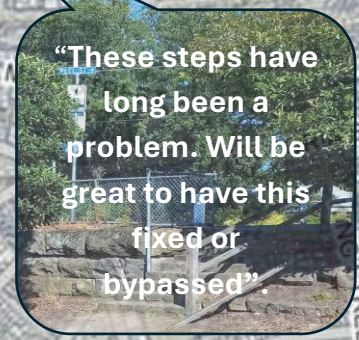
Yarrowee River Places & Connections

Community Consultation Summary Report
July 2024

"It'd be great to have native vegetation and information about these, perhaps how the First Nations lived and used the creek system...Can the river system be cleaned up enough to introduce species that once lived there, i.e., platypus?"

"Will there be maps of all the connected paths?"

"These steps have long been a problem. Will be great to have this fixed or bypassed".



"The Grant Street bridge will require significant safety improvements..."

"...the proposed plans do not include any rubbish bins – a fundamental requirement to encourage people to dispose of their rubbish responsibly and not litter the Yarrowee River".

"...the view would be much nicer if it wasn't filled with weeds".

"...I think coherence and visitor experience (whether tourist or resident) is what is currently missing".

"Kayak launching point to connect with Magpie kayak launching point".



"Provide interactive signage including at the lookouts about Country and mining."

"The view and natural surrounds here are very nice, so a safer lookout would let more people enjoy the area."



"I simply want to say that I love riding my bike and walking along the Yarrowee..."

CITY OF BALLARAT

Yarrowee River Places & Connections Community Consultation

City of Ballarat asked the community to give **feedback** on concept plans for improving the connectivity, accessibility, and amenities at four locations along the Yarrowee River Trail.

This is **what we heard**.



"The connection of the Wadawurrung people to *Dja,* or Country, is important to highlight. We see ourselves as being a part of nature, and our role within it is a custodial one. This extends out to the broader community who live upon Wadawurrung Country – we all have a responsibility to care for and nurture the land and waterways to ensure they are healthy. If Country is sick, then we will all become sick too."

"I really like the plans for all of the paths. Hopefully it all happens as it's a great idea to get more people on bikes and to connect current bike paths."

From **December 2023** to **June 2024**, we received feedback from:

- Talks with **15** residents and businesses.
- **21** completed MySay surveys.
- **28** comments pinned to the MySay map.
- **7** email submissions
- Conversations with the Wadawurrung Traditional Owners

This document summarises what we heard from the community, presented separately for each of the four project locations. Comments were sorted into themes. The dominant themes and our responses are included for each location. Survey results have been presented as an average approval percentage. For more information about the projects, or to contact us about them go to: https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/yarrowee-river-places-and-connections

Eastern Oval Connection: Nicholson Street to Scott Parade



70% of survey participants think the concept plans **improve** the connectivity, accessibility, amenities, and biodiversity at this location.

City of Ballarat heard

The stairs at the Peel Street end of the existing track are a significant access issue.

The improvements to accessibility and connectivity along this route are very welcome.

Opportunity at Havelock Street Reserve to restore vegetation and provide a site for incorporating the Wadawurrung story.

Our response

The proposed path alignment on the south side of the river channel is level, free of steps, and accessible for all.

Continuing the path behind Eastern Oval to the Davies Street tunnel will provide a continuous and safe riding and walking connection into the CBD.

This is outside of current project scope but noted for a potential future project.

Anderson Street Connection: Dana Street to Grant Street



"The wider shared user path along Anderson Street will make this route a lot more convenient and straightforward."

"Grant Street crossing will require further up and downstream network changes to manage vehicle traffic. This is an incredibly dangerous crossing..."

"...key connection for bringing biodiversity into the city."

69% of survey participants think the concept plans **improve** the connectivity, accessibility, amenities, and biodiversity at this location.

City of Ballarat heard

The Grant Street crossing is dangerous. More needs to be done to ensure the safety of people crossing here.

