

# LIGHT SQUARE / WAUWI MASTER PLAN

**Phase 1: Listening & Exploring – Public Consultation Summary  
Report**

May 2024

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The City of Adelaide acknowledges that we are located on the traditional Country of the Kurna people of the Adelaide Plains and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

We recognise and respect their cultural heritage, beliefs and relationship with the land. We also extend that respect to visitors of other Aboriginal Language Groups and other First Nations.

## DOCUMENT PROPERTIES

### Contact for enquiries and proposed changes

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## Contents

Executive Summary .....	4
1. How We Engaged .....	6
2. Who We Heard From .....	7
3. What We Heard .....	9

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises phase 1 engagement findings that were used to inform the development of the draft Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan. The engagement identified issues, opportunities and ideas for the future of the Square.

Consultation for the draft Master Plan was informed by the City of Adelaide Community Consultation Policy.

Consultation occurred from February to May 2024 and included meetings and on-site visits with key stakeholders and a Your Say Adelaide survey which opened on 18 March 2024 and closed on 15 April 2024. Consultation included:

- 26 site visit meetings conducted facilitated by the Administration
- 81 Your Say survey submissions
- 3 written submissions.

A summary of the feedback is provided below.

### **On-Site visits - summary of consultation themes**

Phase 1 engagement revealed an expectation that the draft Master Plan be bold and transformational for the west end and invite increased use and enjoyment of the Square. Key themes are summarised as:

#### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture

- Support for a strong and visible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence holistically integrated in the design and creation of a culturally sensitive space.

#### Wellbeing, safety and inclusion

- Elements identified to contribute to increasing safety include improving lighting, improving road crossings and reducing the noise and physical impact of traffic.
- Support for the creation of a welcoming space that engenders community ownership and use including for students, local residents and businesses and visitors.

#### Movement

- Traffic identified as a detractor from using and staying in the Square, including safety concerns.
- Suggestions for reducing traffic impact and transforming the area to a pedestrian centred, well connected space with potential to reclaim some of the road surface for Park Land Purposes.

#### Character and activation

- The Square would benefit from the creation of a strong identity and purpose linked to its context within the west end, which is currently perceived to be lacking.
- Opportunity to create a flexible space that maximises and encourages multi-purpose elements and diversity of users, including responding to surrounding residents and students, creative industries and as an event space.

### Greening, trees, biodiversity and climate change resilience

- Support to retain and increase greening for multiple purposes including linking it to Kaurna culture, as a visual barrier and identity marker, increasing biodiversity and to create an oasis and to contribute to cooling and wellbeing.

### Interpretation of cultural features

- Opportunities to better inform users about the existing cultural features, including artworks and their contemporary value and purpose.

### Infrastructure

- A range of suggested additional features to attract users and improve amenity and inclusion, including consideration of a kiosk and public toilet.

### Sustainability

- Potential to explore on-site solar generation and include circular economy materials and products.

## **Your Say Adelaide Survey Feedback**

The most common survey responses related to the importance of:

- Greenery and creating a comfortable environment throughout the seasons
- Improved safety as a key element to being in and moving around the Square
- Regular and local events in the Square.

The majority of respondents are attracted to the Square:

- As a path of travel to other destinations
- To enjoy the trees and shade.

## **How this helped inform the Master Plan**

The consultation feedback has informed the draft Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan, as follows:

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture

- Principle to integrate cultural aims and outcomes of Kaurna Meyunna and other non-Kaurna people
- Strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture.

### Wellbeing, safety and inclusion

- Principle to create a green oasis and elements that can assist with active living and wellbeing
- Principle to decrease traffic impact and improve lighting for safety and character
- Principles for inclusiveness and diversity of cultures
- Strategies for safety and inclusion.

## Movement

- Principles for an improved movement experience
- Strategies for pedestrian movement; and vehicle movement.

## Character and activation

- Metric to increase usable open space
- Principles for a bold transformation of the Square and for a unique character informed by its position in the west end
- Principle as a connector to surrounding industries, sectors and precincts
- Strategies for events and programming; and public art.

## Interpretation of cultural features

- Principle to interpret heritage and cultural values

## Greening, trees, biodiversity and climate change resilience

- Options to increase green space from between 4% to 9%
- Principles to increase green space, biodiversity, cooling and shade
- Metrics to increase greenery, tree canopy and biodiverse planting area
- Strategies for greening; urban tree canopy; gardens; resilience and climate change.

