



ACT
Government

CURTIN GROUP CENTRE MASTER PLAN

Community Engagement Report - Stage 2, 3 and 4
NOVEMBER 2018



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CONTENTS

- EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....5**
- INTRODUCTION 8**
 - Community engagement approach9
 - Community engagement objectives.....9
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES 10**
 - ACT Government10
 - Internet and social media11
 - Outcomes from Stage 1 of community engagement.....12
 - Community engagement activities Stage 2.....13
 - Outcomes from Stage 2 of community engagement.....14
 - Community engagement activities Stage 3.....22
 - Community engagement activities Stage 4.....23
- SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS 33**
- NEXT STAGE 37**
- APPENDIX..... 37**



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The ACT Government has completed a master plan for the Curtin group centre. The Curtin group centre master plan sets out a vision, spatial framework, planning principles, planning strategies and policies to guide growth and development OF the centre into the future.

The Curtin Group Centre Master Plan (the master plan) aims to guide the future development and redevelopment of the Curtin group centre (the centre) by providing strategies to protect and to build upon its existing character. The master plan has been prepared in response to actions outlined in the ACT Planning Strategy (2012). This includes providing opportunities for urban intensification in and around the centre, ensuring that the unique character of the centre is retained and to reinforce its role, with access to a range of facilities, services and opportunities for social interaction.

Stage 1 community engagement for the master plan was undertaken between April and June 2015. Feedback from the community, together with background studies and input from private stakeholders and ACT Government agencies informed the development of the draft master plan. For a report on the key findings of the Stage 1 engagement visit: www.planning.act.gov.au

Stage 2 community engagement on the draft master plan was undertaken between November 2015 and February 2016 to seek feedback from the community. Feedback from the second stage of community engagement was gathered through a range of activities including the use of information displays, two 'Meet the Planners' sessions, feedback forms, individual written/emailed submissions, meetings with community groups, individual stakeholders and government interagency meetings.

Key messages from the Stage 2 community engagement included:

- support for improvements to open spaces within the centre environs, including the western open space
- support for improvements to walking and cycling connections
- support for reconfiguration of car parking areas with the aim of increasing car parking spaces, as suggested in the draft master plan
- suggested improvements included better paths, more pedestrian paths, improved biodiversity value and improved facilities such as play equipment
- a desire to retain the village character of the centre, particularly the low-scale building heights around the central courtyard
- the main issues raised by the community in regards to the village character included a general sense that the centre has a good variety of shops and services. The centre is highly valued and well used by the community.
- concern that taller buildings could overshadow the central courtyard. Similarly, there was a general view that buildings above four to six storeys would be out of character with the centre, and
- concerns were raised that it is becoming more difficult to find available parking close to the shops. Parking is central to the centre's level of convenience, function and ability to introduce new development

There was strong community interest in the recommendations of the draft master plan, including new opportunities being identified for the centre and the announcement of light rail from the city centre to Woden. To address these new opportunities, the ACT Government undertook a third stage of community engagement by establishing a community panel to discuss development and redevelopment opportunities for the centre.

This process was designed to bring the people together to look for shared outcomes and to facilitate discussion on the future of the centre with representation from the community, lessees, owners, young people, developers and government. The community panel met three times between July and November 2017.

At the final community panel meeting, revised master plan diagrams were presented by the ACT Government for consideration and discussion by panel members. The community panel generally supported the revisions; however, building heights adjacent to the existing central courtyard remained contested. The community panel agreed on a number of key points that included:

- support for the revised spatial framework plan that considered the realignment of roads and block boundaries in the southern portion of the retail core precinct
- agreement to the Vision, Character Statement, Planning Principles and high level Strategies as outlined in the draft master plan
- to finalise the master plan and to not resolve design details of individual development proposals
- the retention of mature trees is important in and around the retail core area as they contribute to the character of the centre, and
- the master plan and variation to the Territory Plan is undertaken as quickly as possible, noting that an additional round of community engagement will be undertaken.

A full summary of the community panel and the outcomes from the process can be found in the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan Community Panel Outcomes Report at: www.planning.act.gov.au

Stage 4 community engagement was undertaken between April 2018 and June 2018. This final stage of engagement was as a result of this community panel process where revisions to the Curtin Group Centre Draft Master Plan were recommended. Feedback from this stage of community engagement was gathered through a range of activities including the use of information displays, focussed face to face meetings, individual written/emailed submissions, youth engagement, meetings with community groups, individual stakeholders and government interagency meetings.

Key messages from Stage 4 of community engagement included:

- strong support to keep sunlight to the central courtyard and minor adjoining courtyards as a priority in regards to new development in the centre
- strong support to retain village character of the centre, including that buildings should be designed with a 'human scale'
- support for building heights of up to 6 storeys for the Statesman Hotel site and the vacant site at the corner of Carruthers and Theodore Streets (Block 1 Section 15 Curtin)
- support for improved management of parking areas close to the shops and for the proposed pedestrian and cycle routes into the centre, to make sure the centre is convenient now and in to the future
- provide more and better quality green spaces in Curtin, particularly close to the shops
- concern about building heights up to 5 storeys in the retail core (close to the central courtyard). Building heights up to 2 and 4 storeys in the retail core were considered to be more appropriate by respondents, if they did not impact on the amenity of the central courtyard, and
- concerns about introducing residential use above shops in retail core close to the central courtyard

Community engagement will also be undertaken on any changes to the Territory Plan as outlined in the master plan, through a separate engagement process.

Map 1: Master plan study area



PLACES

- 1** WESTERN OPEN SPACE
- 2** STATESMAN HOTEL
- 3** HOLY TRINITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
- 4** CURTIN SOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD OVAL
- 5** CURTIN PRIMARY SCHOOL
- 6** RETAIL CORE
- 7** RADBURN RESIDENTIAL PRECINCT
- 8** FRED WARD GARDENS

ROADS

- 9** CARRUTHERS STREET
- 10** MCCULLOCH STREET
- 11** THEODORE STREET
- 12** YARRA GLEN

INTRODUCTION

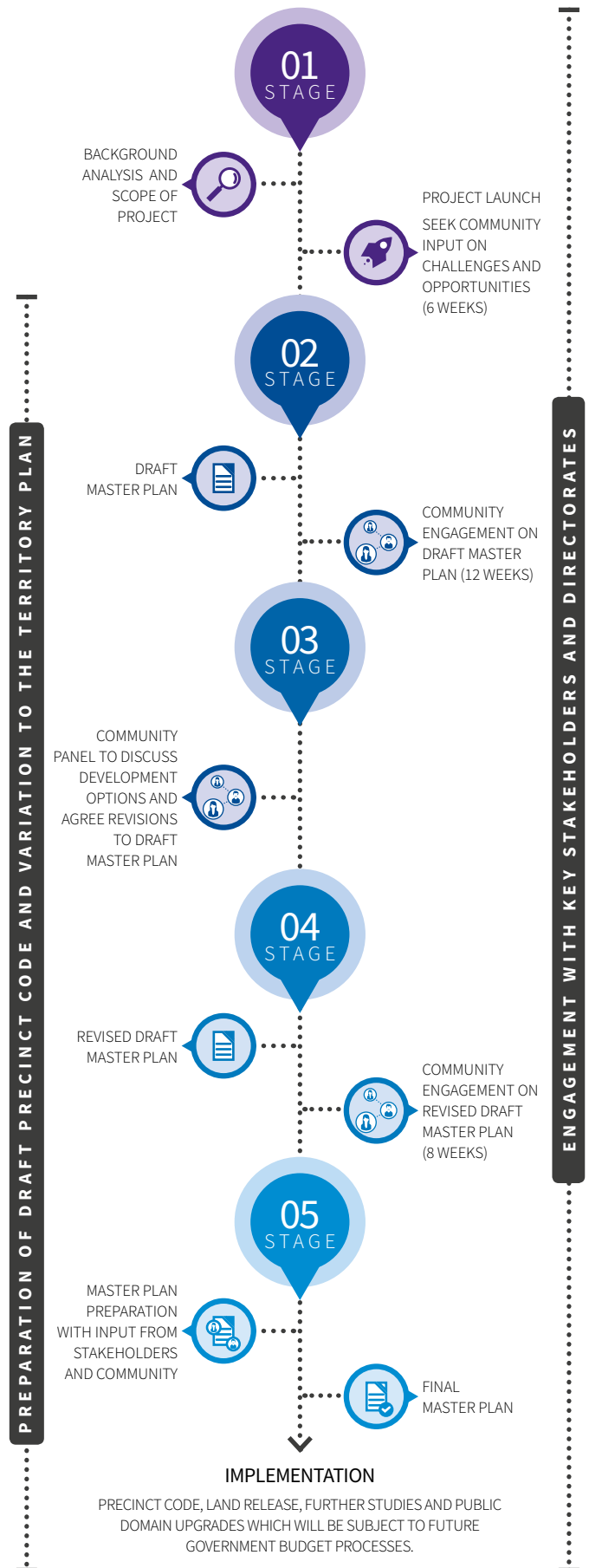
The ACT Government has prepared a master plan for the Curtin group centre to provide a new vision, planning framework, planning principles and planning strategies to guide growth and development of the centre over time. The master plan is the result of extensive community and stakeholder engagement and has been informed by background studies and analysis. The master plan outlines strategies and makes recommendations with the aim to provide an integrated and community supported vision for the centre.

