

Kyneton, Gisborne and Riddells Creek Staton car park upgrades

Summary of community engagement on concept plans

October 2021

Overview

About the project

As part of the Victorian Government's Car Parks for Commuters program, car parks are being built and upgraded at Kyneton, Gisborne and Riddells Creek stations, to make it easier to catch the train.

- At Kyneton Station we are planning to add 50 extra car spaces including one accessible space.
- At Gisborne Station we are planning to add 100 extra car spaces including four accessible spaces.
- At Riddells Creek Station we are planning to add 50 extra car spaces including three accessible spaces.

In addition to extra car parking spaces, these upgrades will deliver:

- extra bicycle hoops parking at the stations
- upgrades to safety and security with CCTV and lighting

In March and April 2021, we presented concept designs to the Macedon Ranges community seeking further input to inform the next stage of design.

An online survey was hosted on the Victorian Government's Engage Victoria website from Wednesday 10 March to Wednesday 7 April 2021. The survey was promoted in the Midland Express newspaper, widely on social media by VicTrack and other government partners, signage was placed at the three stations, and a letter was distributed to more than 60 local properties and community groups.

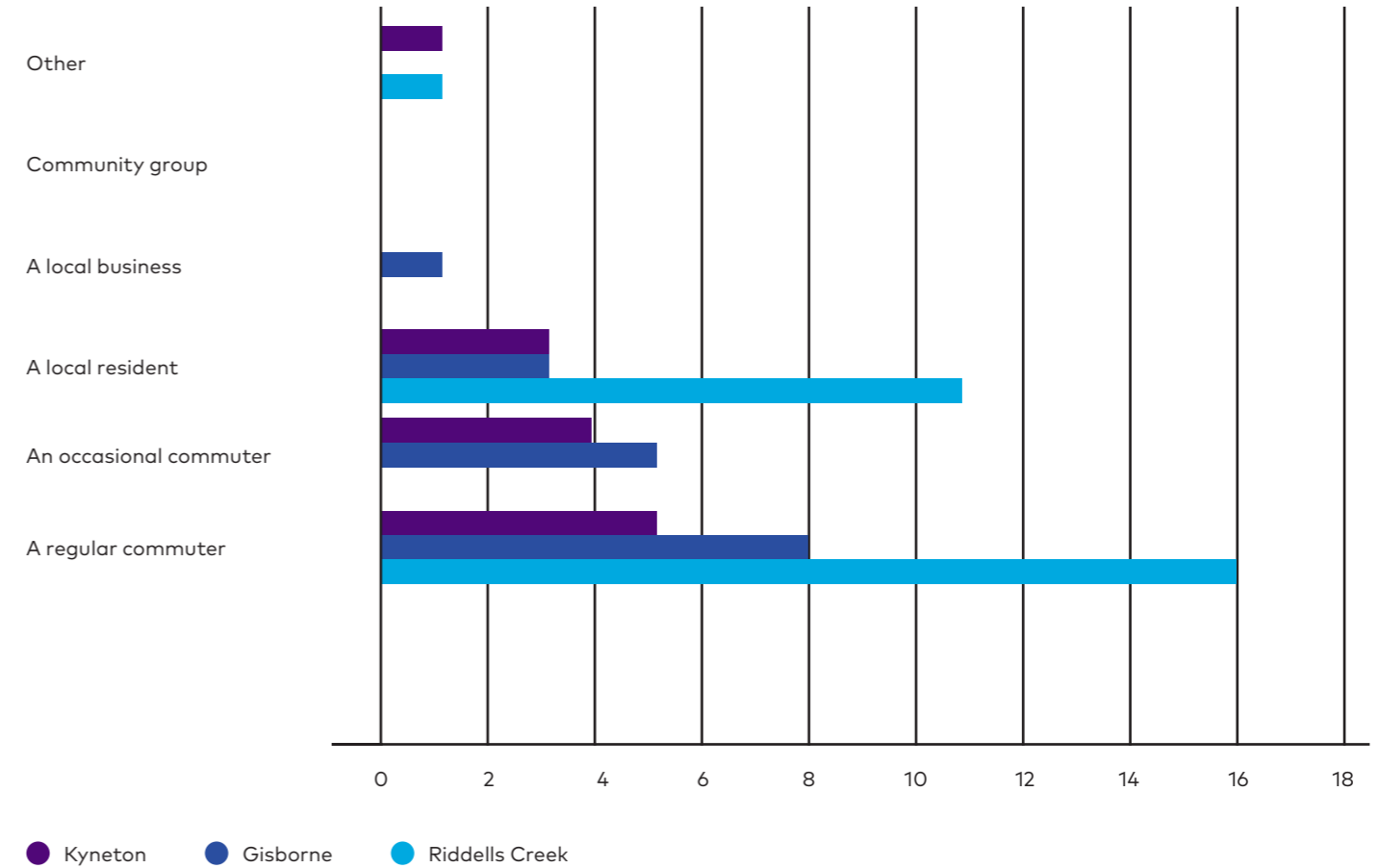
Between these methods of engagement, we had input from 58 individuals and organisations to help inform the design of the car park upgrades.

