

## BRODIE STREET REVITALISATION PROGRAM

### MYTH BUSTERS

The 'Brodie Street Revitalisation Program' plans presented for public feedback are **draft concept and for discussion purposes only**. Council appreciates the received responses and suggestions (feedback) so far, and encourages those that want to have an opinion to send your feedback in before the closing date of 21 February 2020. I can assure you that Council will consider all feedback and implement the changes as seen fit; this includes leaving the central shade parking areas exactly as they stand now.

Council has noticed that there seems to be some confusion in terms of the proposal in general and several myths have evolved. The purpose of this post is to bust those myths and prove the facts.

QUESTIONS/MYTHS ON THE PROJECT	FACTS
<p><b>Concern:</b> Is Council closing all the parking areas in the Brodie Street?</p>	<p><b>Myth. Council does not intend to remove car parks.</b> We may remove one or two unshaded car parks to accommodate other features such as seating or footpath dining, but all the under cover carparks will remain untouched. We will be removing the yellow wheel stoppers and, upgrading the footpath and drainage.</p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> Removal of existing trees?</p>	<p><b>Myth. No trees will be harmed in the process of this upgrade.</b> Council would like to provide more shade, so in fact council is planning to plant more trees and develop more shade areas as part of the project.</p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> Is Council allocating all the Town street funding to the Brodie Street Revitalisation Program?</p>	<p><b>Myth. No Council has a robust and ongoing program for street maintenance and upgrades.</b> Council is using the funds from various sources to complete Stage 1 of the project. The funding sources are Commonwealth (Drought Relief) and State Government (Works for Queensland), along with some Council funds. Beyond Brodie Street Council plans to implement several beautification and street upgrade programs around town including assisting business owners outside of Brodie Street.</p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> Does Council have a Town Streets upgrade program?</p>	<p><b>Fact. Yes as an example</b> In the 2019/2020 Financial Year, Council will be completing sealing works on Stansfield Street from the Showgrounds. Completed Richmond Hill drive sealing works. Works are in progress on Flynn Street from Swanson Street to Stanfield Street. New Kerb and Channel will be installed on Flynn Street (L.H.S) from Swanson Street to Moran Street.</p> <p>The following streets are due for an upgrade in the next five years. The scope includes reconstruction of the roadway, install new kerb or repair the existing kerb as needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Swanson Street from McLaren Street to Flinders Highway</li> <li>2. Stansfield Street from Flinders Street to Bond Lane</li> <li>3. Hardwicke Street from Gray Street to Resolution Street</li> <li>4. Little Avenue</li> <li>5. Mowbray Street from Swanson Street to Resolution Street</li> <li>6. Flynn Street from Flinders Highway to Uhr Street</li> <li>7. Byers Street</li> <li>8. Beaconsfield Street</li> </ol>

<p><b>Concern:</b> What is the Council's plan of action regarding the drainage issues?</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> Council is undertaking inspections and cleaning of all the stormwater pipes in the current financial year and on an ongoing basis. Along with the street upgrades scheduled above, Council is planning to install new kerb or repair the existing kerb as needed.</p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> Would the Council consider more shade parking in other areas of town?</p>	<p><b>Fact: Yes</b> Council is always seeking ways to improve the facilities and liveability of our shire. We are planning some future developments on Gray Street and currently investigating other areas that may benefit from more shade parking eg: Brodie Street and Gray Street with planning in progress.</p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> Will Council build a jetty or a café near the Diggers Entertainment Centre?</p>	<p><b>Myth:</b> The project aim is to support existing business houses and attract new businesses and shoppers as well as activate Brodie Street to attract more visitors. The strategy is to improve liveability by place making and activation strategies such as the Street Christmas Party. It seems that the concept art has generated some confusion as it identified a Jetty and café in the drawings. Unfortunately this is simply artistic licence taken by the architects as an example of what they thought could be, it was purely aspirational. They are not part of council's strategy. <b>Council's focus is only on stage 1 and Stage 2 as listed in dot points below.</b></p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> Is the Council intending to remove the iron sheets from the existing shelters and plant some alternative green cover that incorporates greenery such as vines?</p>	<p><b>Fact: After the feedback from the community consultation, Council has listened and recognises that there is no community appetite for change in this case, as such we will retain the shelters the way they are, and look at alternatives to improve the visual aspects.</b></p> <p>Council is continually seeking ways to provide a better lifestyle and liveability for our residents and visitors this includes benchmarking and exploring methods used by other city's and towns that have successfully reduced the heat generated from surrounding buildings and the road which could be as much as five degrees hotter than the ambient temperature as well as improve liveability. Biophilic design is one way of doing this, it is a concept used within the building industry to increase occupant connectivity to the natural environment through the use of direct nature, indirect nature, and space and place conditions, used at both the building and city-scale, it is argued that this idea has health, environmental and economic benefits for building occupants and urban environments, with little drawbacks, although its name was coined in recent history, indicators of biophilic designs have been seen in architecture from as far back as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.</p> <p>Greening town centres is now a common method used by Councils and developers to increase liveability.</p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> Would the Council provide disability access to every business?</p>	<p><b>Fact:</b> Hughenden has an aging population. Council's vision is to assist businesses with disability access, frontage upgrades and signage. However, the final decision regarding disability access rests with the business owner.</p>
<p><b>Concern:</b> Is Council closing off Brodie Street and building a Mall?</p>	<p><b>Myth:</b> Council does not know where this myth came from. There is no mention of a Mall or closing off Brodie Street in any of our documentation. I can categorically state that Council is <b>not closing off Brodie Street and building a Mall</b>. In terms of access nothing will change it will remain exactly as it is today.</p>

## **The project is scheduled to be delivered in stages:**

### **Stage 1: Priority 1**

1. Work with the business houses, repair shopfronts and facades. Provide disability access to the shops and public areas
2. Upgrade the footpath areas
3. Provide more seating in the main street to support the existing business
4. Offer more green space to minimise the temperatures on the main street
5. Remove the yellow wheel stoppers in the parking area, and improve the safety aspects with alternative arrangements
6. Upgrade the kerb and channel and fix the drainage issues
7. Provide additional street lights and fairy lights on the trees
8. Provide more footpath dining options

### **Timeline:**

- Complete the works on shopfronts by October 2020
- Start the footpath and drainage works in October 2020 and complete the Stage 1 by April 2021

### **Stage 2: Priority 2**

1. Lease an area in the main street to establish a 24 X 7 operational community gym

I trust this puts a magnifying glass over the project, separates fact from fiction and provides you some comfort. Thank you for your valuable input, I can tell you that council has listened and importantly is responding to your concerns which is what consultation is all about, its great that the system actually works. The great thing is that by working together in partnership we look forward to completing the project in a way that works for as many people as possible, in a positive manner and achieves the mission objective.

**Daryl Buckingham**  
**Chief Executive Officer**