

Beaufort Station car park upgrade

Summary of community engagement on concept plan
January 2022

Overview

About the project

As part of the Victorian Government's Car Parks for Commuters program, VicTrack is delivering a new car park at Beaufort Station.

A new car park will be built with at least 40 new car parking spaces, including two new accessible spaces, and 15 new bicycle hoops will be installed.

In October and November 2021, we presented the concept design to the local community and interested stakeholders seeking their input to inform the next stage of design.

An online survey was hosted on the Victorian Government's Engage Victoria website from Friday 22 October to Monday 8 November 2021. The survey was promoted through social media, signage at the station, a newspaper advert and via a letter distributed to local properties and businesses.

Between these methods of engagement, we had input from 28 individuals via our online survey and one additional piece of feedback was emailed directly to VicTrack.

What we asked

The survey was designed to generate insights on a concept design for the car park from local residents, station users, or those with an interest in the project.

The concept design broadly outlines the location of key facilities and components being delivered as part the new car park. The concept design will be further refined into a detailed design.

The survey sought to better understand the local community and commuter insights into the proposed functioning of the site, including what facilities would best be utilised.

Additionally, we wanted to understand any community concerns about the construction phase to help us plan for how we can best manage the impacts.

Who we heard from

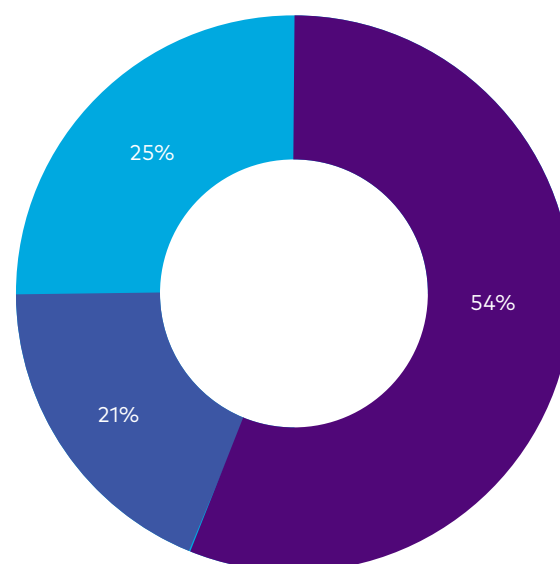
More than 300 people visited the Engage Victoria site to look at the car park design. Twenty-eight people responded to the online survey and one response was received via a direct email to VicTrack.

Most respondents (50 per cent) were local residents, followed by the occasional commuter catching the train either fortnightly or monthly pre-covid. More than half of the contributions were made from individuals who lived within five kilometres of the railway station.