In 2012, key strategic planning documents for the ACT were introduced including the ACT Planning Strategy, Transport for Canberra and AP2: A New Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for the ACT. The ACT Planning Strategy encourages a more compact city by focusing urban intensification in town centres, group centres and along major public transport routes.

The master plan study area is shown in **Map 1**.

The master plan sets out a vision, spatial framework, planning principles, and planning strategies to guide the centre's long term growth sustainable future depending on the progress of development and budget constraints. The process used to prepare the master plan is outlined in **Figure 1**. Community engagement forms an important part of the research and helps identify what is important about a place and how its character and quality can be conserved, improved and enhanced.

Figure 1: Master plan and community engagement process



During the development of the master plan, four stages of community engagement were undertaken. The first stage of engagement identified the issues, challenges and opportunities for the centre. The second stage of engagement sought community feedback on the draft master plan and the following third stage of engagement established a community panel process to discuss development and redevelopment opportunities for centre. The fourth and final stage of engagement sought community feedback on revisions to the Curtin Group Centre Draft Master Plan as recommended by the community panel process.

This engagement report presents the findings from Stages 2, 3 and 4 engagement for the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan. It summarises the activities undertaken and the key outcomes that were used to inform the development of the master plan. Details of Stage 1 community engagement can be found at:

www.yoursay.act.gov.au

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

The community engagement process for the master plan aimed to inform, consult and involve key stakeholders and the community at important stages of the planning process.

The master plan project team engaged with businesses, building owners and lessees, community groups and residents to ensure concerns and aspirations were understood for the development of the master plan. Engagement provided the community with an opportunity to meet with planners face-to-face at all four stages of the master plan development to discuss issues and ideas and respond to the planning proposals in the draft master plan and revised draft master plan. While all feedback was considered, it should be noted that consensus could not always be achieved and not every comment could be accommodated within the master plan.

All engagement activities reflect the ACT Government's policies and guidelines on community engagement. Please refer to www.yoursay.act.gov.au for information about our approach to engagement.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of community engagement on the master plan:

- Gather information from the community to inform the preparation of the master plan.
- Receive feedback on the draft master plan and revised draft master plans about the issues of interest for consideration in the final master plan.
- Inform the public on the master planning process and what a master plan can and cannot do.
- Inform the public on how the master plan will implement key ACT Government policies, such as the ACT Planning Strategy, Transport for Canberra and the ACT's climate action plan, AP2.
- Identify and consult with all key stakeholders.
- Communicate and consult with users of the centre and the community surrounding the centre.
- Provide an opportunity to consult broadly with the whole of Canberra community via online engagement techniques.
- Explore development and redevelopment opportunities for the centre.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

The development of the master plan was informed by the four stages of community engagement. Community engagement in Stage 2 and Stage 4 specifically sought community feedback on the draft master plan and revisions to the draft master plan as an outcome from the community panel process in Stage 3. This feedback was used to help refine the master plan before it was finalised for government consideration.

This section of the report outlines the engagement activities undertaken as part of the master plan process and the outcomes from each stage of community engagement. The outcomes of all stages of community engagement are summarised in the following sections.

Some comments may not be able to be resolved through the master plan process and will require EPSDD to discuss further with the responsible ACT Government directorates. Therefore, not all community feedback received throughout the process may be directly reflected in the master plan.

ACT GOVERNMENT

Agencies responsible for service delivery and consequently the implementation of the master plan in the long term include the following:

- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) identifies Territory-owned land appropriate to release for sale. ACT Sport and Recreation Services (SRS) are contained within CMTEDD, and are responsible for planning and management of sports facilities.
- Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) maintain path and road infrastructure and urban open spaces, including playgrounds, parkland and libraries.
- The Territory Plan unit within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) translates the final endorsed master plan recommendations into the Territory Plan in the form of renewed precinct codes.
- The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) considers noise pollution and environmental pollution and relationships between different land uses.
- The Education Directorate (ED) is responsible for public schools in the area.
- The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) are responsible for the Emergency Services, infrastructure and crime prevention.
- Health Directorate (HD) provides a comprehensive range of health services and sets policy and plans the delivery of health services to ensure these services meet community needs.
- Community Services Directorate (CSD) is responsible for a wide range of human services functions in the ACT including public and community housing.



INTERNET AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The internet and social media were used throughout community engagement to provide project information, 'Meet the Planners' session details and opportunities for engagement and feedback.

The master plan project page on the EPSDD website provided users with links to the directorate's engagement tool 'Have your say' and 'Your Say'. These websites enabled discussion by providing users with interactive tools such as surveys and public forums. Information on these websites included the draft master plans, information posters, study area maps, relevant imagery and reference material. As part of this engagement, the ACT Government's previous Time-to-Talk consultation portal also included relevant links to the EPSDD's 'Have your say' website.

The ACT Government no longer uses 'Have your Say'. 'Your Say' replaced 'Have your Say' on the 2 August 2016 and is found at the following link: www.yoursay.act.gov.au

Relevant links and social media contacts included:

- EPSDD project website: http://www.planning.act.gov.au/tools_resources/legislation_plans_registers/plans/master_plans/Curtin
- 'YourSay' website: <http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EnvironPlan>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EnvironPlan>
- Project email: Curtin@act.gov.au

OUTCOMES FROM STAGE 1 OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The following table summarises the key messages from the community during Stage 1 of community engagement and how these issues were addressed in the draft master plan.

Table 1: Summary of key messages from Stage 1 engagement activities

KEY MESSAGES	DRAFT MASTER PLAN RESPONSE
1. Curtin has a strong sense of community and ‘village’ feel and it is essential this is protected and enhanced by the master plan process. The internal central courtyard is valued by the community. There is support for updating and revitalising the courtyard area. Retaining solar access to the courtyard is very important.	Encourage greater use of the central courtyard through improved amenities. Provide planning controls that retain a low scale interface with key public spaces. Provide planning controls to ensure that solar access to the central courtyard is retained, even as redevelopment around the courtyard occurs.
2. People want to see the low-rise, human-scale nature of Curtin retained. There was more support for height increases on the south-east side of shops to encourage a refresh of older buildings.	Provide a mix of 2 to 6 storey height limits, with taller buildings located at the periphery of the central area. Retain the existing two storey height for most of the retail core area.
3. Curtin’s western open space is highly valued. It is a successful example of Radburn planning in the ACT. It is essential that the western open space is protected and enhanced.	Recommend improved walking and cycling paths and recreational facilities through the western open space.
4. Retaining and increasing car parking is important to the community. It is often difficult to find parking in the centre. Parking for people with a disability needs to be increased.	Provide additional parking capacity within existing parking areas and with new on-street parking.
5. People would like to see the existing mix of businesses in the centre retained and increased, including more activity on the northern side of the shops along Carruthers Street.	Support redevelopment and expansion of retail sites. Support public domain upgrades and entry plantings along Carruthers Street.

