorsed by the Council as the lane to be upgraded as the final stage of the Laneways Festival.

Patloch Lane was considered suitable for a permanent upgrade for several reasons including:
- The lane is Council-owned;
- The adjoining landowners and tenant support the initiative;
- The pavement is sealed but with no lighting or identification signage the impact of an upgrade will be significant;
- There is linkage with an upgraded laneway on the eastern side of Liebig St which links to the Crammond and Dickson Car Park; and,
- An adjoining tenant has indicated a desire to conduct business within the lane.

This lane now features a fish mural painted by local artist Nathan Pye. A detailed technical survey of the lane and the buildings either side is now being undertaken ahead of engagement with stakeholders to develop concepts. The process is being led by the City Centre Renewal team and Professor Paul Carter of RMIT’s School of Architecture & Design.

CCTV
Council has voted to ensure the CBD Closed Circuit Television Cameras will be completed by the end of the year.

The project will see the installation of eight cameras, designed to improve safety. Council is working with Warrnambool Police, a Liquor Accord representative, Warrnambool Taxis and Commerce Warrnambool on this initiative. Once installed, the cameras will be monitored by the police.

Fairy Street car park
Sealing and line marking of the Fairy Street car park has been completed and commuters and visitors to the city centre have been able to use the newly formalised space for several weeks.

Consideration is now being given as to whether this car park should be an all-day parking space, have time limits or perhaps offer a combination of short and longer term parking.