## Infrastructure

- Principle to create an event space(s)
- Strategies to include elements that will support amenity and use of the Square.

## Sustainability

- Principle to highlight environmental sustainability components as a meaningful attractor for visitors and events
- Strategies to address and respond to climate change through exploring potential energy generation, maximising use of existing materials, selection of materials and products with lower embodied energy, and reducing hardscape.

# 1. HOW WE ENGAGED

Phase 1 engagement included in-person engagement with targeted stakeholders to identify issues, opportunities and ideas for the future of the Square, and an online survey and opportunity for written feedback using the Your Say Adelaide engagement platform.

## In-person engagement

From February to May 2024, 26 meetings and Light Square/Wauwi site visits were held with a range of stakeholders to identify issues and opportunities for the Square.

On-site meetings provided the opportunity to share knowledge and recognised the importance of understanding the daily usage of the Square from a range of community stakeholders. Site-specific issues were explored in detail, and learnings were shared with subsequent groups to compare common concerns and improvements.

## Your Say

A comprehensive consultation package was made available through Your Say Adelaide, from 18 March 2024 to 15 April 2024 including:

- Project information
- Background information
- Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
- Link to the *Adelaide Park Lands Management Strategy 2015-2025*
- Online methods to provide feedback via a survey as well as hard copy surveys available at libraries, community centres and customer service centre
- Administration contact details for further information.

Promotion of the consultation included:

- Notification of consultation posted on Council's social media platform
- Corflute signs with QR codes to the consultation were placed in 8 locations in and around Light Square / Wauwi
- Customer Contact Centre screen advertising of the consultation
- A total of 1,500 A6 postcards were distributed to libraries, community centres, Customer Contact Centre, and to residents and businesses near Light Square / Wauwi
- Article in the following newsletters promoting the consultation: AEDA City Business; Your Community; Your Say Adelaide.

## 2. WHO WE HEARD FROM

In total, 84 submissions were received comprised of:

- 3 email submissions
- 81 Your Say Adelaide responses.

### Written submissions

Written submissions received were:

- 3 email submissions from individual community members.

### Meetings and on-site visits

- Stakeholders were invited to meetings and on-site visits to better understand the issues and opportunities for the Square from the perspective of a range of users. Verbal feedback was noted during the meetings and then considered along with other feedback received. Stakeholders included:
  - Adelaide West End Association
  - Art Gallery of South Australia
  - Arts South Australia
  - Department for Infrastructure and Transport
  - Festival City Adelaide
  - Housing Choices South Australia
  - Kaura Yerta Aboriginal Corporation
  - Novatech Creative Event Technology
  - Office for Design and Architecture SA
  - Renew Adelaide
  - TAFE SA
  - University of South Australia, Enterprise Hub
  - University of South Australia Student Walk
  - Community members
  - Local residents, through attendance at the 2024 Neighbour Day Event hosted by Housing Choices South Australia
  - Adelaide Economic Development Agency
  - City of Adelaide's Reconciliation Committee
  - City of Adelaide's Access and Inclusion Advisory Panel
  - City of Adelaide Administration
  - City of Adelaide Volunteers.

### Your Say Adelaide

The Your Say Adelaide engagement platform resulted in 81 submissions to the engagement. Of the people who responded, 40% were city residents, 6% were North Adelaide residents, 31% were residents from adjoining councils, 19% were residents from other metropolitan council areas, and 3% from non -metropolitan council areas.



A summary of activity on the platform follows:

- 533 'Aware' visitors: visitors, which could be individuals or individuals visiting on behalf of organisations, made 614 visits to the Your Say Adelaide page (which means some visited more than once).
- 244 'Informed' visitors: these are visitors that explored the consultation materials more closely to learn more about the project by browsing through the consultation information available.
- 81 'Engaged' visitors: these are the people who submitted feedback through the online engagement tools.
- There were 104 document downloads/views from the Your Say Adelaide page, including:
  - 74 downloads of the Your Say Adelaide engagement pack for development of the Light Square/Wauwi Master Plan.
  - 22 views of the frequently asked questions.
  - 8 views of the key dates for the project.

### 3. WHAT WE HEARD

Key themes and feedback have been summarised from what we heard via submissions, Your Say Adelaide and face-to-face meetings.