KEY MESSAGES	DRAFT MASTER PLAN RESPONSE
6. Pedestrian connections on the northern side of the centre need improvement.	Identify locations for investigation for reconfigured intersections to the north of the centre.
7. There were mixed views about housing diversity, with some people wanting to see high quality apartments within the centre and others suggesting that residential living within the centre should not be considered.	Provide locations suitable for supported housing and apartment development.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES STAGE 2

The table below provides an overview of participation in the different engagement activities in Stage 2 that specifically sought community feedback on the draft master plan.

Table 2: Overview of number of people who participated in Stage 2 engagement activities:

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY	DATE	PARTICIPANTS
Display Posters Woden Library and Curtin Coles Supermarket	11 November 2015 – 5 February 2016	Unknown
'Meet the Planners' sessions	3 December 2015 5 December 2015	Approximately 160 people
Postcards Mailed to residential addresses in Curtin and surrounding suburbs	23 November 2015 – 27 November 2015	8791 households <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtin: 2252 • Deakin: 1478 • Hughes: 926 • Yarralumla: 1498 • Lyons: 1568 • Philip: 1069
Online	10 November 2015 – 5 February 2016	1,668 Page views ¹
Survey Responses	10 November 2015 – 5 February 2016	80 participants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 48 online responses • 32 hardcopy responses
Other submissions (email, hard copy, by phone)		17 submissions

¹ the number of times a visitor (who is only counted once) has visited the page.

INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Meetings were held with key stakeholders to gain further insight and follow up Stage 1 input into issues that could be addressed in the master plan. The key stakeholders are stated below:

DATE	PARTICIPANT	ATTENDED
30 November 2015	Meeting with representatives for Block 6, Section 62	1
2 December 2015	Woden Valley Community Council	40
14 December 2015	Meeting with lessee of Block 7, Section 62 Curtin	5
12 January 2016	Meeting with representative for Block 1, Section 15 Curtin	1

OUTCOMES FROM STAGE 2 OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INFORMATION DISPLAYS

Information displays included a series of posters illustrating the key proposals included in the draft master plan. The displays also provided information about the various options available to provide feedback and hard copy feedbacks forms were made available on site.

Table 3: Information displays

LOCATION	DATE	LENGTH OF TIME
Woden Library	11 November 2015 to 5 February 2016	12 weeks
Curtin Coles Supermarket	11 November 2015 to 5 February 2016	12 weeks

'MEET THE PLANNERS' SESSIONS

The key messages received from the two 'Meet the Planners' sessions held in December 2015 are shown below:

- support to move the park and ride facilities outside the centre.
- the desire for more car parking close to the shops.
- the need for improved pedestrian facilities on Strangways Street and around the retail core, and
- concern about the proposed building heights in the core area, particularly the six storeys proposed for the Statesman Hotel and four storeys proposed for Block 7 Section 62; concerns mostly related to potential shadowing of the central courtyard and potential increase in demand for car parking in the centre.

SURVEY RESPONSES

Survey forms were made available in paper format to the public at the information displays at the Woden Library, 'Meet the Planners' sessions and also as an online survey. All comments were considered during the development of the master plan. Not all questions were mandatory. Not all questions were answered by all of the participants. A total of 80 people completed the survey form. The key findings are outlined in the next section.

SURVEY RESULTS

BUILDING HEIGHT

A key outcome of the master plan will be to recommend new planning controls for the centre, including building heights. The feedback form asked the following with reference to a poster indicating proposed building heights:

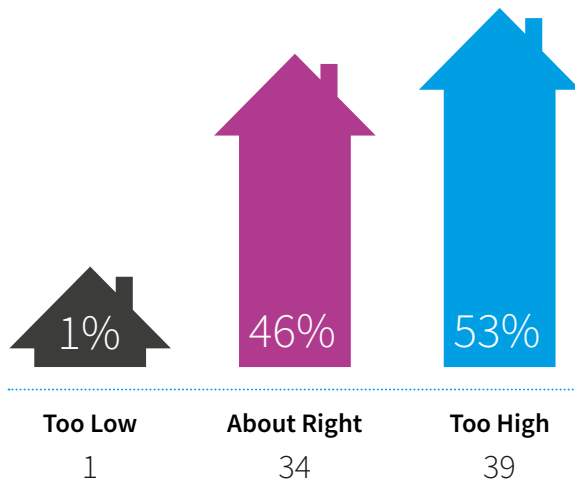
The Curtin Group Centre Draft Master Plan recommends retaining the existing two-storey building height limit for most of the central core area and recommends:

- *lifting building heights for the Statesman Hotel site to four and six storeys to encourage redevelopment of the site*
- *lifting building heights for development facing onto the southern carpark to four storeys to allow for additional commercial and residential development.*

Do you generally think the proposed building heights are too high, too low, or about right?

More than half of respondents stated that heights are too high (53%), while just under half said they were about right (46%). One respondent thought the proposed building heights were too low (**Figure 2**).

Figure 2: Building heights



Respondents were also given the opportunity to make further comments on this question. The responses have been analysed and categorised into common themes.

Height was a topic of significant interest, with approximately 45 respondents making further comments. The most common themes were:

- Where respondents discussed specific building heights for the centre, there was general community comfort with 3–4 storeys in the central core area (19), a number of respondents were comfortable with up to 6 storeys as indicated in the draft plan for the Statesman Hotel (15), and a smaller number of respondents did not support any height increase above the existing 1–2 storey buildings (7).
- Curtin's character is defined by its low rise 'village' feel and tall buildings are not consistent with this character (11).
- The centre has a 'tired' feel and opportunities for redevelopment should be supported, with quality architecture (5).

Other themes were:

- Redevelopment of the Statesman Hotel had been raised in previous forums and, at that time, the community had objected to taller development.
- Taller development will have a negative impact on parking availability.

During the Stage 2 community engagement process, representatives from the Statesman Hotel publicly announced the desire to redevelop the hotel and associated facilities up to 10 and 12 storeys. This triggered several written comments to this question on building heights. Respondents who commented specifically on the Statesman Hotel proposal (11 respondents) did not support redevelopment up to 10 and 12 storeys.

PROPOSED WALKING AND CYCLING NETWORK

The survey asked respondents to consider a proposed network of cycling and pedestrian connections around the centre and state whether they agreed or disagreed with the network. The survey asked the following with reference to Poster 6 showing a proposed pedestrian and cyclist network:

Do you agree with the network shown on poster 6?

*Pick the option that best fits your opinion.
[Options were Agree, Neutral, Disagree.]*

Survey respondents were invited to comment on the proposed network, with the prompt “Do you think there are other connections that should be considered?” (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Proposed cycle and pedestrian network



Of the 24 individual responses, the most common themes were:

- Cycling and pedestrian upgrades are necessary to encourage walking and cycling, and current traffic conditions make the roads unsafe for many road users.
- Specific links requiring attention include the pedestrian signals and roundabout on Carruthers Street opposite the centre, cycle lanes on Carruthers Street and Theodore Street, a pedestrian footpath on Storey Street, links to Hughes, Garran, Lyons, and better connections between shared paths through underpasses and the street network.

Other issues raised were:

- Accessibility, and the need to consider issues such as surface quality and maintenance to ensure footpaths are universally accessible.(3)
- Conflict between pedestrians and cyclists using shared paths.(2)
- Too much emphasis is placed on cyclists (3), and
- Improve amenities on the cycle network such as wayfinding signs and bicycle racks (2).

