

Cardinia Shire Council

Pakenham

Revitalisation

Project



Pakenham
a place for people

Frequently Asked Questions | Survey update for local businesses

Why has construction been delayed?

Council is working to address and resolve several key issues affecting stage 1 construction along Main Street, Pakenham, including Main Street Central and the Gateway.

Delays are being experienced due to complex design issues with drainage, services and footpath levels across Main Street. This has a flow-on impact with conflicting road closures across the interfacing Victorian Government projects, which don't result in more than one arterial road leading into Pakenham being closed at the same time.

Will construction impact businesses at Christmas?

The Major Projects team and Struber has been in continuous communications with stakeholders, keeping them as up to date as possible. We have been providing advice on the works and are currently working on the design to ensure we get it right before starting works.

Council is making every effort to work with traders' concerns regarding the busy Christmas period and carry out set-up and preliminary works during September to December and focus on full construction to commence in January 2025.

Council is looking to ensure that construction methods used will minimise disruptions. These details will be confirmed with the awarded contractor during the tender process.

An information pack is being developed using the concerns outlined in the trader engagement process with opportunities that address business needs leading into and during construction.

How will Council assist traders to keep trading during disruptions?

Council has met with and will continue to meet with impacted traders to understand how to best assist and support business through construction disruptions.

Once Council engages a contractor to deliver stage 1 works, a detailed plan will be communicated to those impacted. To support businesses during the disruptions, Council will provide programs to support them with continued trade.



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Why did Council complete trader engagement?

Cardinia Shire Council has engaged consultant Struber as experts to undertake a Trader Impact Assessment, in relation to the upcoming construction and development of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project. Council is also following the Victorian Small Business Commission's guidelines for managing disruption.

The objective is to assess the potential impact on local businesses and identify any emerging key themes and issues. The assessment is part of Council's commitment to working with our community during the initial construction stage, which, when complete, will result in a more vibrant and prosperous Pakenham.

The upcoming works to Main Street and Gateway aim to enhance pedestrian accessibility and safety, while building a vibrant and prosperous Pakenham that we are proud to call home.

Why is Council engaging with traders?

Council's aim is to provide transparency and communication to the traders of Main Street, Pakenham, regarding the upcoming construction and development of the Pakenham Revitalisation Project and its potential impact on local businesses.

As it's anticipated these businesses will face disruptions throughout construction works, it's important that Council gathers feedback, information and concerns, in order to plan and address as soon as possible.

Who has Council engaged with?

Struber has communicated with all businesses that will be impacted by the development works. Council is committed to face-to-face interactions once a month and correspondence updates once every two weeks.

What key themes emerged?

Traders emphasised the importance of being kept informed through regular updates, clear communication, and face-to-face interaction. The findings highlight the significance of ensuring transparency in communication.

What did Council learn?

Results highlighted that traders value:

- Proximity to parking
- Community engagement
- Variety of businesses
- Lighting, safety and accessibility.
- Access requirements, such as front entry and for day-deliveries
- Environmental factors like dust, noise and vibration raised concerns among traders during construction.

What matters most to traders?

1. All respondents indicated access to front entry as essential for business operations.
2. Day-deliveries were identified as a crucial requirement.
3. Proximity to parking emerged as the most significant value to traders (nearly three-quarters of respondents).
4. A high percentage of respondents emphasised the importance of people and community, again underscoring the social significance of Main Street.
5. There was a strong emphasis on lighting and safety, suggesting that a well-lit and secure environment is imperative for enhancing the street's appeal.

What is the Pakenham Revitalisation Project?

Pakenham Revitalisation is a long-term priority project that aims to reimagine the future look and feel of the heart of Pakenham. It also aims to address rapid population growth, community feedback, consumer preferences and the development market.

Through these works, Council wants to create an attractive environment that can host various events and activities, both during the day and night. Council want to make it safer for people to move through and access the town centre.

Council will be delivering upgrades in and around Pakenham's town centre, including across Main Street, John Street, Station Street, Drake Place and the surrounding laneways and arcades.

What changes are planned for the Main Street intersections?

- Council will construct raised platform zebra crossings on all four legs of the roundabout at the intersection of Main Street and John Street; and at the roundabout at the intersection of Main Street, Station Street and Drake Place.
- Council will improve the centre island of the roundabout at the intersection of Main Street, Station Street and Drake Place, so that larger vehicles do not damage the landscaping within the island when turning at this intersection.
- The raised platform zebra crossing will be set back from the roundabout hold lines to allow for a vehicle to slow down without blocking the crossing.
- The raised platform zebra crossing will improve pedestrian safety and make it easier to cross the roads and these intersections.

How will street lighting be improved?

Council will replace the existing poles and streetlights with new poles and modern LED streetlights. The new LED streetlights will provide a higher level of lighting and more consistent coverage over the full streetscape to improve the experience and safety at night.

What is planned for the street trees?