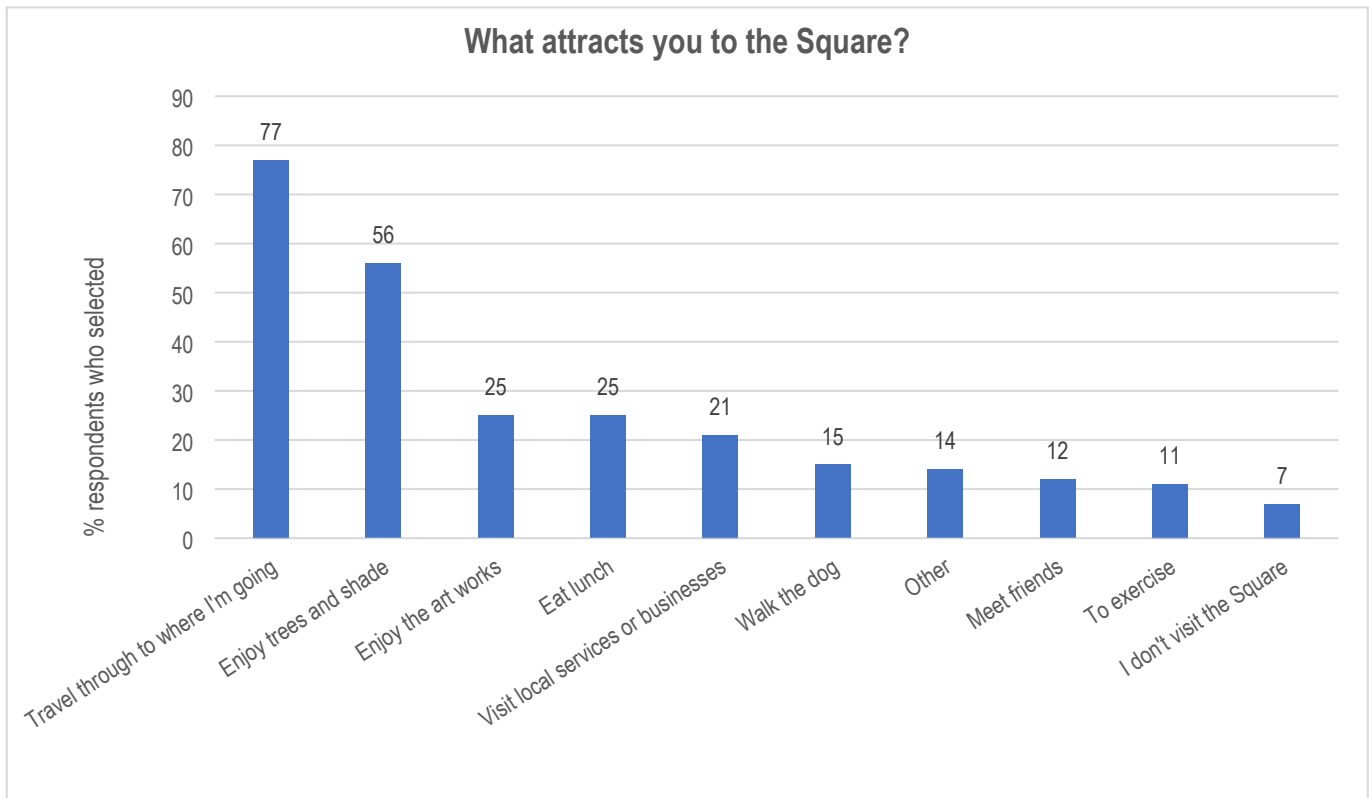
This feedback, along with relevant background data, has helped inform development of the draft Master Plan.

The responses from the Your Say Adelaide survey multiple choice questions highlight the importance of greening, having a space of quiet and refuge, and that safety is a key element for respondents to enjoy being in, and around the Square, [note that respondents could select multiple answers to each question].

