

Belgrave Station car park upgrade

Summary of community feedback
June 2020





Summary of community and stakeholder engagement:

Located in the heart of the busy Belgrave township, Belgrave Station is an important transport hub, supporting rail, bus and other transport connections for the local community.

It is also the gateway to the popular tourist heritage railway attraction, Puffing Billy.

Like other stations on the metropolitan network, strong patronage growth and the changing needs of the community mean that the station needs to be upgraded, to both increase capacity and improve facilities for passengers.

Almost 400,000 passengers use Belgrave Station every year, and its location at the end of the line means it is used by a wide catchment of commuters from surrounding communities who predominantly drive to catch the train.

The lack of car parking is a significant problem, and the 170 car parks currently available are regularly full early in the morning. This shortage of parking causes further congestion problems throughout the Belgrave township, impacting negatively on traders and residents.

The congestion issues are further compounded by the hundreds of thousands of people who visit Belgrave every year to take a trip on Puffing Billy, who are often also competing for the limited number of parking spaces available in the township.

In May 2018, the Victorian Government announced that parking at Belgrave Station would be increased by 470 spaces. Proposed as a multi-deck car park, the new car park will mean that Belgrave Station will have capacity for more than 600 vehicles.



Key engagement findings

VicTrack has been engaging with the local community and key stakeholders to inform the design of the car park and other improvements to the station.

Extensive engagement is critical, given the project's size, the location of the proposed car park in the middle of Belgrave, and site constraints due to the terrain. Because of the natural surroundings of Belgrave there is also a need to ensure the car park blends in as much as possible with the environment and the amenity of the township.

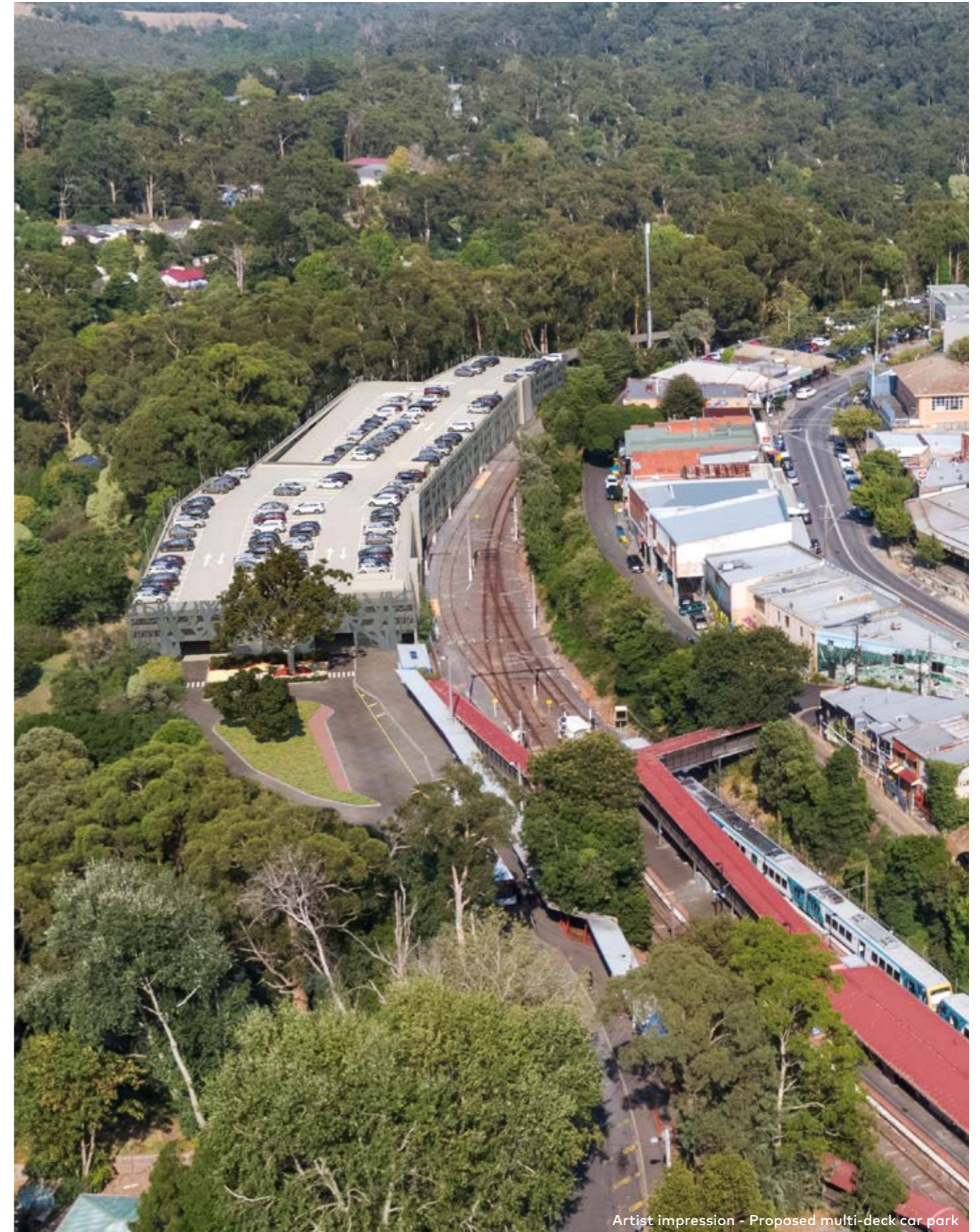
The community's response to this project has been overwhelmingly supportive. The concept design was released in mid 2020, and feedback to an online survey showed that around 90 per cent of respondents either supported or had no objection to the project.