Who we heard from

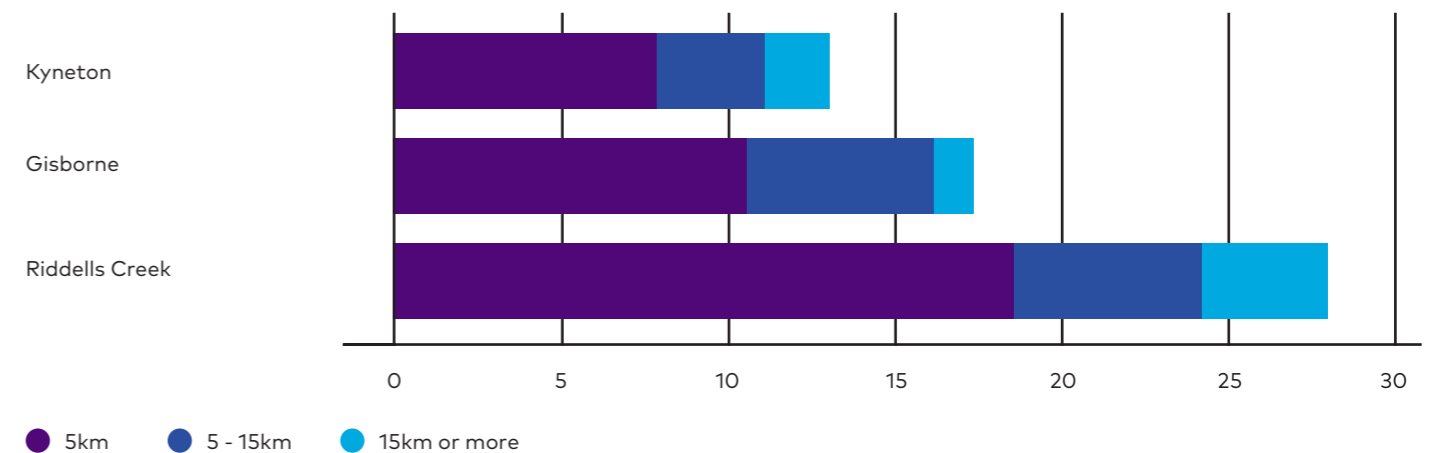
More than 677 people visited the Engage Victoria site to look at the car park designs. There were 28 responses about the Riddells Creek Station car park, 17 responses about Gisborne Station car park and 13 responses about the Kyneton Station car park.

Most respondents were frequent travellers (taking two or more trips weekly), who lived within five kilometres of the stations.