Figure 4: Planning priorities

1	Upgrade the central courtyard.
2	improved pedestrian environment on Strangways Street (Crossings, Wider paths, ect).
3	Create an east-west pedestrian and cycle link to Yarra Glen and Deakin.
4	Opportunities for children’s play areas in the western open space.
5	Improved entry plantings on Carruthers Street (between Yarra Glen and Strangways Street).
6	Upgrading the western open space recreational uses, such as off-leash dog area, skate park, etc).
7	New entry ‘markers’ signage on Theodore Street.

PLANNING PRIORITIES

The survey asked respondents to rank a series of potential amenity upgrades in and around the centre (**Figure 4**). The survey asked the following, in relation to Poster 6 showing strategies to improve pedestrian amenity and connections across Strangways Street; to create an east-west pedestrian and cyclist link; and to enhance the western open spaces, and Poster 7 showing strategies to ensure public spaces are walkable, safe and attractive; efficient and safe traffic and parking strategies; and to incorporate environmentally sustainable design measures:

Please number in order of preference (1 being most important and 7 being least important):

- Upgrade the central courtyard
- New entry ‘markers’ / signage on Theodore Street
- Improved entry plantings on Carruthers Street (between Yarra Glen and Strangways Street)
- Opportunities for children’s play areas in the western open space
- Upgrading the western open space recreational uses, such as off-leash dog area, skate park and exercise equipment
- Improved pedestrian environment on Strangways Street (crossings, wider paths, etc.)
- Create and east-west pedestrian and cycle link to Yarra Glen and Deakin

Results from this question show that a clear priority for the community is upgrades to the central courtyard, followed by improved pedestrian environment on Strangways Street, creating an east west pedestrian and cycle link. The lowest priority was new entry markers on Theodore Street.

The 18 respondents who made further comments in relation to this question mentioned a variety of topics, including enhancing trees and open spaces, improving traffic management, providing more car parking and providing dog facilities. Some respondents indicated that basic maintenance was more of a priority than new infrastructure.

PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Parking was a commonly raised theme in the feedback forms, although the survey did not present a specific question relating to this topic. The most common themes amongst responses were:

- insufficient parking available at the centre (16).
- traffic volumes in the suburb more generally is a concern, particularly ‘rat-running’ through Curtin from nearby suburbs, which is a concern for both car drivers and non-car drivers (13), and
- parking management could be improved, including an increase in the number of spaces, placement, and enforcement of short-term parking places (6).

VILLAGE CHARACTER

A common theme emerging from the survey was that people value Curtin's village character. The most common comments were:

- a general view that the village character is precious and should be protected and enhanced; it was suggested the character could be enhanced by good design, new development controls, improved amenities and improvements to the central courtyard (24), and
- several respondents stated that they are comfortable with new development, provided that there is high quality architecture and design (6).

REVITALISATION, RETAIL MIX, AND EVENING ACTIVITIES

Aside from the issues in relation to building heights, several respondents suggested that new development opportunities, improved retail mix and revitalisation would bring positive change to the centre. The most common themes were:

- a desire for more variety in the retail mix in Curtin including restaurants, specialty shops and places for social interaction such as a bar (10), and
- revitalisation of the shops would benefit the area, as they look tired and require maintenance (8).
- Children's facilities, community facilities, dog facilities, open space

Several comments were made about the type of facilities that could be provided in the public spaces in or close to the centre. Common suggestions included:

- a desire to see parks and 'leftover' open spaces such as roundabouts or verges improved (4),
- a number of respondents requested shopping trolley bays near Strangways Street (4),
- mixed views on the need for off-leash dog facilities, with some respondents concerned this would be unsafe in a central location (3), while others were supportive of improved pet-friendly facilities, such as a drinking fountain (2), and
- A desire for improved facilities for children, including play spaces; it was suggested these facilities would be best placed within the centre itself or in nearby public parks, including those opposite the centre on Carruthers Street (2).

CHILDREN'S FACILITIES, COMMUNITY FACILITIES, DOG FACILITIES, OPEN SPACE

Several comments were made about the type of facilities that could be provided in the public spaces in or close to the centre. Common suggestions included:

- a desire to see parks and 'leftover' open spaces such as roundabouts or verges improved (4),
- a number of respondents requested shopping trolley bays near Strangways Street (4),
- mixed views on the need for off-leash dog facilities, with some respondents concerned this would be unsafe in a central location (3), while others were supportive of improved pet-friendly facilities, such as a drinking fountain (2), and
- a desire for improved facilities for children, including play spaces; it was suggested these facilities would be best placed within the centre itself or in nearby public parks, including those opposite the centre on Carruthers Street (2).

OTHER ISSUES

Several other issues were raised by an individual or small numbers of respondents. These issues and a summary of the views are presented below.

Conservation, ecological value, sustainability

– Several comments related to ecological value, sustainability, and related issues. The main themes related to the positive value of ecological assets and the need for the plan to support these assets (4).

Planning process and document structure

– One respondent indicated that some issues had been raised in previous master planning processes, including for example the Statesman Hotel redevelopment proposal, and that on those prior occasions the community had voiced its views and now is having to repeat that process (1).

Public transport – Respondents called for improved bus services, especially access to the rapid bus service (4).

BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS

Of those respondents who answered this question, 64% were female and 36% were male. There was good representation across most age groups: 60+ (35%); followed by the 40-50 year age bracket (23%), the 20-39 year age brackets (22%); and the 51-60 age bracket (19%). There was one respondent aged 19 years or less. The gender and age demographic results are shown in **Figures 5 and 6**.

Curtin residents were well represented, with 73% of respondents living in Curtin (**Figure 7**). A small number of respondents were from nearby suburbs of Lyons (4%) and Hughes (4%), while 18% did not state their suburb of residence.

The household composition of the respondents included 'couple with children' (46%), 'couple with no children' (26%), and 'lone person household' (21%). Households comprising groups of adults (4%) and sole parents (3%) completed a small number of feedback forms.

Figure 5: Gender of respondents

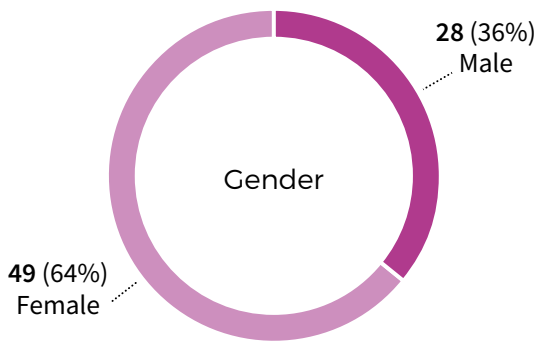


Figure 6: Demographics

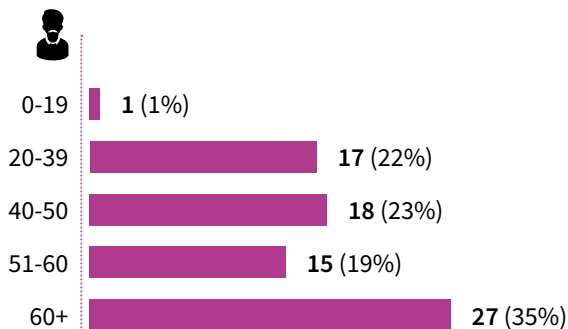
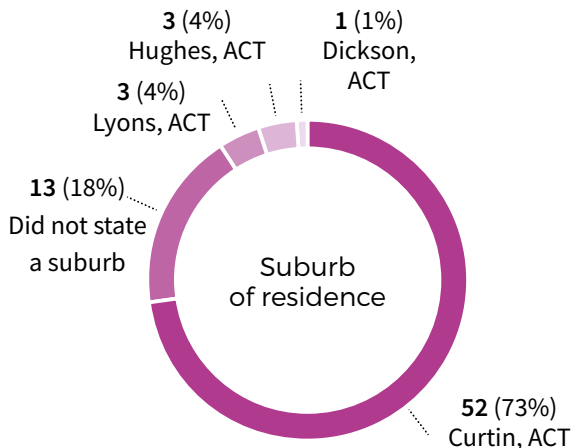