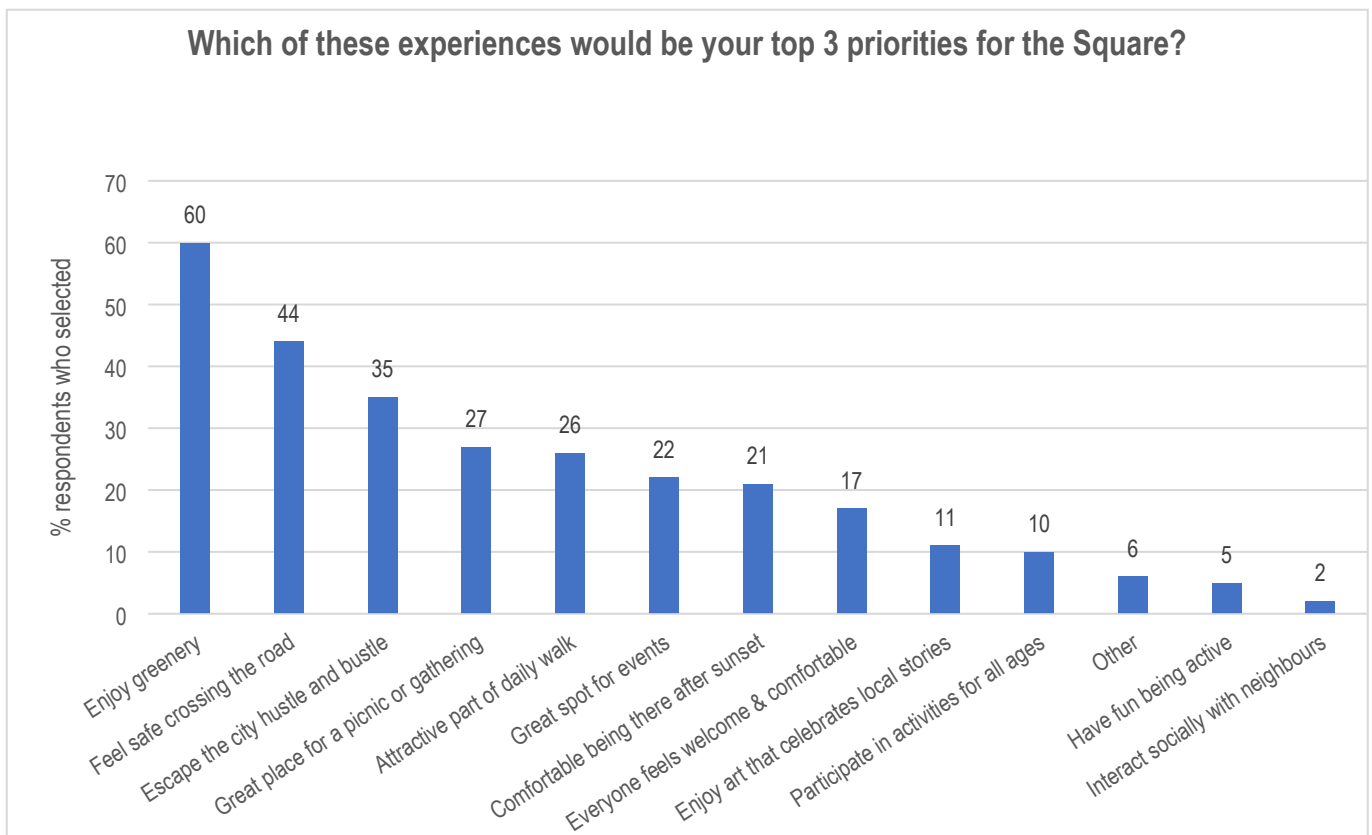
- The majority of respondents are attracted to the Square to travel through to other destinations (77%) and to enjoy the trees and shade (56%) (see graph 1)
- The top 3 priorities selected for the Square are to enjoy the greenery (60%); feel safe crossing the road (44%); and to escape the city hustle and bustle (35%) (see graph 2)
- The majority of respondents selected a safety related feature as a key element needed to enjoy being in, and moving around, the Square: safety at intersections and crossings (80%); well-lit paths (52%); and safe cycling lanes (51%) (see graph 3)
- The top 3 activities that respondents want to have in the Square are: regular local and free events (56%); interactive art (32%); and community gardening (26%) (see graph 4)
- Most important elements for enjoying green space were related to comfort and calm, (shade in summer, sunny spots in winter (59%); quiet spots for relaxing (44%)) and spaces for nature (big trees) (49%); trees and plants for birds and butterflies (44%) (see graph 5).

Responses to the survey indicate that City of Adelaide resident priorities are reflected in the overall responses. That is that greenery, safety and accessible spaces for events and socialising are identified as important components and functions for the Square.