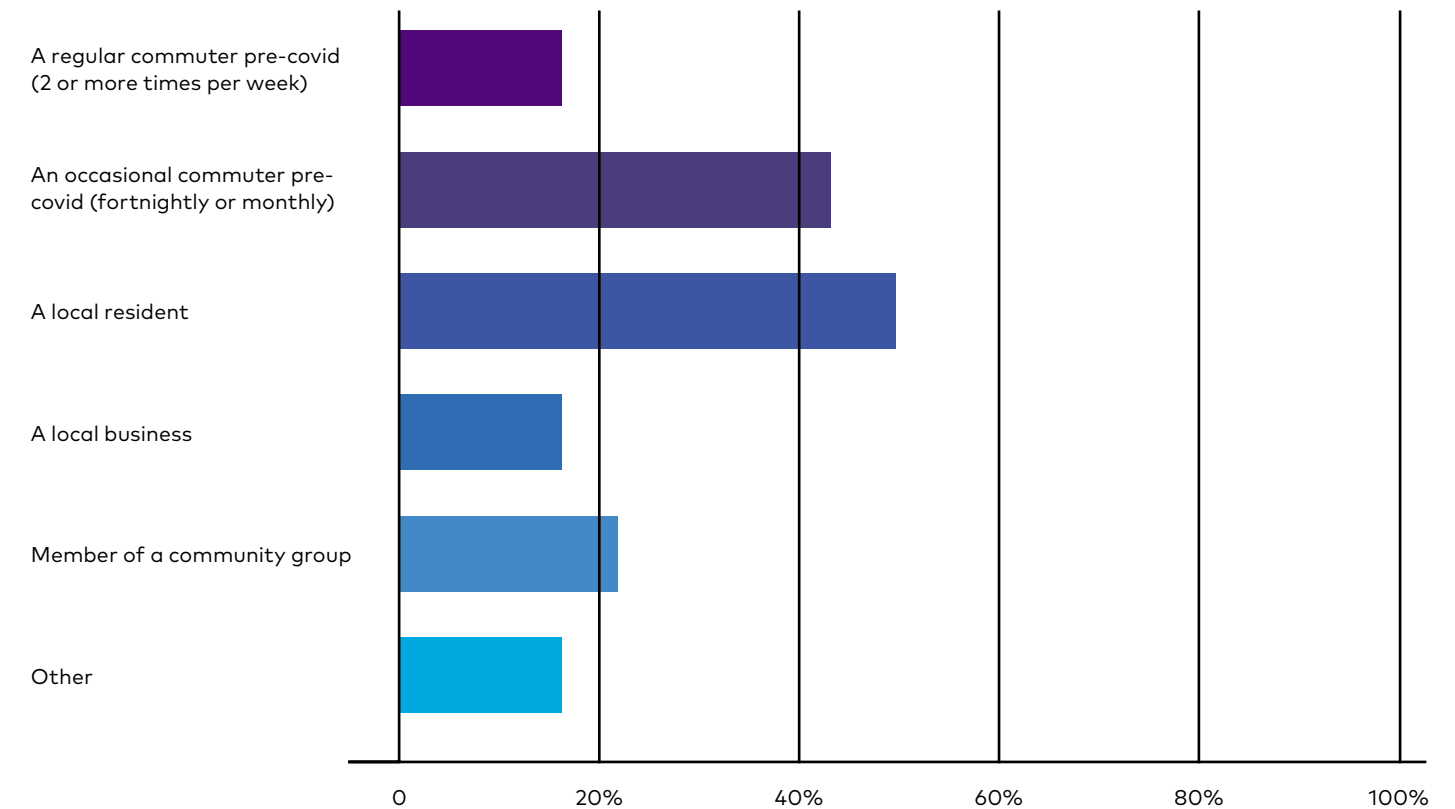
Please note, survey comments have not been changed to correct spelling or grammar.

