

MASTER PLAN REFRESH: MELBOURNE CAMPUS

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT RESULTS DECEMBER 2022

future-city.fatrobe

ABOUT THESE RESULTS

La Trobe University's Melbourne campus at Bundoora is a special place that already provides a unique setting for learning, research and employment. With its substantial landholdings and location at the gateway to Melbourne's growing north, La Trobe provides unparalleled opportunities for the university and the wider community.

As the population in Melbourne's north grows over the next decade, La Trobe University will evolve into a world-class University City of the Future. We will welcome the local community onto the campus as a place to live, learn, work, socialise and stay healthy.

From June to September 2022, we reached out to our local community, staff and students, to find out what they like about our campus, the different spaces and facilities they use, and how we can improve the campus to benefit the wider community.

This document is a summary of the feedback, which will help us develop an updated master plan that will set out how the campus can grow to achieve our vision.

We are on our way to becoming a University City of the Future.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



2,700 +
**INDIVIDUAL IDEAS,
COMMENTS, STATEMENTS,
AND SURVEY RESPONSES
GENERATED.**



600 +
**PARTICIPANTS ACROSS
THE ENGAGEMENT
PROGRAM.**

HOW WE DID IT



2500+ Postcards

Inviting surrounding communities to contribute to the Masterplan refresh.



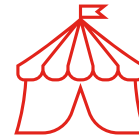
15+ Community & Association Reach Outs

Inviting the input of community groups, interfaith and cultural groups and business associations.



23 Workshops

Hosting visioning, community and technical workshops with students, staff and community.



Five Pop Up Events

Inviting community to pop up caravans and stands at key locations in and surrounding the campus.



Two Councillor Information Forums

Inviting the input of Darebin and Banyule Councillors.



One Big Ideas Wall

Established in the heart of the campus, inviting ideas of how to make the campus 'a better place to live, learn, work and play'.



One Community Engagement Website

Created via Social Pin Point: communicating project information and empowering people to provide feedback and ideas.



One Online Survey

Inviting ideas and commentary about campus usage and community feedback.

KEY THEMES

Several overarching themes emerged from the feedback received.

Generally, the responses of La Trobe staff, students and the community can be characterised into eight key themes.



**NATURE AND GREEN
OPEN SPACES**



**FACILITIES AND
QUALITY OF
INFRASTRUCTURE**



SAFETY



**ACTIVATIONS AND
EVENTS**



**COMMUNITY AND
INCLUSIVITY**



**TRANSPORT AND
ACCESSIBILITY**



**DIGITAL
INFRASTRUCTURE
AND INTEGRATION**



**ON-SITE AND
LOCAL AMENITIES**



NATURE AND GREEN OPEN SPACES

La Trobe's nature and green open spaces are the most loved aspect of the campus and many would like to see further investment into these areas, to modernise the infrastructure and create additional walking tracks.

When we asked you to tell us what you loved about the area and how we could improve it, you told us...

"I love the peace and serenity of the international garden with its fountain and pond, the lawns and flowers and trees. It's a little paradise. I wish there was seating with tables there, preferably in the shade so I could sit there and work during nice weather, where it is quiet and relaxing."

"The Nangak Tamboree Wildlife Sanctuary is the greatest asset on our campus. This restored patch of grassy woodland sets La Trobe apart from every other university campus in Melbourne. We are green and connected to the environment. We need to conserve what we have and continue to restore it across all the land La Trobe University owns and manages."

47%

nominated La Trobe's green environment as their favourite aspect

"A very easy (and relatively inexpensive) change that can have a positive impact on students/staff would be to build proper walking trails between the car parks and the buildings and corridors... right now even a little bit of rain can flood the existing trails and make them hard to use."



FACILITIES AND QUALITY OF INFRASTRUCTURE

31%

The proportion mentioning ageing infrastructure, buildings and surrounding areas as their least favourite feature of the campus.

In our visioning workshops, you expressed “ongoing issues with older infrastructure and technology not being updated” and that some buildings appear to be ‘un-loved’.

When we asked you to tell us what you loved about this aspect and how we could improve it, you told us...

“The buildings on the perimeter of the campus are disjointed from the central Agora area. It is dark and isolated, especially in the evenings. Aesthetically, the campus looks aged and lacks atmosphere.”

“[The] side of the library is dismal. Vertical garden is full of weeds, and the little alcove garden is mostly dead. Given that the library is an important part of the university, can it get a refresh? Wouldn't say no to a new building!!”

*“[There is a] **lack of diversity in buildings**. It feels like an institution. When I first arrived, I had to walk around the inside of buildings to familiarise myself. The buildings are all the same from the outside.”*



SAFETY

Safety was frequently mentioned as inadequate and could be improved. Suggested improvements included increasing after hours safety, extended lighting and improving roads.

When we asked you to tell us what you loved about this aspect and how we could improve it, you told us...

"Such a dangerous intersection where 3 lanes of traffic are converging into 1 [Kingsbury Drive/Plenty Rd], any ideas how we can make this safer (and less stressful!)"

*"**Lighting everywhere needs to be re-evaluated.** It needs to be looked at from several perspectives, including women feeling safe, and older people able to see far enough when driving to avoid accidents. Pathways to car parks need to be properly surfaced so people feel safe and dry using them."*

"Personal safety in the carpark – it's dark and very open, I'm concerned for my daughters safety feel it needs some improving. I know my daughter feels unsafe walking to her car."