**Phase 1 engagement – Your Say Adelaide survey results**

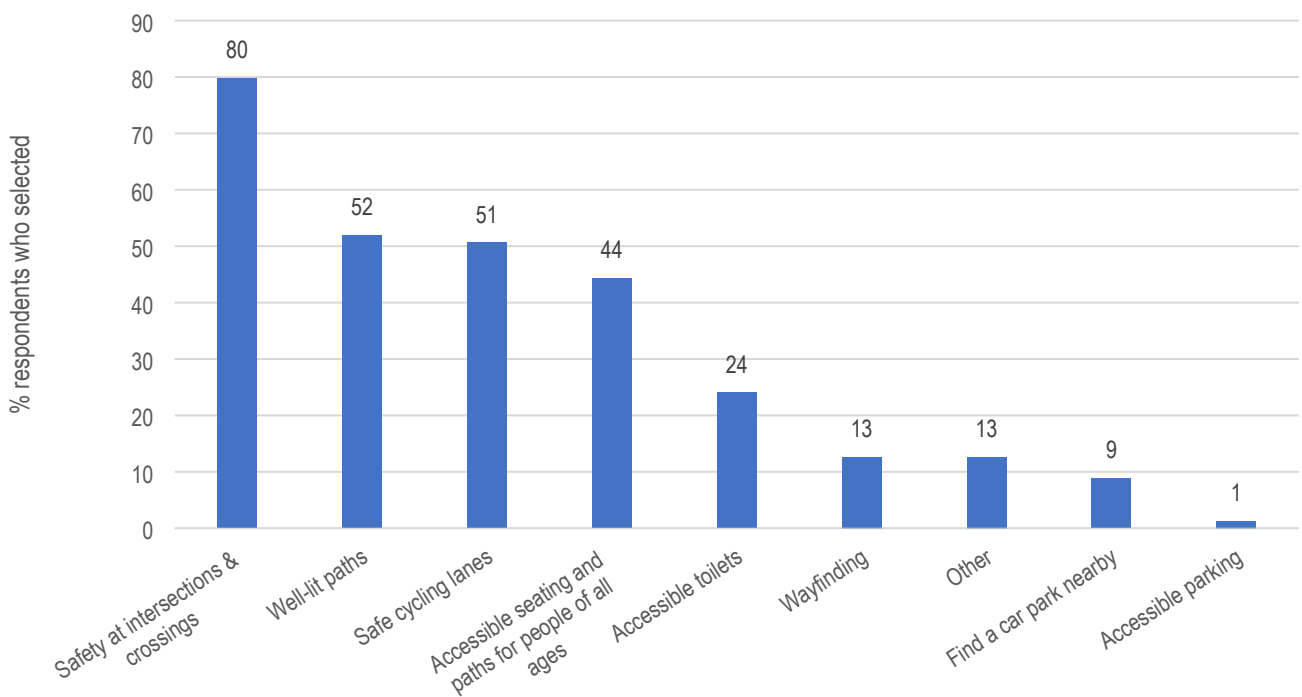


**Graph 1**



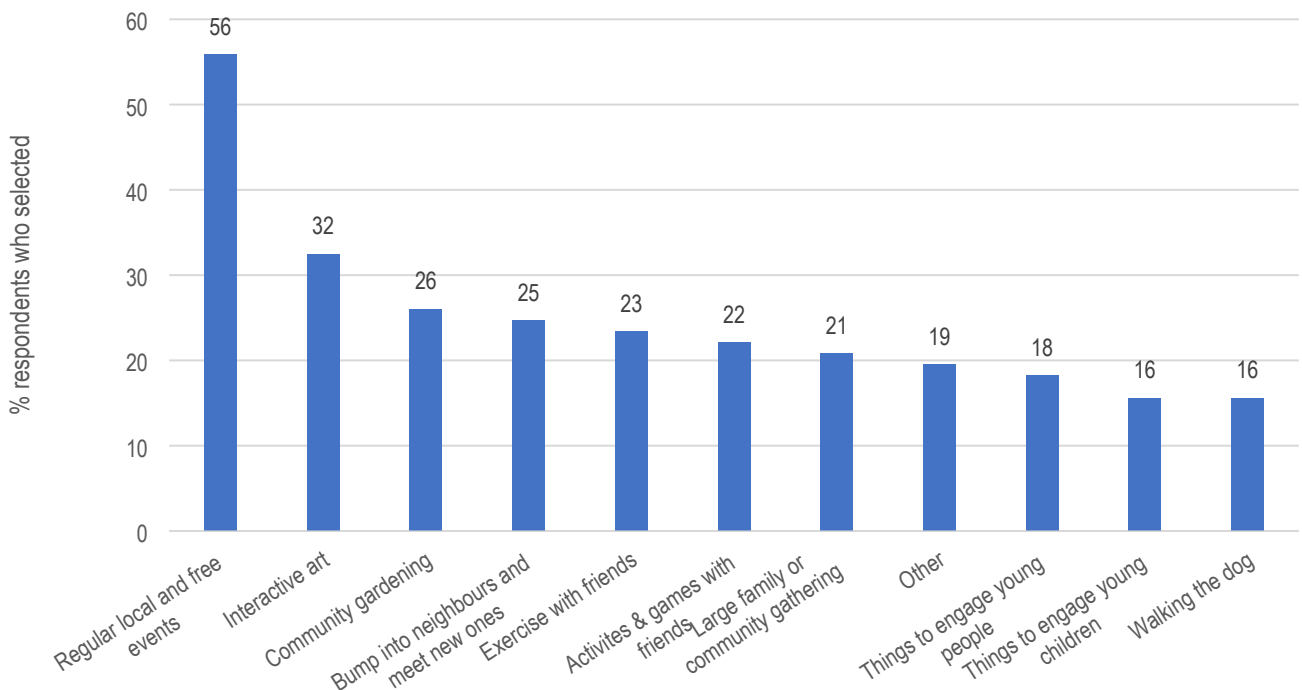
**Graph 2**

### What are your top 3 ingredients for great experiences in and moving around the Square?

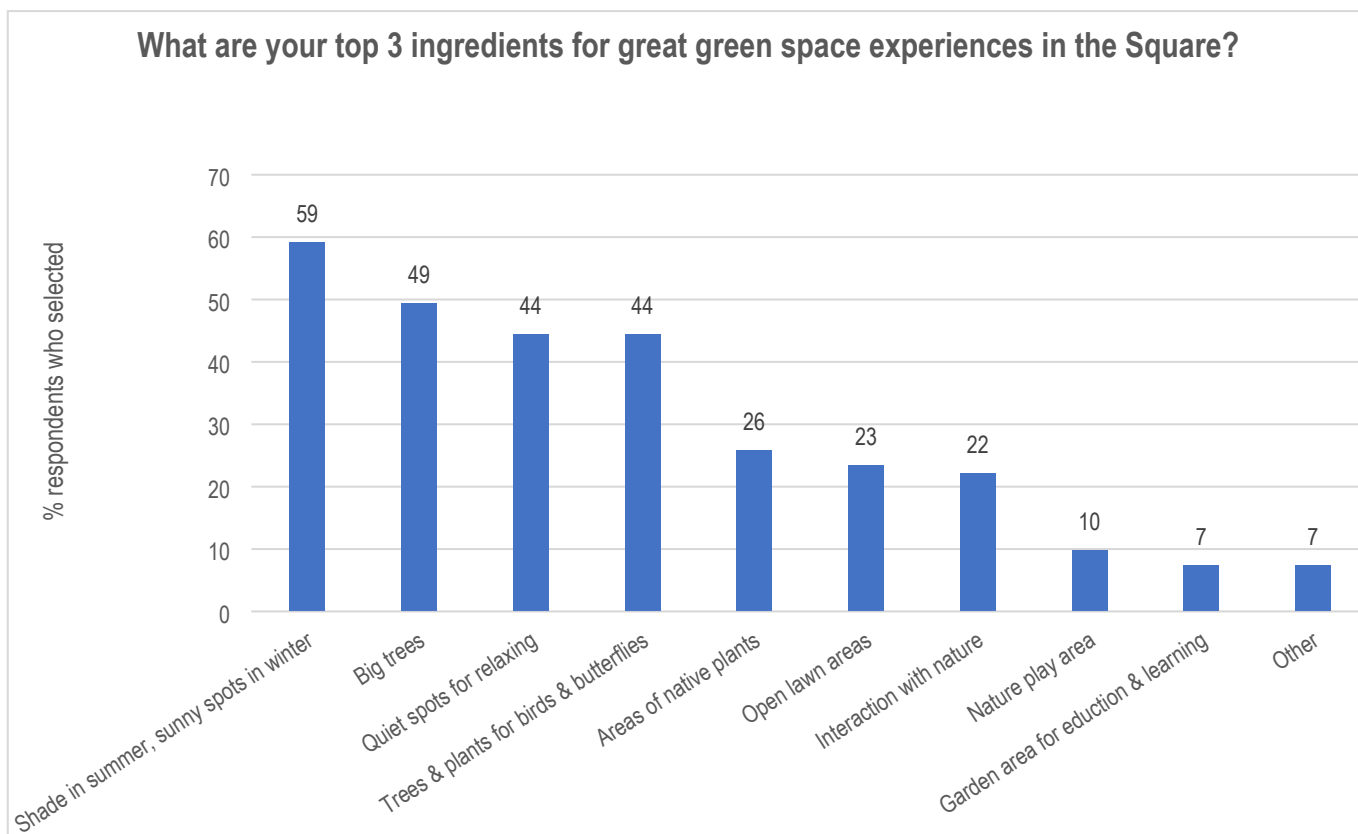


Graph 3

### What are your top 3 ingredients for great activity and community experiences in the Square?



Graph 4



Graph 5

### Issues and Opportunities

A summary of issues and opportunities arising from the on-site visits, meetings and Your Say Adelaide responses is provided in Table 1.

The issues and opportunities were analysed along with relevant City of Adelaide strategic documents and supporting data to define the key strategies for the draft Master Plan. The table below also indicates the sections of the draft Master Plan where consideration of feedback is reflected.

Table 1: Summary of Issues and Opportunities

Key theme	Summary of identified issues and opportunities	Consideration of feedback
<b>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture</b>	<p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Square currently lacks Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visibility and input</li> <li>The lack of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander visibility is highlighted by the strong presence of colonial history</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have strong and visible Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander presence holistically integrated in the design</li> </ul>	Informed the Culture (part 2); and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture (part 3) sections of the draft Master Plan

Key theme	Summary of identified issues and opportunities	Consideration of feedback