Respondents live within

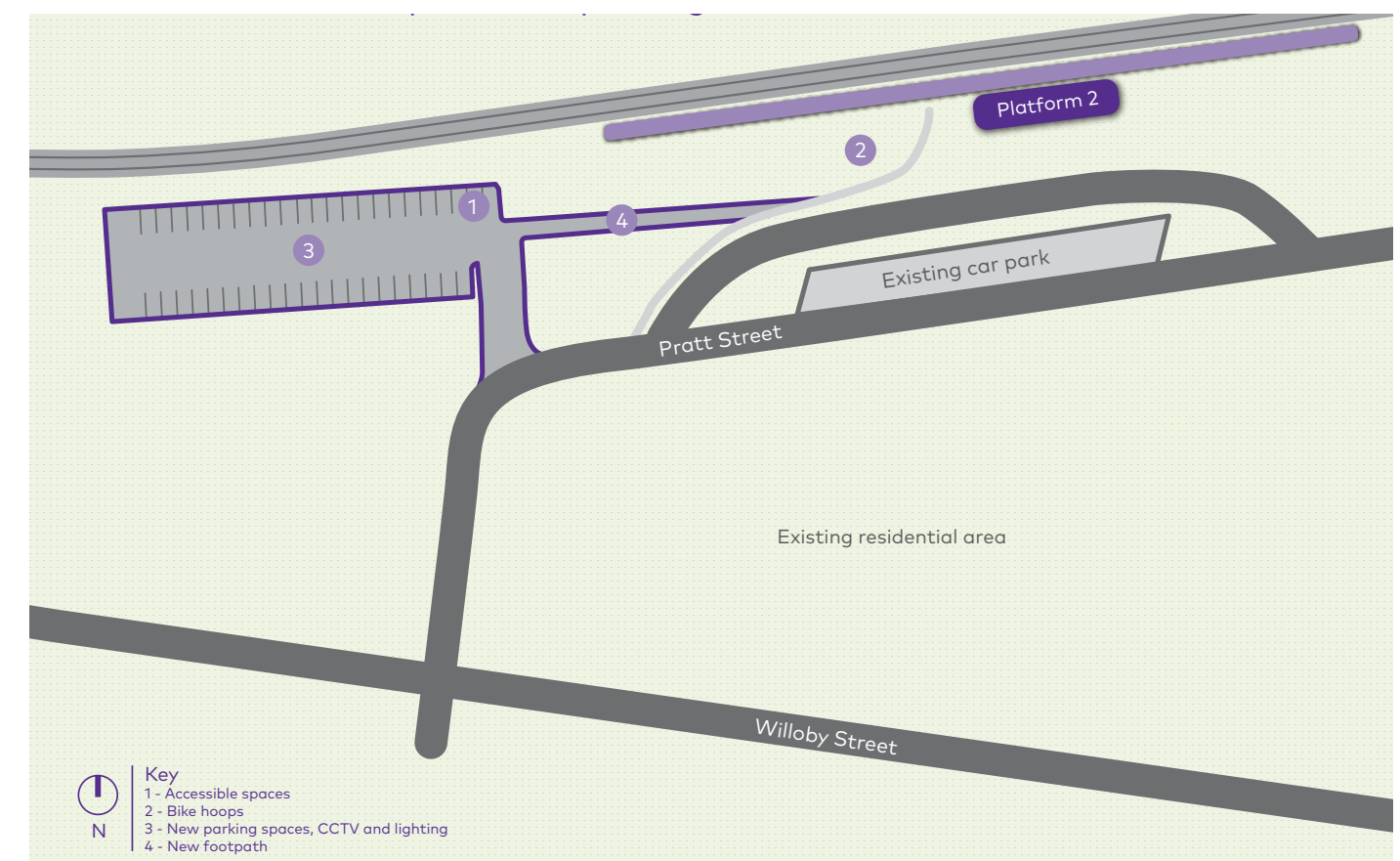
- Up to 5km
- 5-15km
- 15km or more



Respondents identify as



Beaufort concept design



What we heard

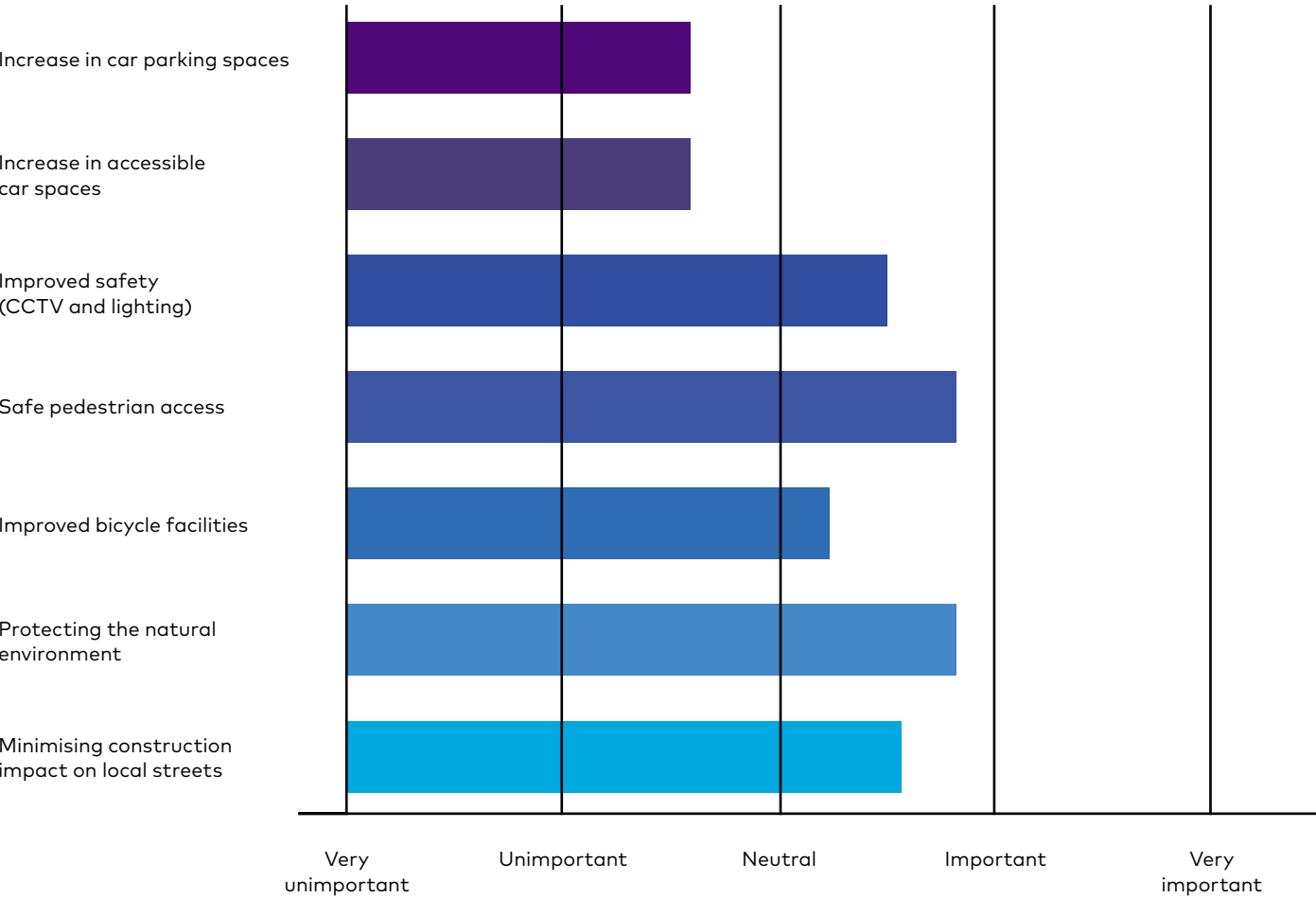
What is most important to respondents about the station car park upgrades?

(Please note respondents were able to select multiple answers.)

Protecting the natural environment and safe pedestrian access were both rated by around half of the respondents as very important. This was followed by just over one third of respondents who indicated that improved safety around the car park and minimising construction impacts on local streets was ‘very important’.

Some direct feedback received noted that improving the site would be very beneficial to the town and requested some additional facilities such as shelter from the weather.

By far the least important aspect of the upgrade rated by respondents was increasing the number of car parking spaces, with more than 60 per cent of respondents rating this as unimportant or very unimportant. Some of the comments received on other questions also reinforced the feedback that additional car parking is not required at Beaufort Station.



What we're doing:

To ensure that commuters can walk safely from the new car park to the platform and avoid traffic, a dedicated footpath will be provided between the new car park and the station entrance.

The impacts of construction are yet to be finalised, but every effort will be made to keep disruption to local residents and rail passengers to a minimum. There will be no impact to train services as a result of the works.

What changes were suggested to the car park concepts?

Suggested improvements to the proposed concept layout and current car parking include, in no particular order:

- increasing the number of CCTV cameras and lighting
- beautification, landscaping and tree canopies
- installing toilet and myki facilities.

Many of the respondents indicated that the need for landscaping and vegetation canopies was very important. These individuals suggested that more shade is required as their vehicles become overheated in the direct sunlight.

The inclusion of upgrades to the station facilities such as adding a myki machine and toilet facilities was also a common theme from respondents.

Some of the comments also reinforced the feedback that additional car parking is not required at Beaufort Station.