- Some of the existing trees in Main Street have grown too large and are causing safety issues, and damage to the road, drainage and footpath.
- The younger Crepe Myrtle trees are healthy and were transplanted to Bayview Road, Officer.
- Council will replace the existing trees with new trees that are better suited to Main Street.

How will the improvements address stormwater drainage and flooding?

- Council will remove the old stormwater pits and pipes in Main Street, and install new stormwater pits and pipes with more capacity.
- The new stormwater pits and pipes will drain more stormwater underground and keep the road and pedestrian areas free from overland flow in common rain events.
- Council will reshape the road and parking bays in Main Street to keep overland flow between the kerbs.
- Keeping overland flow between the kerbs will improve flood protection for shops and pedestrian areas in larger rain events.

What changes are planned for carparking?

- Council will replace the angled parking bays on Main Street with new parallel parking bays.
- The new parallel parking bays will create more space for streetscape improvements including wider pedestrian areas, new seating and street furniture and new areas for activation opportunities including outdoor dining.
- Parallel parking bays will provide drivers with better visibility and reduce the risk of collisions.
- We acknowledge compromises need to be made. However, we're increasing activity and number of parking spaces within the wider area. The outcome will be increased foot-traffic, with additional space for more events and activation.

What is happening with Pakenham Place?

Pakenham Place, including 65-79 Main St, Pakenham is privately owned.

The Victorian Government has recently acquired a portion of the space with plans to redesign and redevelop it.

Development, maintenance, and operation of the spaces within Pakenham Place is not the responsibility of Cardinia Shire Council, and it is the responsibility of the private landowner.

Council has been advocating for the redesign of Pakenham Place and is keen to see it developed to provide amenities, jobs, and services for the local community, and in the meantime, Council has been working with the current property owners, to ensure that the safety and amenities around Pakenham Place are continued to be maintained.

Maintenance works around the site such as graffiti removal, road repairs, weeding, street cleaning and minor landscaping to ensure that the area remains accessible, and safe, are currently being actioned until any redevelopment takes place.

What will the general impacts be to Main Street during construction? Will the works be staged?

Council is currently completing detailed design plans for lighting, landscaping, and civil delivery for stage 1 construction. Council will be able to thoroughly understand how best to deliver the works and the potential impacts, disruptions and closures required once the designs are complete.

However, increased traffic and travel times, noise, limited parking, and temporary footpath, carpark and road closures are anticipated in and around Pakenham Main Street.

It is anticipated that works will be delivered in a staged way to minimise disruptions and maintain access to shops.

Council is prioritising keeping local businesses open and operational throughout our upgrade works and are committed to maintaining access to local businesses along Main Street.

Ahead of tender and construction starting, Council is planning to share these plans with local businesses to discuss the staged work plan and ways we will be working to minimise disruptions.

Is the parking at the Railway Hotel public, permitted or private?

The Railway Hotel is in private ownership, including the carpark. The carpark is specifically reserved for patrons of the Railway Hotel, and they do not need a permit to service their patrons. The carpark is currently being impacted by the community parking in the carpark to access other businesses and by the parking restrictions along Main Street and at the Pakenham Station due to the level crossing project.

Will one-way traffic be considered for Main Street, Pakenham?

As part of an alternate motion raised in the November 2023 Council Meeting, it was recommended that Council:

- Provides further consideration towards the potential of a one-way traffic flow scenario for Main St Pakenham and,
- Undertakes further assessment of the viability of a one-way traffic flow scenario that may potentially be implemented during future phases of this strategy.

Council has completed an independent traffic assessment, which has determined that one-way traffic down Main Street is not an appropriate action, as the adjoining and surrounding streets will not cater and support future traffic and development in the area.

What is happening with the Pakenham Community Hospital?

Council supports the Victorian Government's continued investment into the Pakenham Community Hospital development, which is being delivered through the Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA).

The Pakenham Community Hospital will be a small public hospital managed by Monash Health, located at 67-69 Main Street, Pakenham. Once open, the hospital will provide our residents with access to an expanded suite of crucial health services.

Although the land is currently in private ownership with Pakenham Place, Council can confirm that all the final tenants have now relocated, which has enabled critical planning, design and site preparation works to progress.

Unfortunately, Council has not received an updated timeline to confirm when construction on the hospital will start, however Council is working closely with the state government to ensure that the project progresses and that our residents are updated regarding this important health infrastructure project.

Council has also been advocating with the current property owners, to ensure that the safety and amenities around Pakenham Place are continued to be maintained prior to works starting.

Maintenance works around the site such as graffiti removal, road repairs, weeding, street cleaning and minor landscaping to ensure that the area remains accessible, and safe, are currently being actioned until any redevelopment takes place.

Council will continue to play a crucial role in the development of this space to ensure the best outcome for the community.

For further timeline information relating to the Pakenham Community Hospital, contact the Victorian Health Building Authority (VHBA) at vhba@health.vic.gov.au.