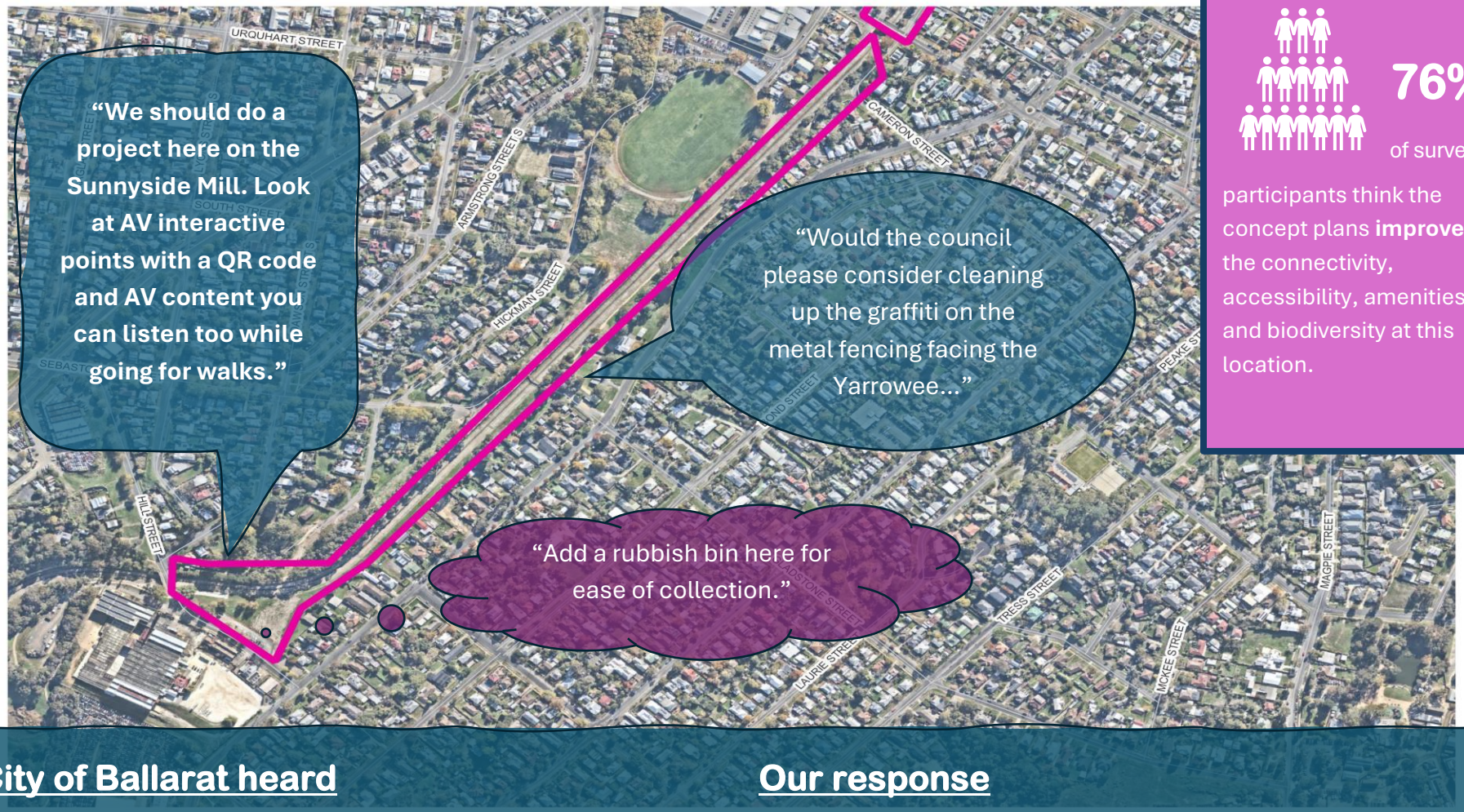
Anderson Street West resident concern about the current 'rat run' along the street.

Our response

We are now investigating other safer crossing options here.

Changing the street to one-way, narrowing the road and streetscape planting will reduce vehicle speeds and help with the 'rat-running'.

Sunnyside Mill Connection: Grant Street to Hill Street



76% of survey participants think the concept plans **improve** the connectivity, accessibility, amenities, and biodiversity at this location.

City of Ballarat heard

Provide opportunities for telling the story of the Yarrowee.

Restore the natural creek bed.

Littering is a problem.