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a culturally sensitive space</li> <li>• Plantings, design and other elements to provide educational opportunities of past and continual living culture</li> <li>• Integrate Kaurna and non-Kaurna culture throughout the Square</li> </ul>	
<b>Wellbeing, safety and inclusion</b>	<p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noise, pollution, speed and volume of traffic deter use of the Square and make it feel unsafe</li> <li>• Crossing points to the Square are difficult to navigate and feel unsafe including for people living with a disability</li> <li>• Lighting in and around the Square is not adequate at night and contributes to safety concerns</li> <li>• Limited visibility of multiculturalism</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a quiet, oasis/refuge space and a place of connection (including to nature) and wellbeing</li> <li>• Incorporate a third space in particular for students</li> <li>• Increase ownership and use to increase sense of safety</li> <li>• Increase amenity for users, including rough sleepers</li> <li>• Improve lighting to assist with night movement to key destinations, and to create a sense of place and beauty</li> <li>• Use crime prevention through environmental design approach including for gender based violence</li> <li>• Support local residents for whom the park is their front yard</li> <li>• Reduce impact of traffic to help create a calm, safe and welcoming space and improve crossing points</li> <li>• Support inclusion of multicultural art and an inclusive approach for creation of artworks</li> </ul>	<p>Informed the Place; and Access (part 2); Safety and Inclusion; Lighting; and Pedestrian Movement (part 3) sections of the draft Master Plan</p>