Respondents identify as

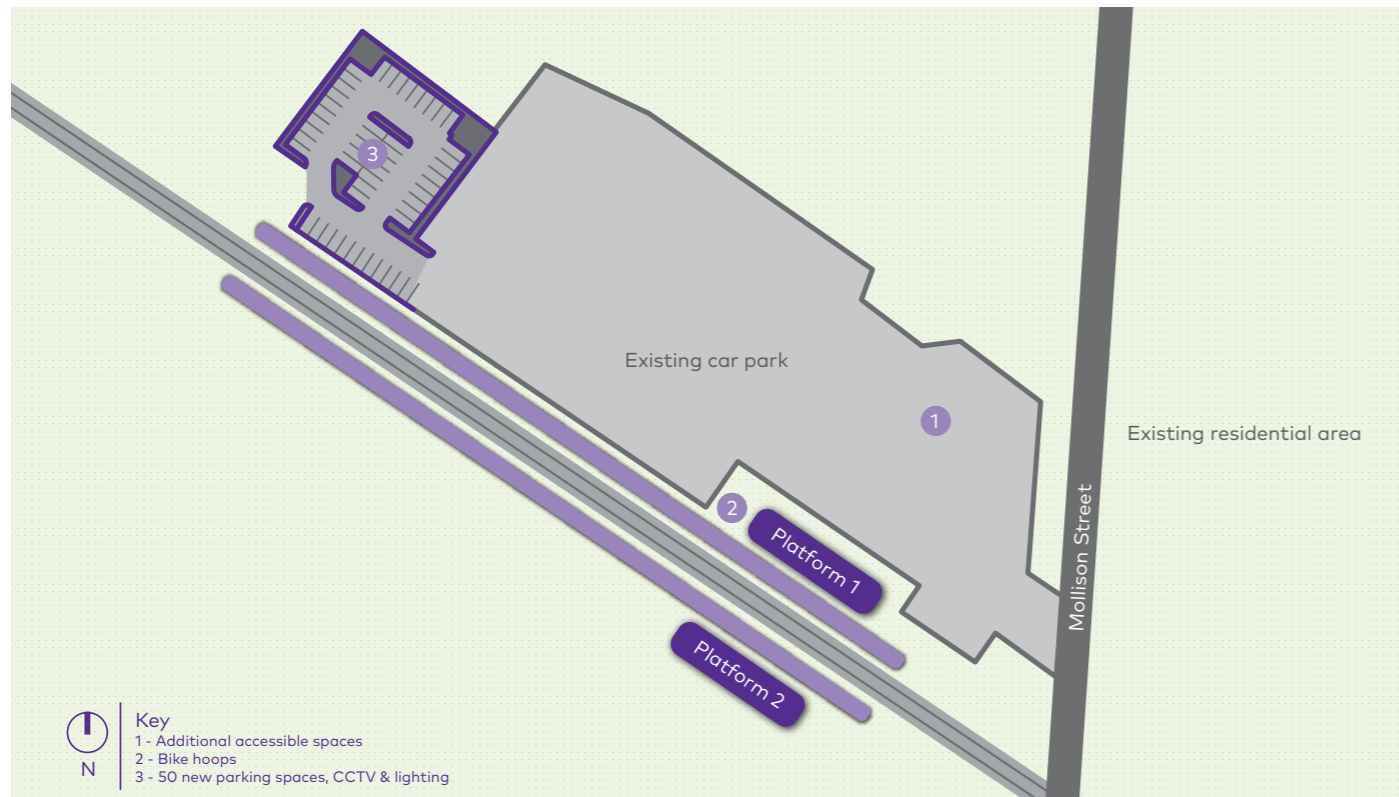


Respondents live within

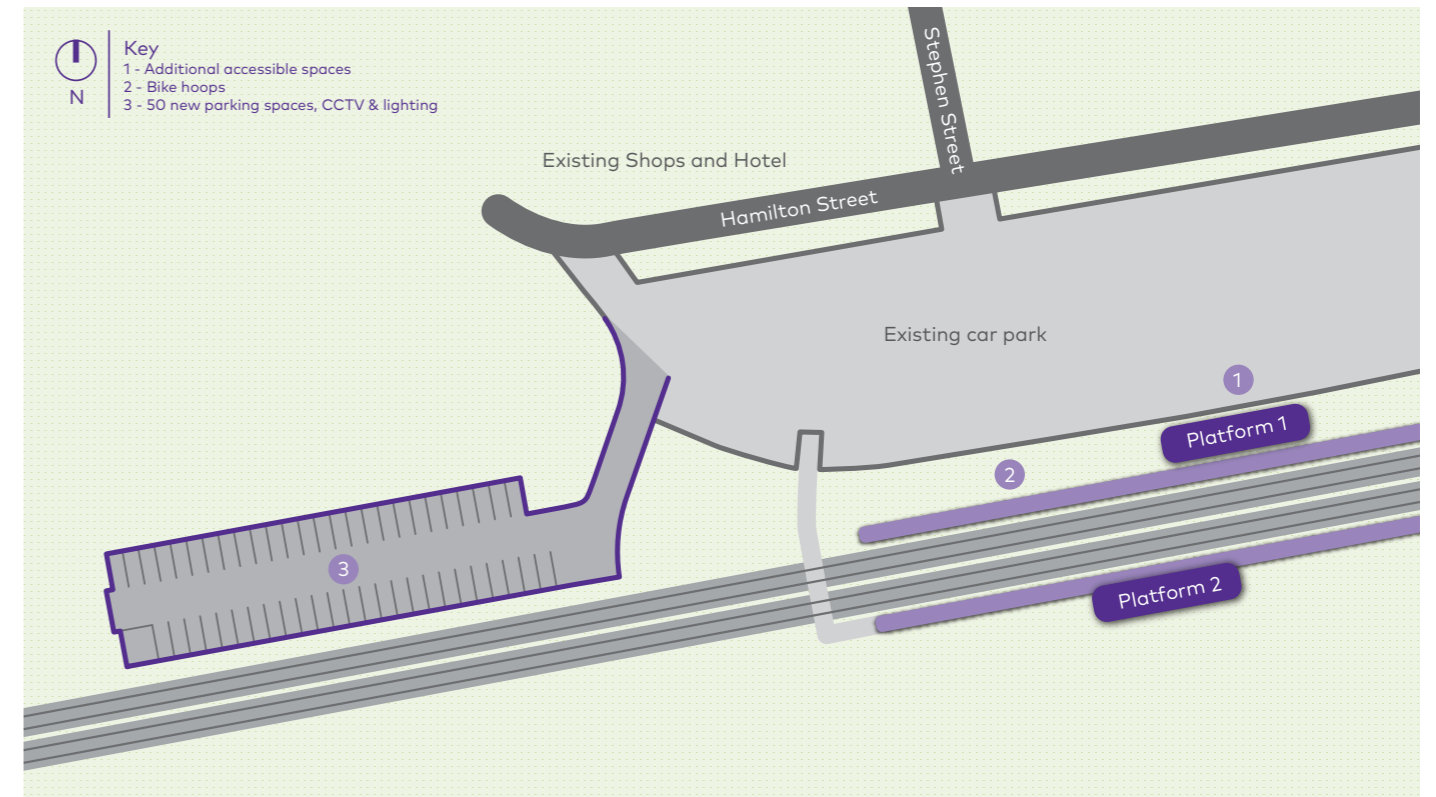


Site plan

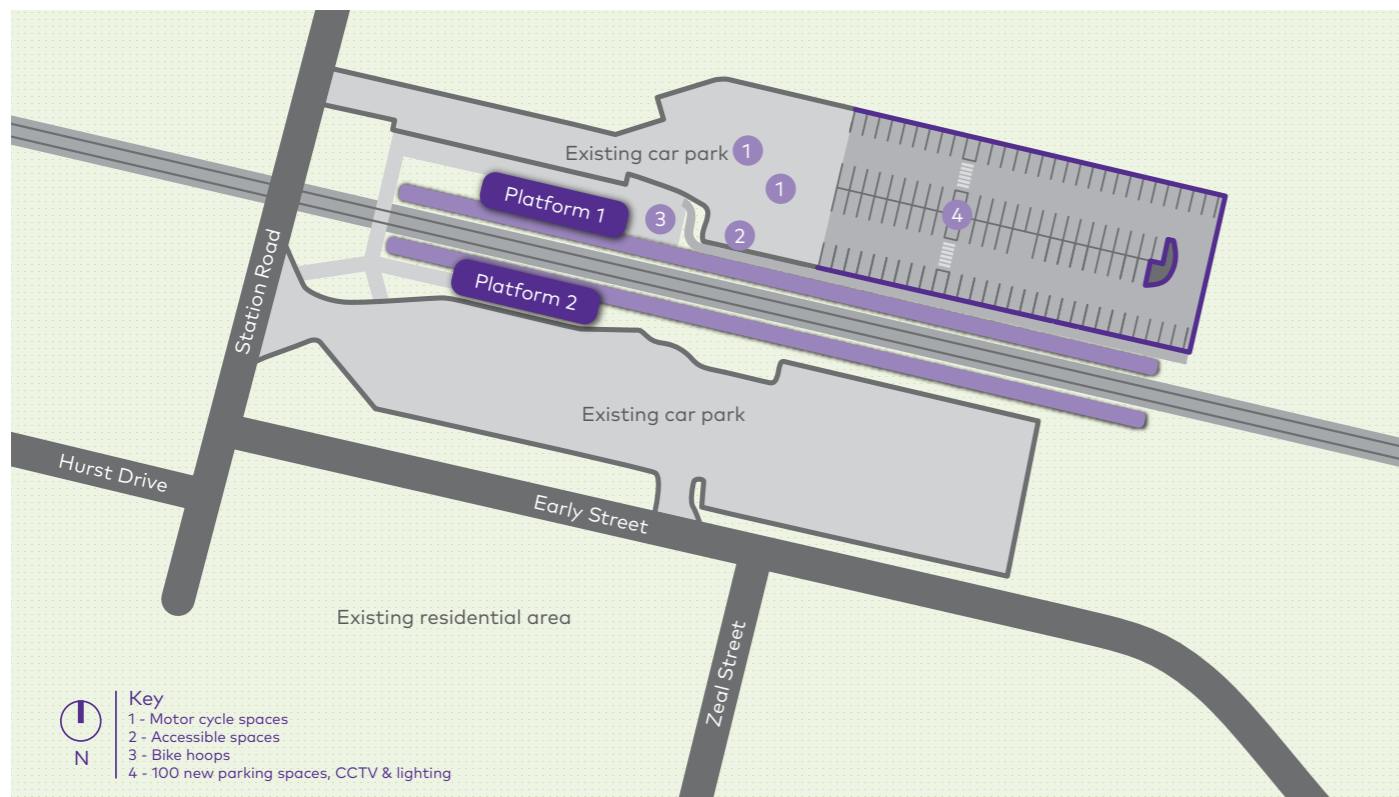
Kyneton concept design



Riddells Creek concept design



Gisborne concept design



What we heard