"The pedestrian intersection points at Plenty Rd here are very unsafe. When a lot of people alight from the Uni bound trams there isn't enough room to stand...this should [be] made much safer, and bigger to accommodate more people."



COMMUNITY AND INCLUSIVITY

Maintaining an inclusive and diverse environment welcome to our local community was a prominent theme which emerged through consultation. You told us you valued a campus which is 'inclusiv[e]' to all ages and beliefs which 'celebrates our diverse populations'.

When we asked you to tell us what you loved about this aspect and how we could improve it, you told us...

"Dedicated spaces for students to create, initiate and engage with the wider community – arts, culture, music, events."

*"A diversity of spaces and places to **meet a variety of working needs and personal needs**; for example introverted, neurodiverse, collaborative."*

"Respect and understanding of Indigenous landscape, culture and contribution to La Trobe spaces and wider community."

*"The way La Trobe services the community and invites people into the campus. **This is different to other universities.**"*

"Entertainment (music, movies, cultural events) to provide opportunities for students and the community from all different parts of the world to engage and use campus facilities."



ACTIVATIONS AND EVENTS

Ensuring that we have infrastructure which brings people together and facilitates a 'buzz' on campus were frequently noted in the visioning workshops. Many expressed the value that in person events, services and activities open to the community can have on the campus 'vibe'.

When we asked you to tell us what you loved about this aspect and how we could improve it, you told us...

"Level 2 of the Agora is neglected - the service areas and cafes in this space don't see nearly as much traffic. There's some great space available for events including a big covered area. Would be good to see activities on this level to encourage more foot traffic."

"A buzz on campus with activities occurring outside of usual school/work hours, days and outside of term time."

*"I really miss the market, it was so lovely to see all the vendors and pick up some bargains. And Food truck Wednesdays were great too. Can we have these back again with some shelter for the stalls for cold winter and hot summer days please? I'm sure continuing these **community activities would fit nicely into the City of the Future vision.**"*

"An arts precinct; people are more curious when there is art available."

*"It will be an **exciting place to be.**" There will be "events, activities, clubs and amenities, sports facilities, festivals, theatre and gallery."*



ON-SITE AND LOCAL AMENITIES

There is strong demand for local amenities and services such as a chemist, bar, ATMs, and outdoor dining options. The food and beverage outlets, particularly around the Agora, are some of the most utilised amenities on campus and many recognised the value that facilities such as the Sports Stadium has for the community.

When we asked you to tell us what you loved about this aspect and how we could improve it, you told us...

"The 'circular feel' to the campus, the 'central hub' that is the Agora, supermarket, Bread and Butta and the market."

"The campus is far from the city, not as many shops around campus compared to other universities."

"[Lack of] short term hotel/motel for visiting scholars and families."

*"The 'large sports complex', and 'La Trobe sports stadium which is used by the Uni for learning, as well as community. **This adds value to the community.**"*



TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

Improvements to our public transport options and car parking were common themes. You told us you'd also like to see improved accessibility for cyclists, inclusive spaces for neurodivergent individuals, improved 'disability friendly' services and the presence of a 'distinct front door' for the campus.

When we asked you to tell us what you loved about this aspect and how we could improve it, you told us...

"It used to take me three hours to catch public transport to get to Uni. Now I drive and it takes 1 hour and 10 minutes, on a good traffic day."

*"[We] need **more disabled access** from parking, or the ability for disabled attendees to park in visitors ... [We] need open signage to closest elevators and more elevators... more seats on walkways."*

"[We need] movement that is not reliant on cars." "I would love to see more bikes and electric scooters."

"Tram stop feels awkward and far from campus, walk to centre from tram stop is not streamlined, covered and feels disjointed. Better covered entry/path maybe with some facilities on the way or 2-3x autonomous shuttle every 2 mins from the tram stop area to the transport bus hub area would be awesome."

*"While it is costly, a metro train station next to the university would be great. Coming from the CBD with Bus or Tram is a pain even though the distance is not far but time consuming. Even with the direct bus connection from Reservoir station, it takes an hour. **The goal should be less than 30 min to the CBD.**"*



DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND INTEGRATION

A digitally enabled campus was regarded as essential for the University City of the Future, particularly amongst La Trobe staff. The interaction between physical and virtual environments (and hybrid learning and working) is expected to continue to grow and will be a way to attract students back to campus.

When we asked you to tell us what you loved about this aspect and how we could improve it, you told us...

"Hybrid/hyflex capabilities in teaching and learning spaces and meeting spaces that allow for inclusive and interactive hybrid international collaboration."

*"**We need to be as open and nimble** and not dedicated to current tech today – it's current today, but not in 12 months time; too much space that is underutilised and poor quality."*

*"[We need] state of the art, **truly digital, teaching spaces.**"*

"Smart use of digital infrastructure to connect campuses, community and people on campus" and "more integration between digital/physical learning infrastructure."

WHAT'S NEXT?

After consolidating all the feedback and comments from our students, staff, and community, we're taking it all onboard and incorporating it in different ways. This feedback will be used in our refresh of the Masterplan, set to be released in 2023.



WHAT WE'RE DOING NOW

In response to some of your concerns, we've started a number of initiatives and projects to address them:

- We're continuing to invest in our green spaces and creating more ways for you to enjoy them.
- Our new shared pathway gives you a safe and easy way to get around campus.



LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR UNIVERSITY CITY OF THE FUTURE

Visit us at [future-city.latrobe](https://future-city.latrobe.edu.au)



LA TROBE
UNIVERSITY

THANK YOU

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