Some of the comments people made in particular include:

- “Really important to have great lighting and cctv as it is out of sight to most people or passersby.”
- “Shade trees. Cars get hot parked in the sun ...and although unrelated to this project a Myki point at Beaufort... Public Toilets please.”
- “Vitaly important that the CCTV cameras are located not only on the new carpark area, but on the station platform, bus terminus area and all station buildings.”
- “Make sure there is plenty of shade (either by mature trees or shade structures) and extend footpath to King St crossing.”
- “This is pretty unnecessary because the car parks are never full as it is. There is no Myki facilities available, so still relying on paper tickets. There is also no boom gates on any of the crossings in town.”

What we're doing:

The car park will be maintained by V/Line, who has strict guidelines around the planting of trees over car spaces to ensure they do not drop branches onto cars. We will work to ensure any plantings are low-risk and low-maintenance while enhancing the visual appeal of the area.

CCTV and new lighting is being installed in the new car park as part of the upgrade, however any further CCTV cameras on station platforms are outside the scope of the project.

We will pass on the feedback about installing myki machines, toilet facilities and additional CCTV at the station for commuters to the Department of Transport and rail operator V/Line, who manage the station facilities.

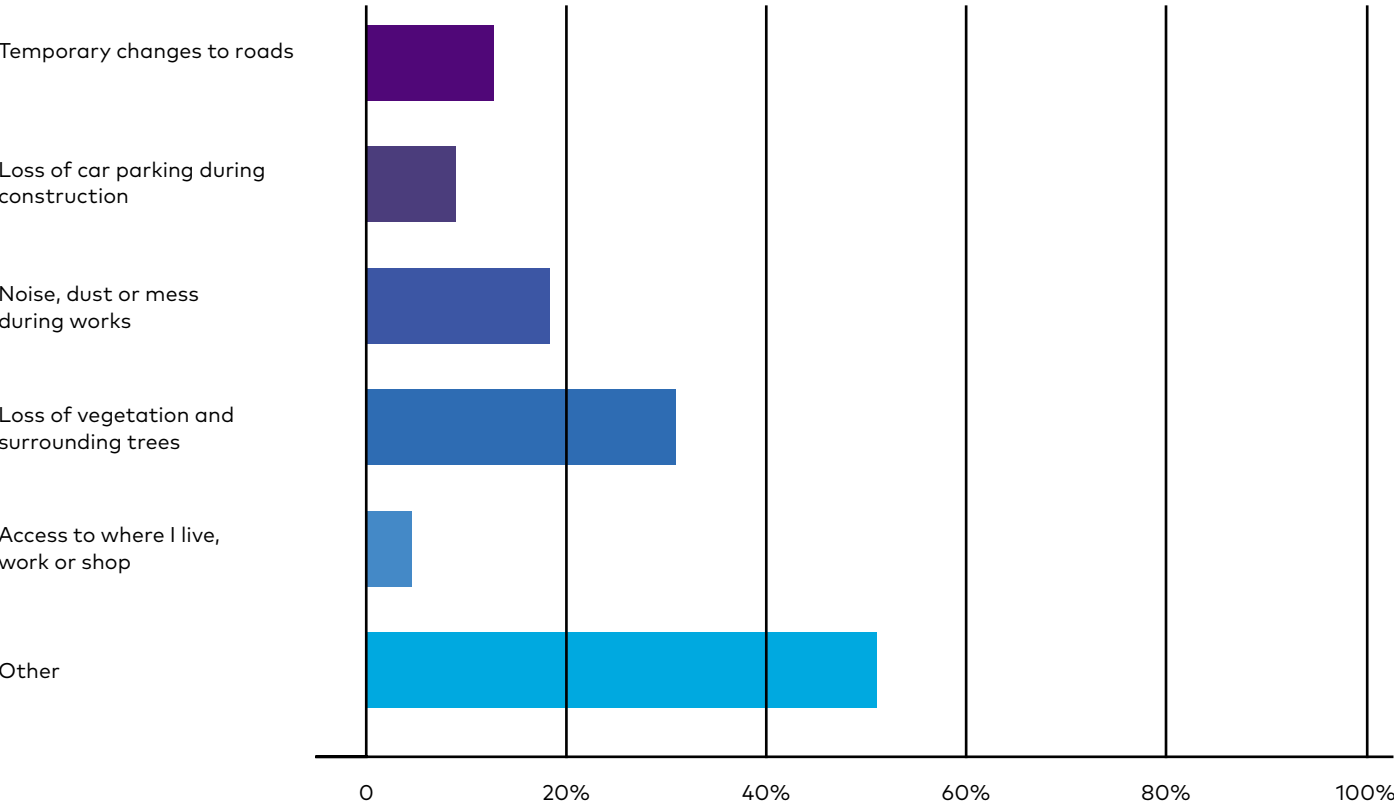
What we heard

What concerns do people have about the construction of the new car park?

When asked about the construction of the new car park and what respondents were most concerned about, a significant number of respondents, 32 per cent, were concerned about the lack of beautification and vegetation coverage to provide shade to commuters’ cars.

Additionally, 32 per cent of respondents indicated the new car park is not required, stating that the current car park does not fill up during peak times.

Respondents also indicated that construction noise, dust and potential mess were also key concerns but understood that these were temporary.



Some of the comments people made in particular include:

- “Plenty car park spaces there already. No night trains coming through so don’t need extra lighting or cctv”
- “Lack of canopy shade trees. That is the main reason I park where I currently do – beneath the tree”
- “It’s understood construction is temporary – some pain for gain”

What we’re doing:

Impacts on trees and vegetation will be kept to a minimum, and landscaping will be included as part of the project.