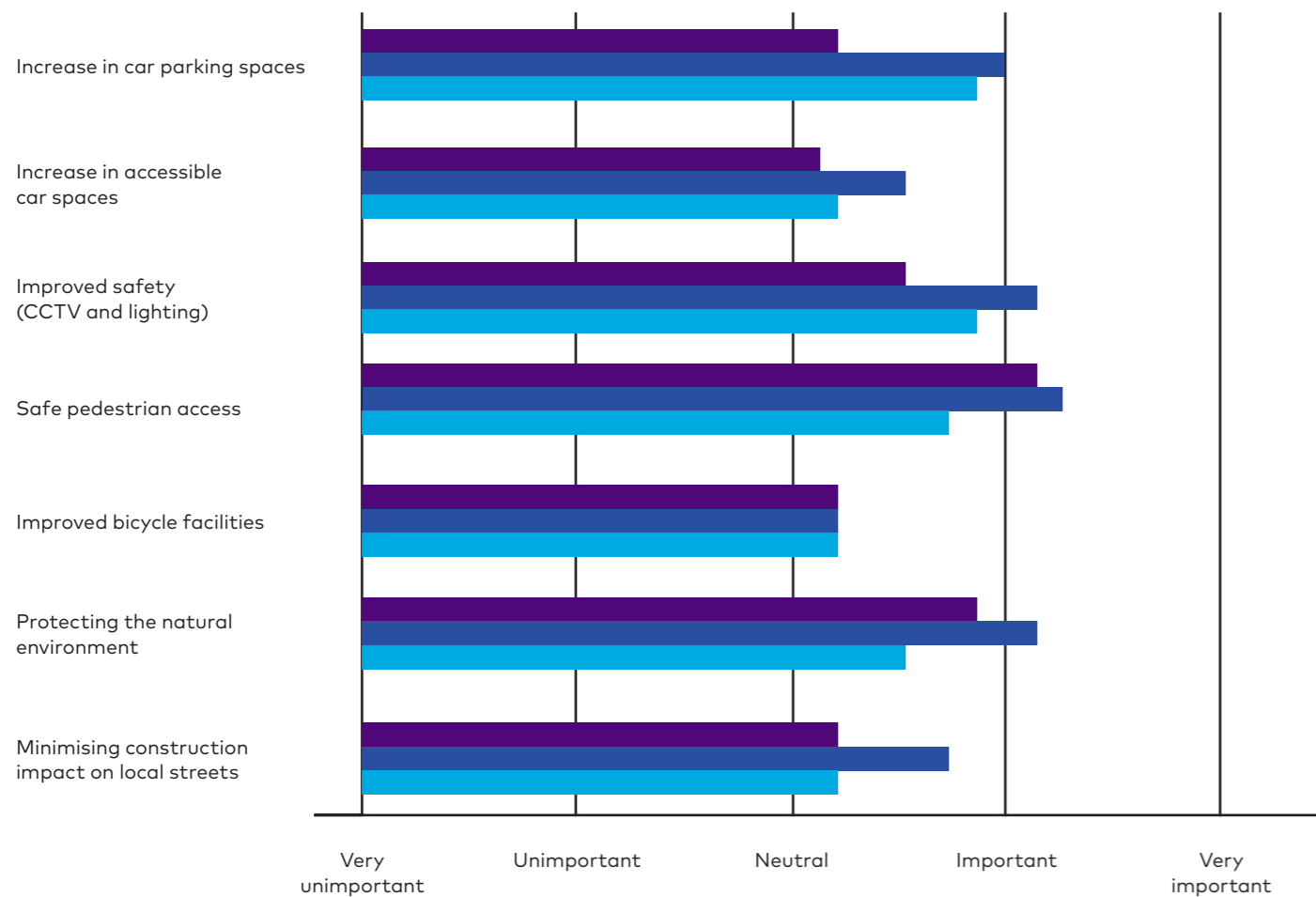
What is most important to respondents about the station car park upgrades?

The most common response about what is most important, across all three sites is safe pedestrian access. However, respondents to the Riddells Creek Station survey were more likely to rate the increase in car parking spaces as the most important thing about car park upgrades.

For Gisborne Station, respondents indicated that safe pedestrian access, protecting the natural environment and the increase in car parking spaces was most important. The importance of improving bicycle facilities varied among respondents.