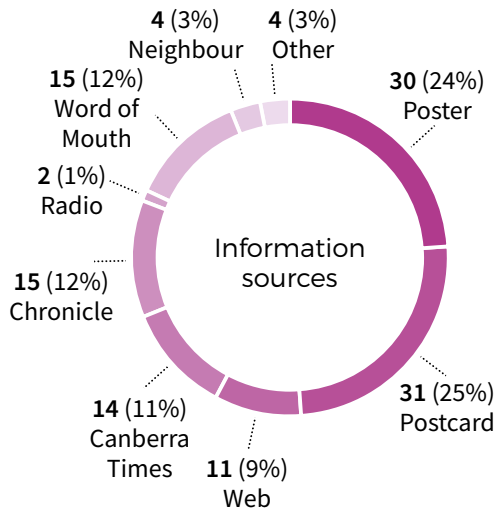
Figure 7: Suburb of residence



WHERE DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MASTER PLAN?

Survey respondents were asked where they heard about the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan. The main information sources were postcards (25%), poster displays (24%), word of mouth (12%), Chronicle (12%), Canberra Times (11%) and the web (9%) as shown in **Figure 8**. Other sources accounted for 7% of respondents.

Figure 8: Information sources





ONLINE FORUM QUESTIONS

The online forum offered the following topics.

The first topic was ‘Reinforce the vibrant, urban village character and identity of the centre’.

- One response was received indicating that this is a key issue, requiring maintenance or new development within the central area

The second topic was ‘Build on the centre’s attractive urban village style of development’

- One response was received indicating support for increased building heights and increased population, with consideration for solar access to key areas

The third topic was ‘Have we missed anything?’

- One response was received indicating that a preferred development outcome Section 15 Block 1 would be for general residential apartments, with consideration for impacts on local traffic and walking and cycling routes. Suggestions were also made for open space amenities.

OTHER SUBMISSIONS

This section includes email written submissions, as well as phoned in feedback.

A project webpage was created and project specific email addresses were provided as follows:

- EPSDD project web page: <http://haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au/curtin-master-plan>
- ‘Have your say’ project web page: <http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au>
- Project email: curtin@act.gov.au

The project email address and information on the web pages allowed people to raise individual concerns and submit their proposals in more detail. All ideas and proposals were considered as part of the preparation of the final master plan.

All comments were categorised in **Table 4** under common themes. Where a number of feedback items were repeatedly raised by separate individuals, these numbers have been identified.

Seventeen (17) email submissions were received and can be viewed at www.planning.act.gov.au

As there were few formal submissions, it should be noted that these comments may not be representative of the broader population’s viewpoint.

Table 4: Common themes of Stage 2 submission comments:

THEME	COMMENT	COMMON RESPONSE
Building Height	Not in favour of multistorey redevelopment above 3-4 storeys	7
	Comfortable with heights in the draft master plan	2
	Support medium density infill development	2
	Propose development on Carruthers street for community uses (Block 2, Section 99 Curtin)	1
	Propose a 6 storey development on the western edge of the central courtyard (Block 7, Section 62 Curtin)	1
Character	Support enhancement of village character	3
	Propose planning controls or more detailed heritage assessment for Curtin Radburn Precinct	2
Children's facilities	Support improved children's facilities	2
Community gardens	Support community gardens close to the centre	3
Ecological assets	Support improvements to open spaces and environmental assets	6
Walking, cycling	Support improvements to walking and cycling	9
Housing diversity	Support housing diversity	3
Traffic and Parking	Propose additional parking	6
	Support traffic reduction and traffic calming	1
	Support parking management	1
Public transport	Suggest improvement to public transport	1
Building repairs	Suggest repair of awnings and downpipes around the centre	3

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES STAGE 3

ACT Government established a community panel process to help finalise the master plan. The panel met three times between July and November 2017 to discuss the future of the centre, particularly regarding the growth and development in the centre. The process was designed to bring the developers and community together to look for shared outcomes. The panel format facilitated discussion on the future of the centre with representation from the community, lessees, business owners, developers and government.

OUTCOMES FROM STAGE 3 OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Through the community panel process, the community panel generally supported the revisions, however building heights adjacent to the existing central courtyard remained contested. The third and final meeting confirmed the key points of agreement for the community panel process.

These included:

- support for the revised spatial framework plan that considered the realignment of roads and block boundaries in the southern portion of the retail core precinct. The revised land use zoning map was also broadly supported by the community panel
- support for the revised active travel plans as they were considered to be broadly consistent with the draft master plan. It was suggested that these drawings could be improved to ensure the main east-west connection is a strong and direct route through the centre
- agreement to the Vision, Character Statement, Planning Principles and high level Strategies as outlined in the draft master plan
- to finalise the master plan and to not resolve design details of individual development proposals
- the retention of mature trees is important in and around the retail core area as they contribute to the character of the centre. It was suggested that this should be phrased as an active tree management plan for the centre
- future community engagement will need to ensure that communication is clear about what is proposed to change from the draft master plan and include the reasons, and
- the master plan and variation to the Territory Plan is undertaken as quickly as possible, noting that an additional round of community engagement will be undertaken.

For a report outlining the outcomes of the community panel in detail refer to the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan Community Panel Outcomes Report at www.yoursay.act.gov.au and www.planning.act.gov.au.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES STAGE 4

The table below provides an overview of participation in the different engagement activities in Stage 4 that specifically sought community feedback on the revisions to the draft master plan as an outcome from the community panel process in Stage 3.

Table 5: Overview of number of people who participated in Stage 4 engagement activities:

ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY	DATE	PARTICIPANTS
Displays Posters	11 April 2018 – 6 June 2018	Unknown
Woden Library and Curtin Coles Supermarket		
Postcards	11 April 2018 – 6 June 2018	8,791 households
Mailed to residential addresses in Curtin and surrounding suburbs. Postcard boxes were also provided at the Woden Library and in the Curtin group centre.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtin – 2,252 • Deakin – 1,478 • Hughes – 926 • Yarralumla – 1,498 • Lyons – 1,568 • Phillip – 1,069
Online	11 April 2018 – 6 June 2018	1,590 Page views ¹
Submissions (email, hard copy, by phone)	11 April 2018 – 6 June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 102 emailed submissions • 36 submissions via post • 5 in person
Youth Engagement	15 and 16 May 2018	Approximately 225 students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curtin Primary School • Holy Trinity Primary School • Alfred Deakin High School

¹ the number of times a visitor (who is only counted once) has visited the page.

INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

Meetings were held with key stakeholders to gain further insight and follow about issues that could be addressed in the master plan. The key stakeholders are stated below:

DATE	PARTICIPANT	ATTENDED
30 May 2018	Presentation to representatives of the Curtin Residents Association (two presentations)	45
16 August 2018	Meeting with representatives of the St James uniting Church	4
30 August 2018	Meeting with representatives of the Statesman Hotel	3

OUTCOMES FROM STAGE 4 OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

INFORMATION DISPLAYS

Information displays included a series of posters illustrating the key proposals and changes included in the revised draft master plan. The displays also provided information about the various options available to provide feedback.