A key theme from the engagement has been that whilst people highly value Belgrave's natural environment and local amenity, the car park upgrade is badly needed and should be delivered as quickly as possible.

The design elements of the structure are also important to people. This will be a large structure to accommodate the 470 vehicles. Whilst it will be constructed in a cutting next to the railway line, it will still be noticeable to the residents, traders and the broader community. Throughout the survey, respondents identified with the need for the design to be compatible with the areas natural values and the village character of Belgrave. Noting that timber can't be used for the structure due to fire risk, respondents wanted to see the use of materials that blend in with the surrounding area, with a preference for perforated metal on the exterior and other sustainability features where possible. People also want to feel safe in and around the station precinct and have identified safety and security to be a key feature in the design of the new car park.

The current car park and access roads are a source of congestion and frustration and station users want a design that addresses this, and in particular separates buses from private vehicles using the station.

Importantly, people also saw the development of the new car park as an opportunity to improve connectivity between the station, Puffing Billy and the Belgrave township.



Artist impression - Proposed multi-deck car park



Artist impression - Proposed bus interchange upgrade



Artist impression - Proposed multi-deck car park

Over 300 individuals and organisations have had their say on the design of the car park upgrade, including 291 respondents to an online survey.

Over 62% of people drive and park at the station with another third parking in nearby streets



Perforated metal was the preferred exterior finish of more than 42% of people surveyed

