

MARY STREET UPGRADE



DECEMBER 2018 UPDATE

Malanda is a growing community. School enrolments have increased substantially in recent times, the town centre is bustling and the showground is hosting more events than ever.

As a Council, we need to plan for and support Malanda's growth, and meet the additional pressure on services and facilities in the town centre.

One of the priority issues is the increased need for parking, especially for long vehicles and cars transporting people with impaired mobility.

In consultation with Malanda community representatives we investigated other benefits the project could bring to the town centre. We identified the need to improve pedestrian and cyclists' safety, especially around the primary school, as a key priority.



THE PROJECT

The upgrade project will widen, kerb and reseal Mary Street between Thomas and George Streets. It will improve parking, increase the separation between cars, cyclists and pedestrians, and continue the bike bus link to the school grounds.

WHO'S PAYING?

We have received a Department of Transport and Main Roads Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme grant towards the costs of the project.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

We heard community concerns and deferred the project until we could investigate further and provide answers to the questions asked.

We listened to suggestions to move the project to other streets and to run the bike path along the footpath.

We understand some residents are concerned about the removal of Camphor Laurel trees along Mary Street and recognise their connection to the trees.

DESIGN OPTIONS

When planning for the project all available street options were investigated. Mary Street is the only street that meets the safety and parking needs of the project and delivers the best outcomes for the community.

Combining the bike path and footpath is an unsafe option for cyclists and pedestrians, and would not be functional during peak travel times.

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TREE HEALTH

An independent arborist (not connected with the project) audited the trees and provided a report on their general health, life expectancy, expected health if the project is conducted around them, and suitability as median trees.

The specialist's review indicated the trees are in a dangerously poor condition. They have a limited life span due to structural defects including cavities, decay, bark wounds and poor form (from incorrect pruning). Leaving the trees in place while upgrading the street around them will damage their root structure and further reduce their health and lifespan.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

We appreciate the community's input on the project and have considered all comments and suggestions.

We are now faced with a critical safety issue and have a duty of care to the community. The trees will be removed in January, during the school holidays, and we'll have a qualified spotter onsite to ensure the safety and welfare of wildlife.

The overriding safety concerns and growth of the Malanda community mean the project will proceed as planned. It will commence in 2019 after the wet season.

STAY INVOLVED

We will be asking for suggestions on how the Camphor Laurel trees can be repurposed, reused and recognised. The community will decide what tree species will replace them, with options provided via a survey and an information booth at the Malanda Library. Insert survey link here.

The creation of a Malanda Town Centre Master Plan in 2019 will also provide opportunities for input into the future planning and development of Malanda.

We thank you for your patience while we recognise and continue to work towards the Malanda community vision (Tablelands Community Plan 2021).

MORE INFORMATION

The arborist's report, project plans and updated information are available on trc.qld.gov.au.



WE ARE HERE

We are meeting with the community and asking about tree options.