For Kyneton Station, respondents put highest importance on safe pedestrian access, protecting the natural environment and the increase in accessible car spaces. Again, the importance of improving bicycle facilities varied among respondents.

For Riddells Creek Station, respondents put the highest importance on increasing car parking spaces, as well as safe pedestrian access and improved safety with CCTV and lighting. As a high number of responses came from station users, the responses did not indicate that there was significant concern about minimising the construction impacts on the local streets.



● Kyneton ● Gisborne ● Riddells Creek

These findings reflect feedback in the open comments section from respondents about the following themes:

Catering for future growth – delivering more car parks

A number of respondents for the Riddells Creek Station survey and a few respondents for the Kyneton Station survey indicated that the car park projects should look to cater for the short-medium term growth of the community, so that they don't need to be done again in only a few years time.

For many respondents, 50 car spaces at Riddells Creek Station are not perceived to be enough for the current growth in commuters using the station. Additionally, respondent comments noted that the cheaper V/Line ticket cost at Riddells Creek Station (zone 2) encourages commuters to use this car park over Gisborne Station.

There are many housing developments underway nearby, which is also a contributing factor to Riddells Creek Station's popularity. A few comments suggested that the southern side of the tracks could be developed as a larger car park catering for higher numbers of commuters.

Preserving and enhancing native vegetation

Some respondents would like to see native trees, shrubs or grasses planted surrounding the car parks to provide shade on hot days, or to complement the rural landscapes around the stations. A high number of respondents indicated that protecting current trees was important or very important in their response to question three.

Ensuring safe and easy pedestrian access in well-lit areas

Several comments from respondents indicated that ensuring pedestrians can walk safely between the station and the car parks was of upmost importance. Lighting and CCTV was commonly cited as a 'must-have' as well as footpaths that link directly from the new car park to platform entrances.

Some feedback about Riddells Creek Station also suggested that pedestrian crossings could be improved with bridges and underpasses to make it safer for people needing to cross the tracks.

Cycling facilities, trails and integration with other public transport

Not all respondents felt that cycling facilities were a top priority, but the moderate numbers that indicated bicycle parking is important suggest that there are a number of cyclists using the stations and they discuss their preference on the types of bike parking – lock up sheds and 'boxes'.

A number of respondents indicated that well considered integration of bus and coach parking within the car parks and use of entries and exits is an important consideration for ease of use for commuters.

Looking at emerging trends in travel – such as greater cycling and walking, as well as use of electric vehicles

There were a number of comments on the emerging use of electric vehicles and e-bikes prompting requests to consider charging facilities to future proof the car parks.

Similarly, integrating entry points and footpaths with local bicycle and walking trails was also encouraged.

What we heard

What changes were suggested to the car park concepts?

Kyneton

Suggested improvements to the proposed concept layout and current car parking included:

- Considering the need for more than one entry and exit to the car park.
- Adding additional gates at the car park entrance for public transport use only.
- Adding clear and designated coach facilities within the car park for rail closures.
- Clearer kiss-and-ride parking.

Suggestions outside of the car park scope included:

- Improving the car park on Lauriston Reservoir Road near platform 2 and making this the 'active' side of the station so pedestrians don't have to cross the tracks.
- Building more than 50 car spaces to cater for future growth.

What we're doing

VicTrack is reaching out to local bus operators, together with the Department of Transport, to examine the options for coach parking and access points.

The site identified for the new car park allows for the least interruption to train services and the existing car park, based on analysis done by the Department of Transport. Future discussions about the Lauriston Reservoir Road site will be subject to broader planning with the department about growth in commuter patronage.

Gisborne

Suggested improvements to the proposed concept layout and current car parking include:

- Adding trees for both aesthetics and shading, using locally indigenous plants.
- Creating clearer lines on the road near the entrance to the platform 2 park to indicate the entrance and exit.
- Adding an extra entrance to the platform at the eastern end of platforms 1 and 2 to promote parking at the back of car parks to encourage walking from the back of the car parks to the station.
- Adding enhanced CCTV, lighting and security patrols.
- Avoiding placing concrete islands between each car park, and putting painted lines only, to accommodate larger cars.
- Considering a turning circle at the end of the car park for V/Line replacement buses.
- Adding a turnaround point closer to the entrance to platform 1 to avoid people having to drive through the entire car park.
- Ensuring the cycle hoops are off the walkway for clear pedestrian access.
- Providing some of the accessible car parks under cover to protect from inclement weather.
- Ensuring the future location of the Macedon bike trail is not compromised by car park entry and exit points.