Table 6: Information displays

LOCATION	DATE	LENGTH OF TIME
Woden Library	11 April 2018 to 6 June 2018	8 weeks
Curtin Coles Supermarket	11 April 2018 to 6 June 2018	8 weeks

PRESENTATION TO THE CURTIN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ACT Government planners facilitated two presentations about the revisions to the draft master plan with representatives of the Curtin Residents Association (CRA). The meeting allowed focussed discussion about the CRA's aspirations and concerns for the centre. The key messages received from this meeting are shown below:

- There is an opportunity for developer contributions to improve public spaces and places.
- Desire to reach world standards for the centre in relation to future development.
- Desire to 'lift up' the centre to make it a vibrant place to visit once again.
- Desire to maintain the pedestrian access to the centre, particularly from the western areas.
- Desire for more large shade trees in the centre for shelter.
- Desire to activate the public spaces in the centre with pop-up stores and markets.
- Desire to protect the convenience of the existing surface car parking,
- Concern that the demand for car parking demand will increase with more residential development in the centre.
- Concern for residential development that may be introduced into the central part of the centre.
- Concern that taller development in the centre may have a negative impact on the climate, particularly in relation to potential wind shear and wind tunnel effects.
- Concern for the any potential loss of amenity in the centre through redevelopment.
- Concern for taller buildings in the central areas of the centre.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Community Posts on the EPSDD Facebook Page. On-line post: The final stage of community engagement for Curtin Group Centre Master Plan.

DATE POSTED	REACH	CLICKS/ACTIONS
22 May 2018	560	6
26 April 2018	811	16

OTHER SUBMISSIONS

This section includes email written submissions, as well as phoned in feedback.

A project webpage was created and project specific email addresses were provided as follows:

- EPSDD project web page: <http://haveyoursay.planning.act.gov.au/curtin-master-plan>
- ‘Have your say’ project web page: <http://www.yoursay.act.gov.au>
- Project email: curtin@act.gov.au

The project email address and information on the web pages allowed people to raise individual concerns and submit their proposals in more detail. All ideas and proposals were considered as part of the preparation of the final master plan. All comments were categorised in **Table 5** under common themes. Where a number of feedback items were repeatedly raised by separate individuals, these numbers have been identified.

One hundred and forty three (143) submissions were received and can be viewed at www.planning.act.gov.au

As there were few formal submissions, it should be noted that these comments may not be representative of the broader population’s viewpoint.

Table 7: Common themes of Stage 4 submission comments

THEME	SUB THEME	COMMENT	COMMON RESPONSE
REVISIONS TO THE MASTER PLAN	General	Support (specifically mentioned in comments)	31

THEME	SUB THEME	COMMENT	COMMON RESPONSE
BUILDING HEIGHT AND SETBACKS	Church site (Block 1 Section 15 Curtin)	Support up to 6 storeys	4
		Support up to 4 storeys	2
		Non-support for development of church site	2
	Retail Core -Heights	Non-support for 5 storeys (and above) in retail core	84
		Support for no more than 2 storeys	36
		Support for 5 storeys in retail core (as proposed in the Draft Plan)	21
		Support for 4 Storeys	13
	Retail Core – setbacks to upper levels	Support for upper floor level setbacks	9
		Increase the proposed setbacks near the courtyards	3
	Statesman Hotel site (Block 6 Section 62 Curtin)	Support for 5-6 storeys	10
		Non-support for 5-6 storeys	8
	Solar fence	Support for design provisions to reduce overshadowing of the central courtyard, including limiting buildings to a single storey to the north of the courtyard	34
Apply solar fence to all courtyards		9	
Surrounding existing residential	Support for 6 storeys	8	
	Non-support for 6 storeys	4	
LAND USE	Residential use	Non-support for residential use above shops in retail core	34
		Support for residential use in retail core	7
	Noise	Concern about the conflict between noisy uses in the central courtyard and new residential development.	4
PARKING AND TRAFFIC	Parking	Support for more parking	34
		Support for better management of parking	4
		Support to retain existing parking	3
		Non-support for more parking	3
		Non-support for pay parking	2
	Traffic	Concerns about potential increased levels of traffic and associated safety issues	9

THEME	SUB THEME	COMMENT	COMMON RESPONSE
CHARACTER	Character	Support to retain village feel	38
		Support for active uses facing the courtyard	12
		Ensure development is designed to consider local character	8
		Support to retain view to Red Hill	4
	Maintenance	Maintenance of public spaces and buildings (including the closure of 44 Curtin Place)	18
Design and construction quality	Ensure new development is design and constructed to a high standard	4	
COURTYARD AMENITY	Upgrades	Concern for reduction in amenity due to new development, including increased traffic, overshadowing from new development and overlooking on to the courtyard.	25
		Support upgrades to centre around the courtyard (including buildings)	23
	Solar access	Retain solar access to the courtyard (support or not support for solar access provisions)	41
	Wind	Concern that increased building heights will increase wind in the central courtyard	14
ACTIVE TRAVEL NETWORK	Network	Support for upgrades of pedestrian and cycle infrastructure	13
		Support for the master plans proposed active travel network	12
		Non-support for the master plans proposed active travel network	2
	Maps	<p>Improve the diagrams to better reflect the east-west route along the existing water easement.</p> <p>There is a desire by some that the network accurately reflects a hierarchy of users – pedestrians, cyclists, public transport and then private vehicles last.</p> <p>Some concerns raised about poor amenity and infrastructure for pedestrians to a future rapid public transport stop on Yarra Glen. The viability of light rail to Woden was also questioned.</p>	2
ENVIRONMENTAL	Flooding	Concern about flooding	1
	Large trees	Support to retain existing trees and plant more trees (wildlife benefits, shade, amenity for shoppers and visitors, etc)	20
	Open space	Do not reduce the overall amount of green spaces and seek to increase areas of open space	25

THEME	SUB THEME	COMMENT	COMMON RESPONSE
44 CURTIN PLACE (LEASE)	Redevelopment	Do not appreciate the way the Lessee has conducted their engagement with community and eventual closure of the shops	10
LIGHT RAIL	Access to light rail	Concerns about the viability of light rail due to the Curtin catchment and lack of good access to Yarra Glen.	6
PRECINCT CODE	Active travel	Embed the Active travel network into the code	3
	Maps	General comment to improve the legibility of the maps in the Precinct Code	2
	Solar fence	Clarify where the solar fence would apply on the central courtyard	2
WASTE STORAGE AND REMOVAL	Waste	Concerns about appropriate attention to waste storages and services in the centre	7

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Children and young people are an important part of the community in Curtin and regularly use the Curtin group centre. Through the Stage 4 community engagement process, this demographic provided a clear message that they are the future of Curtin and the ones most impacted by long term planning decision made today.

To ensure the views of young people were considered in the development of the master plan, the project team hosted workshops in May 2018 at the Curtin Primary School, Holy Trinity Primary School and Alfred Deakin High School. This stage of youth engagement was undertaken to validate previous student engagement outcomes conducted as part of the Stage 1 community engagement process and to seek new ideas for the final master plan.

Approximately 225 students participated in workshops focussed on the public spaces in Curtin with the students providing ideas for how these spaces could be improved for younger people and the broader community. Ideas that were validated from previous youth engagement included:

- There are not enough child-friendly, inclusive and diverse spaces or activities to do in Curtin, especially for older children.
- There are 'not enough things to look at and admire in Curtin'.
- The connection between the high school and the Curtin group centre feels unsafe and is unattractive.
- Lighting is inadequate at the underpasses.
- The quality of the pathways are poor, particularly for those with a disability.
- The western open space is pleasant, but lacks facilities and activities such as playgrounds, water features, running tracks, outdoor exercise equipment or an amphitheatre.

- Better cycle routes/paths through the centre, bike racks, shelter and bubblers are desirable.
- There are no dog-friendly areas in Curtin and the students noted that there are a lot of dog owners in the area.
- A desire for more shade near the oval and public spaces.
- The existing public toilets at the centre are run down, dirty and difficult to use, and
- The idea of 'shop-top' housing was supported.

The students were asked a series of questions and participated in activities to identify ways to improve the group centre and western open space, consistent with activities undertaken in Stage 1. Students were asked to consider the whole of the community not just themselves. The following summarises the feedback that was received.. Ideas and responses below have been separated between primary and high schools to understand the differences between the two age groups.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FEEDBACK

Students were asked to work in groups to identify and draw how they get in to the centre and how they travel. Time constraints meant that not all groups responded to this task, which resulted in low response numbers identified in the table below.