The impacts of construction are yet to be finalised, but every effort will be made to keep disruption to local residents and rail passengers to a minimum by reducing noise, dust and traffic changes.

What could we consider doing to reduce construction impacts?

When considering what could be done to reduce the impacts of construction, most responses requested that all works take place during the day during normal construction hours.

Additionally, that the works remain on time through good planning with little to no night works. Keeping the area safe and secure from the public was also of high importance.

Some of the comments people made in particular include:

- “Keep construction to between peak travel times”
- “Keep damp to prevent dust.”
- “Minimise the impact to larger established trees”
- “Do not work through the night for multiple days like the line works (I lost a lot of sleep from that). Make sure the dust is controlled.”

What we’re doing:

The schedule for construction is yet to be finalised, however we expect works to take place during normal construction hours and any night works, if they occur, will be kept to a minimum.

Other feedback

Generally, feedback received in response to this question reflected feedback provided elsewhere in the survey. Common themes emerged around the request for improved lighting, canopy cover, more facilities such as toilets and a myki machine, and some comments on involving the community to include public artwork.

There were once again concerns about whether Beaufort Station requires additional car parking, but there was also general support for the associated upgrades that the project will bring.

Some of the comments people made in particular include:

- “It would be good to see extensive planting of new trees and native plants in the area to help with shade on the new car parks.”
- “I think it is a great idea only if it accompanies other V/Line improvements like installing a myki machine (that would make more people want to use the service which would intern justify the need for more parking. I have never seen the current carpark full”
- “i love to see some public art work build into the space as well as the landscaping plan”
- “Don’t do it money better spent making Myki available from our station”
- “Width of car parking spaces needs to be adequate to allow car doors to be opened and not impact on the car parked next door, which is how the current car park is arranged. Allowances must be made for moving luggage, parcels etc. from cars.”

What we're doing:

In line with previous comments, the feedback requesting additional facilities at the station will be passed on to the Department of Transport and V/Line.