Suggestions outside of the car park scope included:

- Improving the southern side car park.
- Adding a pedestrian crossing at the eastern end of the platforms.
- Providing electric vehicle to grid charging facilities and e-bike stations with charging points in a secure location.

What we're doing

In our final construction designs, we will consider the points about turning circles, clearer lines on the road and no concrete islands, and the location of bike hoops. We will work with V/Line to investigate the safety and feasibility of extra entrances to the platform and are in discussions with Macedon Ranges Shire Council about the location of the rail trail with respect to the car park to ensure safe passage for cyclists and walkers. CCTV and lighting in the new car park will be planned carefully to maximise safety in the parks.

We will refer feedback about the improvements of other car parks to the Department of Transport.

Car parks will be maintained by V/Line, which has strict guidelines around planting trees over car spaces to ensure they do not drop branches onto cars. We will work to ensure any plantings are low-risk and low-maintenance.

Riddells Creek

A major point of feedback from more than 60 per cent of respondents suggested that 50 car spaces will not be enough to cater for either the current population using Riddells Creek Station, nor the expected growth in the area, given nearby housing developments. Respondents were concerned that the current demand and growth will mean that another project will be needed to expand the car park to meet demand.

Other suggested improvements to the proposed concept layout and current car parking included:

- Creating a walking track from the new car park to the pedestrian crossing gate that avoids the access road and any entering cars.
- Creating an additional wider separate entry/exit to Hamilton Street, closer to the current car park to prevent a bottleneck and improve visibility.
- Ensuring there is excellent lighting and CCTV, as the location is perceived to be quite isolated and a safety concern for commuters.
- Planting appropriate trees and drought tolerant scrubs and grasses in the new car park to ensure the space is well shaded and keeps the look and feel of the Riddells Creek village.
- Ensuring that if bike hoops are located in the garden bed, there is minimal disruption to the garden that was planted and is maintained by volunteers.

Suggestions outside of the car park scope included:

- Creating a pedestrian underpass or bridge to access platform two.
- Considering a Myki reader on platform two.
- Dealing with the birds in trees in current car park that create mess on people's cars and leave empty parking spaces.
- Considering building the car park on the southern side of the tracks, off Daffodil Lane, to avoid future traffic impacts in the amongst the Riddells Creek activity centre.

What we're doing

To ensure that commuters can get safely from the new car park to the platform and avoid traffic in the existing car park, a dedicated footpath will be provided to between the new car park and the existing pedestrian crossing at the west end of the platform.

As with other car parks, the CCTV and lighting in the new car park will be planned carefully to maximise commuter safety.

Working within the V/Line guidelines for the maintenance of car parks, we will ensure any vegetation is low-risk and low maintenance, with a preference for native and drought tolerant plants. We will ensure the location of bike hoops have minimal disruption to the existing planted garden beds.

VicTrack will continue to liaise with Macedon Ranges Shire Council on the car park layout for the proposed new entrances and exits.

Feedback about the number of spaces, Myki machines and pedestrian overpasses will be raised with the Department of Transport for their consideration in future planning for the station.

Minimising construction impacts

What are people most concerned about during construction?

For each of the car parks, the loss of car parking during construction is the highest concern. However, many respondents indicated, particularly in Riddells Creek and Kyneton, that they had no concerns about construction.

In line with respondents indicating vegetation was important to them, loss of vegetation and trees rated strongly as a concern. The high number of respondents identifying as commuters, and not residents, is a key consideration in the responses around 'concerns'.

Suggestions given to reduce construction impacts include:

Kyneton

- Completing construction quickly to minimise noise and dust and traffic impacts on the local community.
- Retaining as many trees as possible.
- Using recycled asphalt and pervious pavements.
- Providing temporary car parking on other side of Mollison Street as done during previous car park constructions.

Gisborne

- Completing construction quickly.
- Ensuring planting of vegetation and trees, as many people are concerned about loss of natural landscape and the rural feel.
- Respecting the impact on residents regarding early morning start times.
- Considering a workers' car parking area before construction starts so this doesn't become an issue for local residents.
- Respecting speed limits as there is a school nearby.
- Working during peak hours when most people are at work and not during school pick up times.
- Having clear signage and communications about alternate routes.
- Ensuring there are adequate parking spaces at all times during construction.
- Providing temporary car parking on the east side of the southern car park as done during previous car park constructions.