MODE OF TRAVEL	RESPONSE
Walk	13
Ride bike or scooter	10
Car (parents)	13
Other comments	Some students indicated that their parents tend to drive them around and some mentioned that they don't take their bikes into the centre or around the park as there is nowhere to lock them up where the shops or play areas are.

Students were asked to identify opportunities to improve the central courtyard.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE CENTRAL COURTYARD	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Public Fountain and bubblers	The fountain could be a low ground floor one that children can also play in summer. Also a free water source with bubblers would be good for the community.	31
Additional seating	Suggestions included benches throughout the square and along the walkways entering the square.	27
Improved public toilets	Many comments about improvements to the toilets.	18
Greater variety of shops and bring back the ones that closed	There was a desire to see a greater variety of shops and to bring back some of the popular shops that recently closed, including the fish and chip shop and the book shop.	12
Hedging/garden beds in the central courtyard	Hedging or planter boxes to improve the beauty of the square.	10
Bike racks	Throughout the centre. The students noted that they are not allowed to leave their bikes in front of shops in case the bikes are stolen. Bike racks will encourage more people to visit the centre.	9

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE CENTRAL COURTYARD	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Central kid's playground – under the shaded tree.	It was noted that there is a need for play equipment for older kids as well as younger kids.	8
Free Wifi	It was noted that free wifi would bring more people to centre, especially young people.	6
More shade trees	Shade trees are needed in summer, particularly in the retail core area.	6
No apartment development	Some students indicated that they were opposed to the construction of apartments in the centre.	5
Other ideas included	Fairy lights in the trees, poor people shelters throughout the centre, fake grass, bike hire facilities, all week market or every weekend, kids entertainment centre, extra eating tables, bike racks around the centre, statue of John Curtin, virtual reality centre, childcare centre in the square, mini skate park, poor people shelters throughout the centre, modern gardens, do up the alleys, free selling booth, and two mentioned that they did not want to see apartments to be built too high.	

Students were asked to identify opportunities to improve the western open space.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE CENTRAL COURTYARD	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Walking/cycle track around the reserve	A good size mixed walking and cycle track that goes the whole way around the reserve – comments – both kids and adults could use it, keeps people healthy and one mentioned that a separate area where kids can learn to ride their bikes.	14
Swimming centre	The idea of a swimming centre for the whole community was raised as it would be located close to the centre so people can walk to it.	8
Fence an area for a dog park and make Curtin dog friendly	Pet friendly was connected to active living and people being social (community).	13
More benches throughout the reserve	Seating for older people.	13
Make it a native reserve or 'garden park'	This was in the context of turning the reserve into a nature reserve. An attraction.	12
Develop the oval into a mixed sport playing field	Rebuild the large playing field into a mixed use playing fields (build it so lots of different clubs can use it.	6
Other comments	Some groups believed that the western reserve should be left as it is and if anything just put in some more benches and seats. Other comments raised included: trampoline park, flying fox, open air cinema, water park, no apartments, skate park, more trees, community garden, swimming pool, Sunday market and bird feeders..	

HIGH SCHOOL FEEDBACK

High school students were asked to work in groups to identify opportunities to improve the central courtyard.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE CENTRAL COURTYARD	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Improved seating arrangements for the centre square	The students noted that the seating facilities were outdated, in the wrong place and needed upgrading. It was also suggested that a new seating arrangement would create a stronger community feel and better opportunities to socialise while at the centre.	22
Bubblers throughout the centre	Fix what bubblers are there and add in a water bottle refill stations.	14
Bike racks	This would encourage the community to ride in and be active.	12
Improved public toilets	Students noted that the existing public toilets are substandard.	8
Better use of the walkways into to the central courtyard	It was noted that significant improvements could be made if the master plan or shop owners made better use of the entrances to the central courtyard. Either by giving each walkway a 'theme' or upgrading them to be more of an inviting.	7
Shop improvements – greater variety of shops throughout centre	Fish and chip shop and restore the shops that were lost – especially the book shop. Improve the alley's that lead in to the centre (additional shops or market stalls).	7
Other comments	BBQ's, small library (for everyone, a modern one), tree house in one of the large trees (although understand that that may be a safety issue), fish and chip shop (again), rain shelters.	

Students were asked to work in groups to identify opportunities to improve the western open space.

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE WESTERN OPEN SPACE	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Keep the reserves as is and include walking/cycle track and other 'active' amenities.	The reserve is great as it is. Students thought any improvements in the western open space should be simple such as wider walking and cycle paths. Students noted the absence of activity in the area and lack of maintenance as an issue. The students raised a desire for more community activities to get people out and active like a walking riding track around the reserve (one student noted like in Franklin), more trees and more seating.	19

IDEAS TO IMPROVE THE WESTERN OPEN SPACE	COMMENTS	RESPONSE
More BBQ, seating areas and water bottle fill stations throughout the reserve (water bubblers)	Students noted that the western open space can be a very hot space in summer that makes it less attractive to use. Additions such as water bubblers and BBQ's were raised as ideas to make it more attractive to use in the warmer months.	11
Dog training and pet friendly areas	It was noted that part (only part) of the reserve should be designated (pet friendly).	7
Build proper sport playing field	Rebuild the large playing field into a mixed use playing fields (build it so lots of different clubs can use it.	6
Other comments	More trees, more active areas, more water features, community swimming pool, landscaping.	

SUMMARY OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Similar issues and ideas were raised by both primary and high school age groups through the Stage 4 youth engagement workshops. Common themes raised included:

- Provide more benches and better seating for the central courtyard to allow people to socialise.
- Provide a greater variety of shops and bring back the popular shops that recently closed.
- Provide a water fountain and water bubblers in the centre and western open space.
- Make Curtin a 'dog friendly' place for the community.
- Plant more shade trees in the areas that people use the most and where they want to spend time.
- Upgrade the public toilets.
- Upgrade the walkways in to the central courtyard to make it more inviting.
- Provide free wifi in the central courtyard to encourage younger people to stay in this space.
- Make small improvements to the western open space, such as better walking paths, BBQ's, water bubblers, more shade trees and seating. Generally, the western open space is viewed by the students as a great place to spend time.
- Provide more and wider walking paths in the centre and the western open spaces to make it easier to ride, walk, scoot and skate to the centre.
- Provide more bike racks close to the shops and provide somewhere safe to lock their bikes. This will make it more attractive to ride to the centre.

SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS

The following summary highlights the key messages from Stages 2, 3 and 4 of community engagement and how they are addressed in the final Curtin Group Centre Master Plan. Some comments may not be able to be resolved through the master plan process and will require EPSDD to discuss further with the responsible ACT Government directorates. Therefore, not all community feedback received throughout the process may be directly reflected in the master plan.