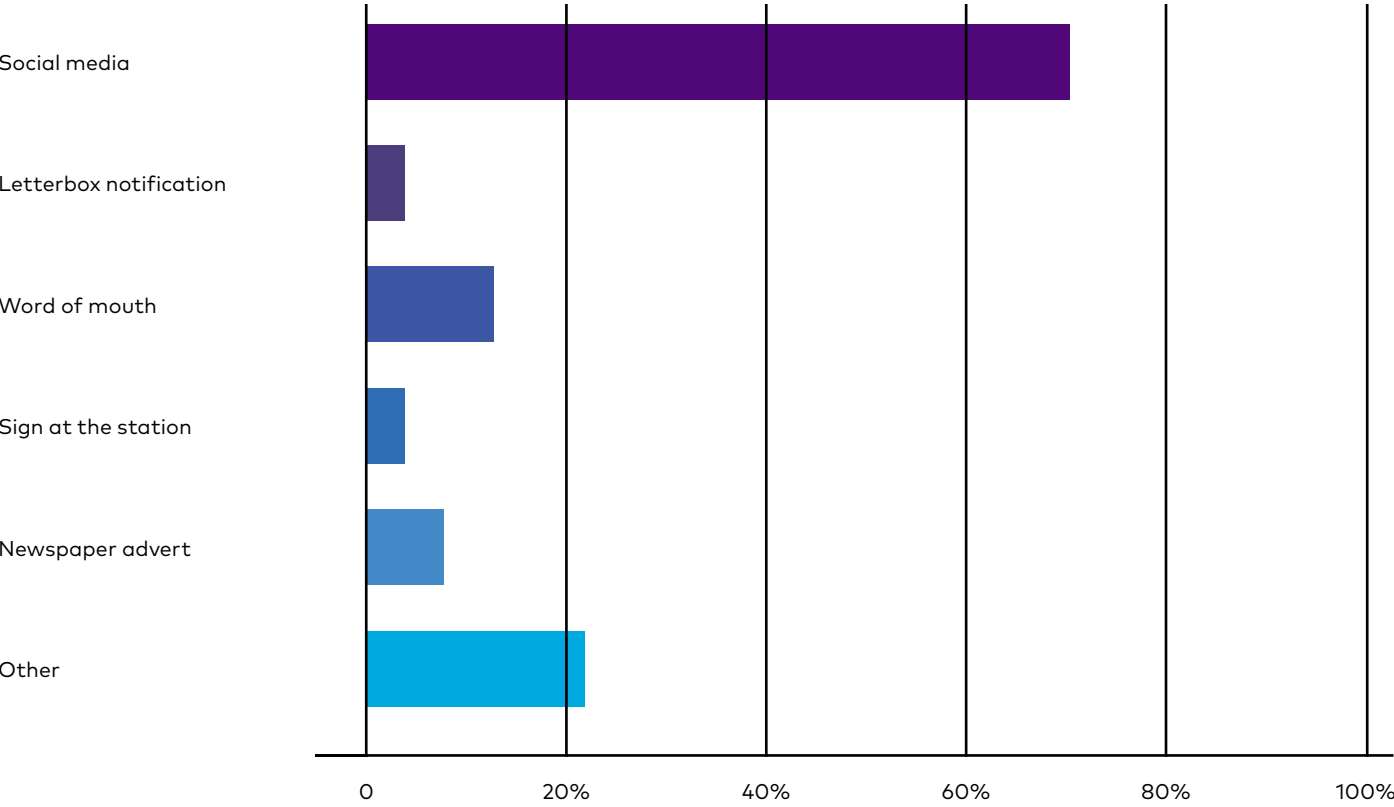
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What we heard

How did respondents hear about the car park upgrade?

The respondents were asked to confirm how they had heard about the Beaufort Station car park upgrade, with 71 per cent identifying that they heard about it through social media. This was followed by 15 per cent noting that they had heard about the upgrade through word of mouth.



Summary and next steps

Overall, the survey results show people are supportive of upgrades being made at Beaufort Station. Common themes from respondents were the inclusion of a myki machine at the station and vegetation canopies for parked vehicles.

Local residents and community stakeholders want to see improvements made at the station and in particular the area enhanced with new vegetation and facilities for passengers.

There were a number of concerns that the increase in parking spaces is not needed at Beaufort Station as the current car park is often not full, and that resources could be better used elsewhere.

People want to be kept engaged and informed as the project progresses and for efforts to be made to manage the impacts through the construction phase.

Following this consultative phase, the concept plan will be further refined into a detailed design.

Stay up to date on the project

For more information visit the VicTrack website victrack.com.au/beaufort or email projects@victrack.com.au