Riddells Creek

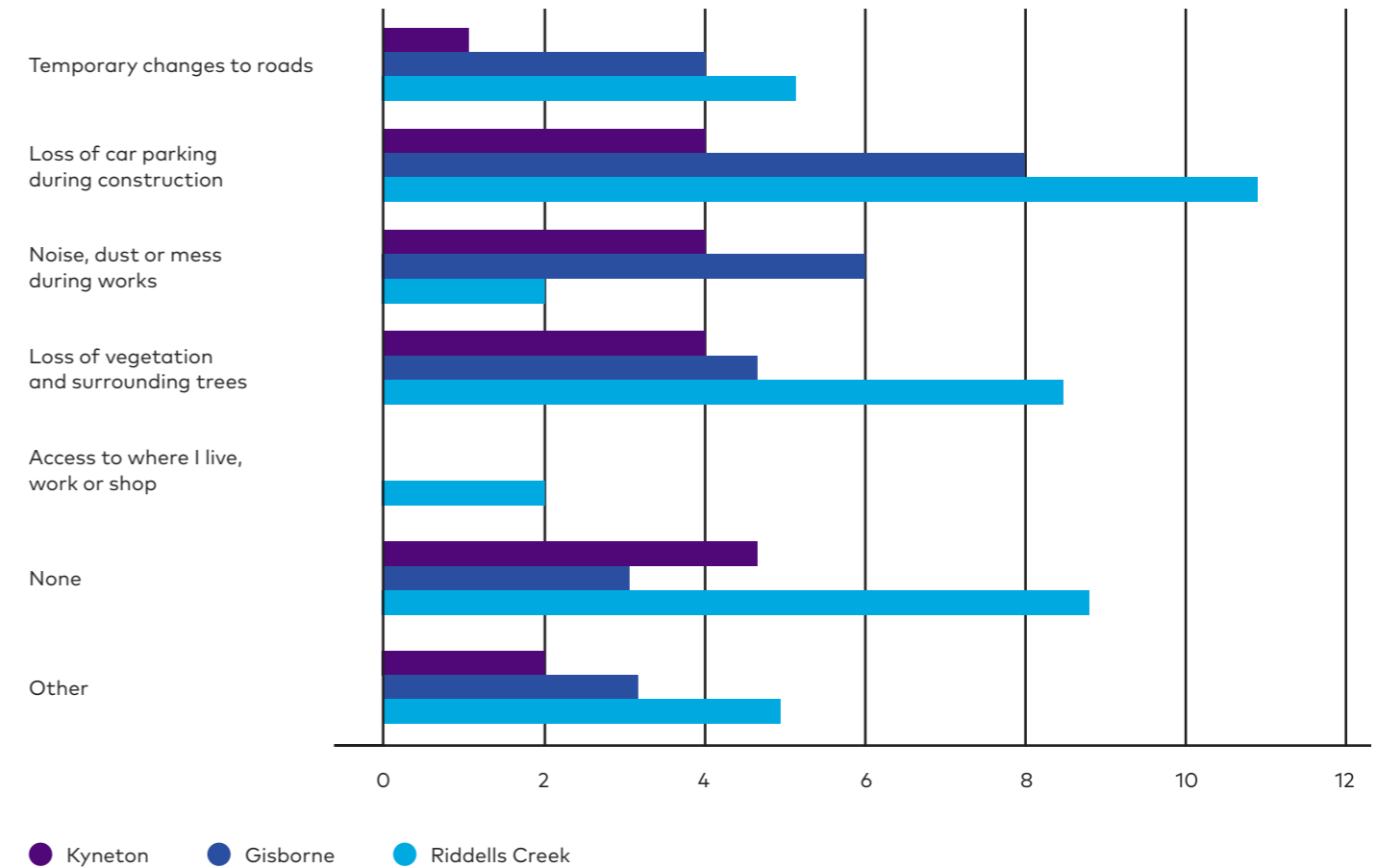
- Respectfully caring for the health of large heritage trees.
- Avoiding construction during major events in the area.
- Creating alternative car parking options during construction, within two minutes' walk.
- Clearly communicating timeframes, impacts and alternatives so that people can plan ahead.
- Avoiding construction during the morning peak as the car park is busy from 5.30am onwards.
- Concluding construction in low volume commuter times for example, construction over Christmas holiday period when weather is usually fine.

What we're doing

VicTrack will ensure it communicates with car park users about the timeframes and details of construction and where alternative parking is available, should it be required, so that commuters can plan ahead.

Construction will be scheduled to be completed as quickly as possible with minimal impact on local residents. We will work with the construction company to complete works that have an impact on access into the existing car park or station outside of peak hours.

Key concerns during construction



Next steps

The feedback we have received on the car parks will be taken into account as we finalise the car park designs.

Following further design and planning work during 2021, the proposed location for the new car park at Riddells Creek changed. It is now to the east of the existing car park with access via Hamilton Street.

The community is being given a further opportunity to provide feedback on the new location in late 2021.

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