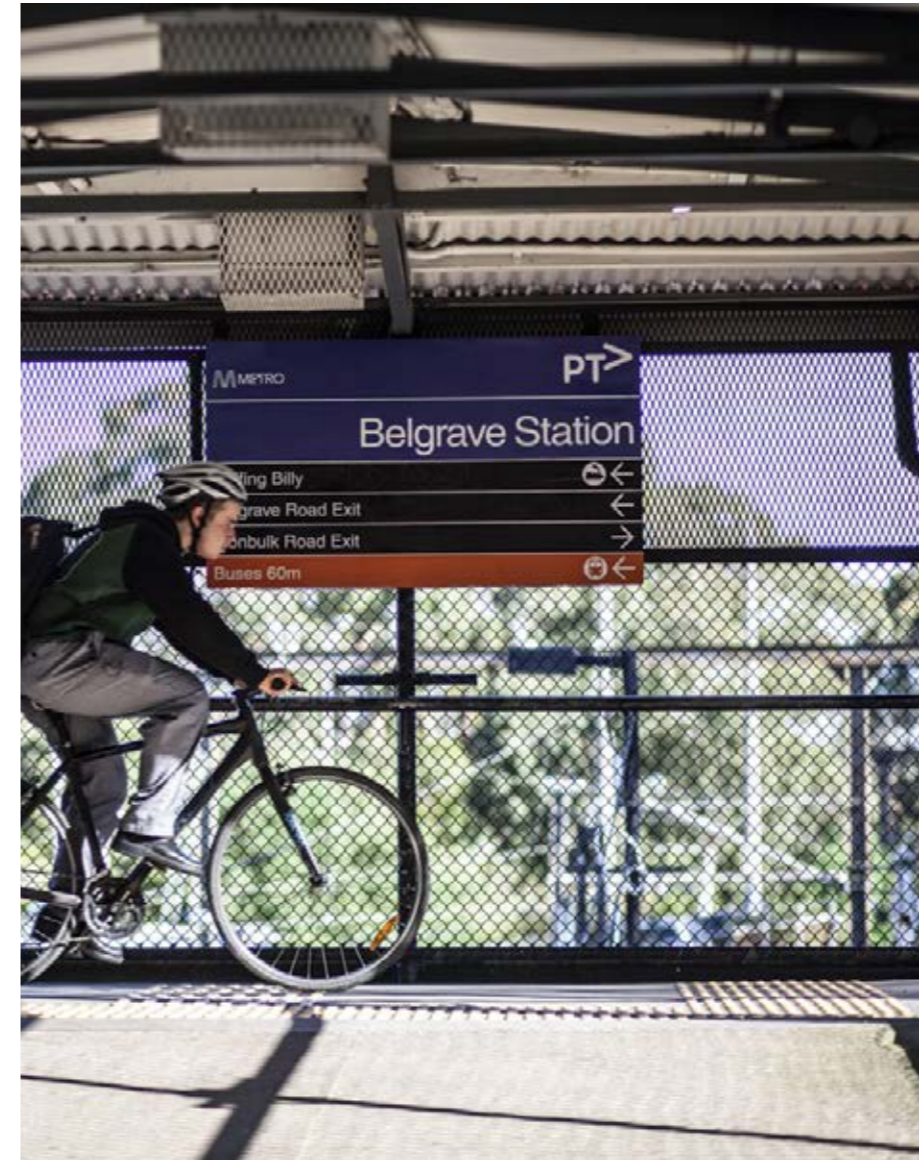
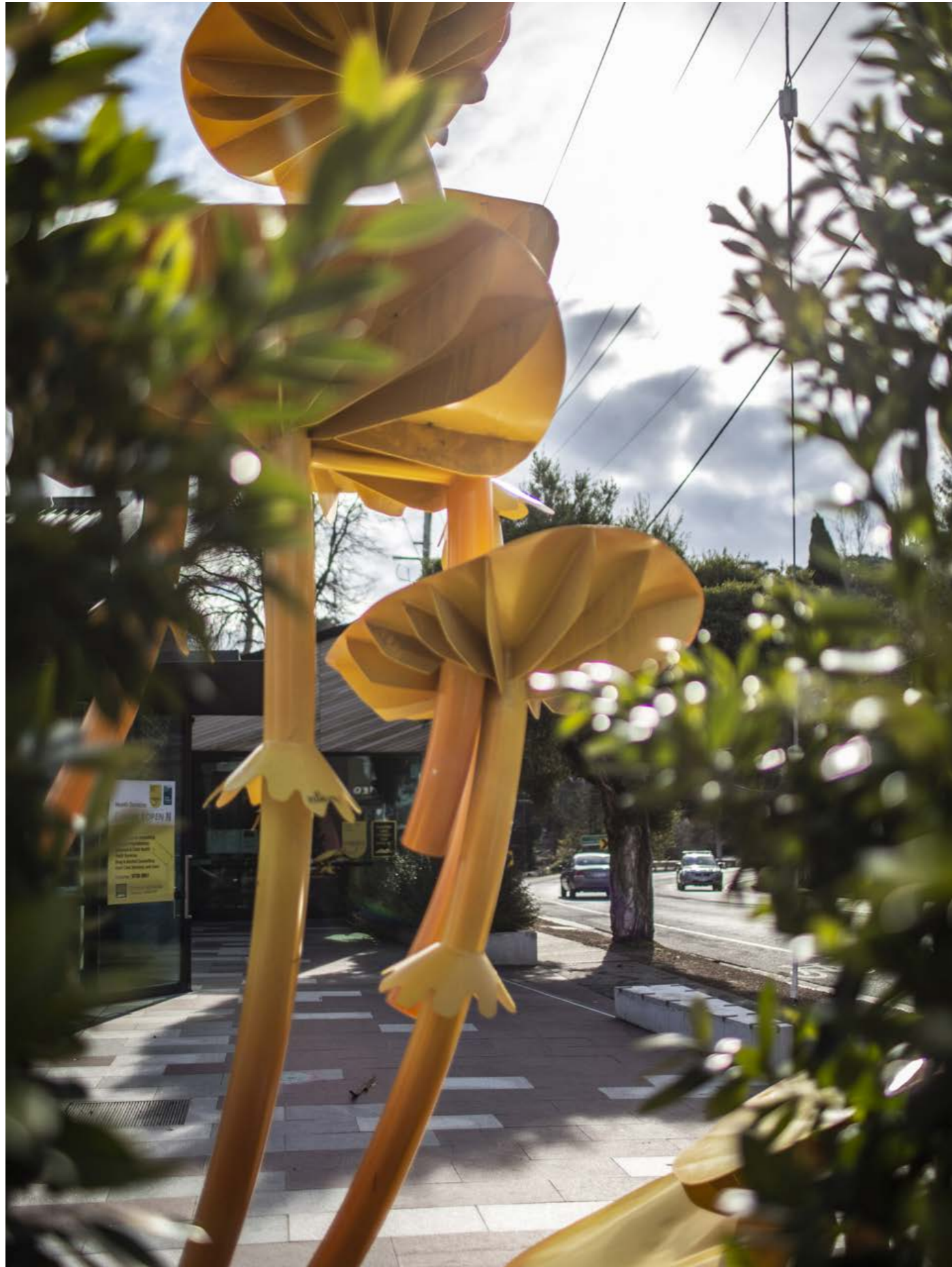
42%