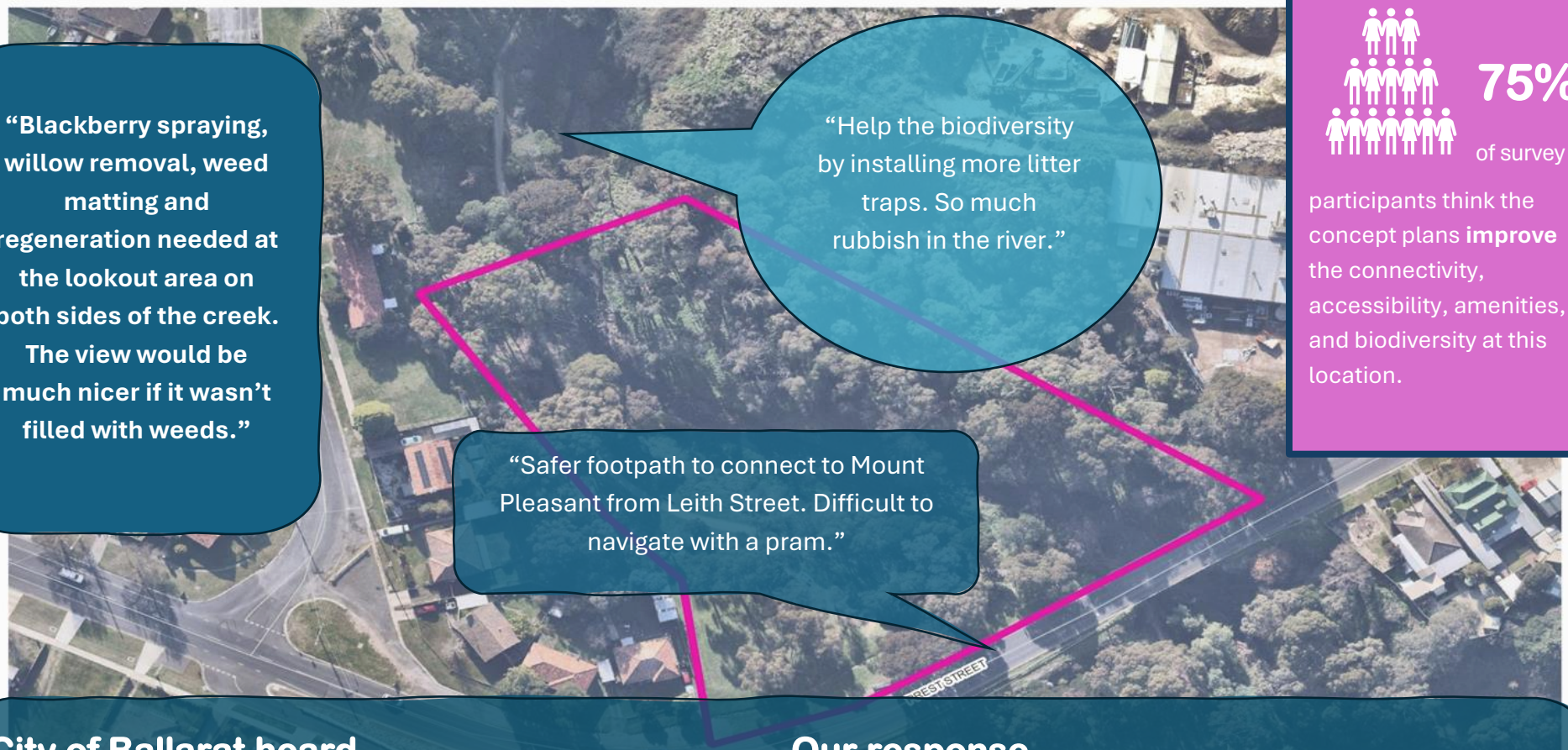
Our response

The concept designs provide locations for interpretative signage. The content for signage will form a separate project.

Restoring the channel to its natural state is outside the scope of this project. Where possible the riverside will be planted to provide habitat connections and improvements to the river ecology.

We encourage all trail users to take their litter with them and dispose of responsibly.

Prest Street Connection: Prest Street Reserve and Lookout



75% of survey participants think the concept plans **improve** the connectivity, accessibility, amenities, and biodiversity at this location.

City of Ballarat heard

The location for the lookout is appropriate but the quality of the vista is impacted by weeds and litter.

Accessibility along Prest Street and into the surrounding streets is problematic, particularly the Prest Street bridge.

Provide interactive and informative signage about the river and its history.

Our response

Weed and litter removal are outside the scope of this project but are being addressed through other projects such as the recently funded installation of a Gross Pollutant Trap to capture litter.

Outside the scope of this project but noted.

The concept designs provide locations for interpretative signage. The content for signage will form a separate project.

The City of Ballarat acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.

CITY OF BALLARAT

The Phoenix | 25 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat, VIC 3350

City of Ballarat | PO Box 655, Ballarat, VIC 3350

03 5320 5500 Ballarat.vic.gov.au