Table 8: Summary of key messages and how the master plan responds:

KEY MESSAGES FROM ENGAGEMENT	PROPOSALS AND ACTIONS OF THE MASTER PLAN
MAINTAIN THE VILLAGE FEEL AND CHARACTER OF THE CENTRE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The courtyards, walkways and green spaces are highly valued by the community • The centre is viewed as an important community place where people can meet and socialise. • The community has consistently raised in all community engagement activities a strong desire to retain the village character of the centre. • There was generally support for redevelopment and new shops to be introduced in the centre. However, these views were often qualified about how new development could be built in keeping with the centre’s village character. • Ways to retain the village character varied and included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > retain views form the centre to Red Hill > provide a greater level of landscaping in and around the centre > provide development that is a human scale, consider building setbacks at the upper levels and lower building heights > keep the vision, planning principles and character statement and high level strategies from the 2015 master plan and implement them in the final master plan, and > upgrade the central courtyard, Carruthers Street frontage and adjoining walkways to lift the amenity of the public domain. This includes finding ways to encourage building owners to continually maintain their buildings. 	<p>The master plan responds by keeping the Vision, Character Statement, Planning Principles and high level strategies from the draft master plan. Minor changes have been made to the strategies to reflect the outcomes of additional community engagement activities undertaken in Stage 3 and 4 of the master plan process.</p> <p>Lower building heights are recommended around the central courtyard to keep this important space as a usable and comfortable place for the community. This has been balanced with identifying other sites for redevelopment that will provide minimal impact the public domain, including the central courtyard. This is important for the future economic viability and success of the centre in the future.</p> <p>Important views, additional landscaping and tree plantings and upgrades to the centre have been recommended to further enhance the centre’s village character.</p>

BUILDING HEIGHT AND DESIGN

- Building height has been the most contentious issue for the community, particularly close to the central courtyard.
 - A majority of respondents in Stage 4 community engagement did not support taller buildings in the retail core area, due to concerns about potential impacts on the public domain, including overshadowing, and bulk and scale of development close to the central courtyard. Concerns of overlooking and personal comfort in the central courtyard was also raised. While the revisions to the draft master plan provided recommendations to mitigate these two concerns, many community members remained concerned about building height.
 - Several members of the community noted that they could support building heights up to two or four storeys.
 - Building heights of up to six storeys that were proposed further away from the courtyard, such as the Statesman Hotel, was generally supported or not often raised as a concern.
- The master plan responds by simplifying the building height controls in the centre to clearly identify the number of allowable storeys and height in metres.
- Building height limits have been determined to reduce potential impacts of development on to important public spaces, including the central courtyard. Other planning controls are applied to further reduce potential bulk and scale of development, such as providing a setback to upper floors of buildings.
- The Statesman Hotel site is viewed as an opportunity to provide more housing choice and retail/commercial offerings in the centre. This is recommended up to six storeys.

SOLAR ACCESS TO THE CENTRAL COURTYARD

- Concerns about retaining solar access to the central courtyard was raised in each stage of community engagement.
 - While several people agreed that the revision to the draft master plan provided suitable planning provisions to keep limit overshadowing of the central courtyard, many respondents remained concerned.
 - Some respondents thought the solar fence provision could be applied to other key courtyard spaces, particularly the courtyard nearest to the existing vet.
- The master plan responds by amending building heights around the central courtyard to a single storey and five metres (eastern, northern and western edges). The revised building height limits negates the need for the solar fence provision to be applied.
- A single storey and five metre building height limit is also applied to the northern edge of the smaller courtyard.
- These building heights have been analysed using the ACT Government's 3D Canberra planning tool to ensure sunlight is provided throughout the year, particularly in the colder months.

AMENITY AND SAFETY IN THE CENTRAL COURTYARD

- The community has given a clear desire to see important public spaces in the centre to be upgraded to improve the amenity and safety in the centre.
- Some respondents raised a desire to see the main focus of future retail activity facing the central courtyard.
- Opportunities to improve lighting and a feeling of safety were often raised, particularly in the evenings.

The master plan responds to this by mandating active frontages to the central courtyard to keep the focus of retail activity close to the central courtyard. Changes to land use zones in the retail core area also ensures that any large scale retail uses, such as supermarkets, are located in the northern end of the centre where the main retail activity is currently focussed.

Several recommendations to improve the public domain are outlined in the master plan, including upgrades to pavements, lighting, signage and landscaping.

Opportunities for redevelopment are identified and promoted in the master plan to provide uses that are active outside of usual business hours including residential use. This will provide surveillance of areas that were identified as having a feeling of being unsafe, such as the surface parking areas.

OPEN SPACE AND THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The open spaces and quality of landscaping in and around the retail core area were consistently raised in each stage of community engagement. • The community expressed a desire to maintain or increase the amount of green spaces. Including providing more and better quality landscaping, particularly close to the shops. • Nearly half of these respondents wanted to see existing trees retained and more trees planted in the retail core area and in the western open space to better support wildlife (birdlife), and provide shade and amenity for people using these areas. More large canopy trees were also desirable to future proof the Curtin group centre from the potential of the urban heat island effect and to ensure that the 'leafy' character of the area would continue well in to the future. • The opportunity to provide water in the retail core area was raised to support local community groups to assist in the maintenance of the public domain and plantings. This could also be used for community events held in the central courtyard. Other opportunities for water in Curtin were raised, such as water bubblers, a fountain and drinking water for pets to make the centre more 'pet friendly'. 	<p>The master plan responds by providing recommendations to improve the public domain, including upgrades to pavements, lighting, signage and landscaping.</p> <p>The master plan recommends that the existing green spaces in the retail core area are re-located closer to the shops and integrated with the cafe's and a new play space.</p> <p>More tree plantings are recommended in the master plan to provide shade to people in the centre and surrounding areas, respond to a changing climate and better support migration of wildlife (birdlife).</p> <p>The master plan acknowledges the contribution that local community groups, such as the Curtin Shops Garden Group, have made to the amenity of the centre and suburb. Recommendations are made to support these groups to continue to work with the ACT Government.</p> <p>Recommendations are made to improve the western open space, including upgrades to paths, new seating and additional tree plantings.</p> <p>The master plan recommends that Carruthers Street be upgraded to improve the entry into the suburb and provide infrastructure to support people who walk or cycle to the future light rail stop on Yarra Glen. This includes recommendations for entry tree plantings, seating, level pavement and wider paths.</p>
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PARKING, CONVENIENCE AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

- Concern about the availability of car parking spaces was raised at each stage of community engagement. It was noted that it can sometimes be difficult to find a car parking space at peak times and that there is a need for more mobility parking.
- When people raised why they came to the Curtin group centre, it was often mentioned that the centre is very convenient. This included having surface car parking located close to the shops. Many people were concerned that this level of convenience would be lost if car parking numbers were decreased or if new development greatly increased the number of visitors to the centre.

The master plan responds by providing additional strategies for parking and traffic management.

Strategies to improve parking include:

- retain most of the surface car parking areas to maintain a good level of convenience and access to the centre
- relocate the park and ride facilities outside of the centre to a location on the rapid public transport route to decrease the number of vehicles that park all day at the centre
- reconfigure the eastern and western parking areas to increase the number of parking spaces
- require new development to provide parking on site, and
- improve pedestrian access and safety through the parking areas to make it easier and more convenient for people to use all car parking spaces in the centre.

Strategies to improve traffic management include investigations to signalise the Carruthers Street/Theodore Street intersection, coordinated with the pedestrian signalised crossing on Carruthers Street and the Carruthers Street/Strangways Street roundabout.

Additional strategies to improve the pedestrian and cycling infrastructure have also been recommended to encourage more people to access the centre through more sustainable modes of transport, which will reduce future demand on roads and car parking.

ACTIVE TRAVEL (WALKING AND CYCLING)

- Generally there was support for the active travel strategies provided through the master planning process.
- There were some reservations about how proposed changes to intersections could work. While most people recognised the benefit of upgrading intersections for pedestrians and cyclists, it raised concerns about how easily vehicles could continue to access the centre.

The master plan has further developed the recommendations for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure. There is also a focus to ensure new connections into the centre are improved for people with varied abilities.

New on-road and off-road connections are proposed to link to the wider pedestrian and cycle networks and public transport stops. The connection between the centre and the future rapid transport on Yarra Glen is particularly important to encourage more people to walk, cycle and use public transport.

NEXT STAGE

All comments and submissions received from the community, stakeholders and government agencies were analysed and considered in the development of the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan.

Information on the master plan is available at:

www.planning.act.gov.au

APPENDIX

Where permitted, the submissions received can be viewed on the Curtin Group Centre Master Plan page at: www.planning.act.gov.au



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Director-General, Environment and Planning Directorate,
ACT Government, GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601.

Telephone: 02 6207 1923

Website: www.environment.act.gov.au