Security & lighting was selected as the biggest concern by a third of participants



Over 70% of people surveyed are already affected by congestion around the station

70%

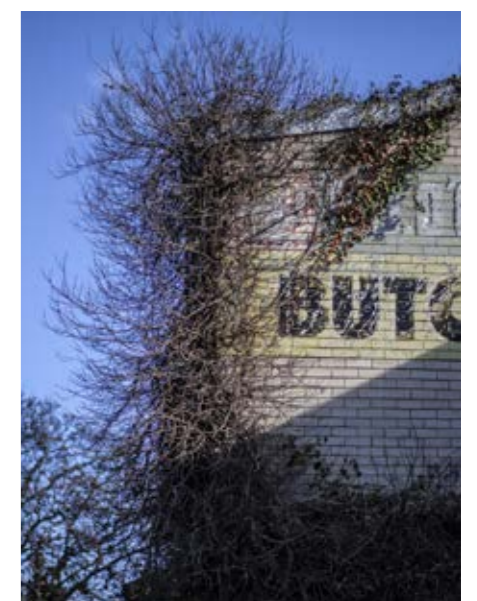


Next steps:

Over the coming months, the car park design will be finalised and will form the basis for a planning permit application to Yarra Ranges Council. Pending approval timelines, it is anticipated that construction of the car park will start in early 2021 and be complete by the end of that year.

Construction will significantly impact station users, as the multi-deck car park will be built on the site of the current car park. Every effort will be made to minimise the impact of this and provide alternative parking for commuters.

To view the full community engagement report and survey results, and for more information and progress updates, please visit victrack.com.au/belgrave





Belgrave 1

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