Key theme	Summary of identified issues and opportunities	Consideration of feedback
<b>Movement</b>	<p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Traffic volume, speed, presence, noise, visuals and confusing flow were identified as barriers to usability and appeal of the Square and creates safety concerns including for active transport modes</li> <li>• There are multiple crossing points which were perceived as difficult to navigate and felt unsafe and difficult/inadequate for mobility devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multiple opportunities have been proposed to address the traffic related issues including to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce traffic speed</li> <li>○ Explore traffic calming measures</li> <li>○ Reduce parking and/or traffic lanes and/or close sections of road and return them to a Park Lands Purpose (would also increase green space)</li> <li>○ Improve crossings including for better access for all</li> <li>○ Separated/protected bicycle lane</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Create an accessible pedestrian centred area to further activate the streets and increase safety</li> <li>• Create a next practice active transport and mobility device centred movement network</li> <li>• Create a connected, accessible, legible movement experience</li> </ul>	<p>Informed the Place; and Access (part 2); Safety and Inclusion; Pedestrian Movement; and Vehicle Movement; (part 3) sections of the draft Master Plan</p>
<b>Character and Activation</b>	<p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited attractions and ambience and surrounding traffic deters use</li> <li>• Lacks strong character/identity</li> <li>• Northern section perceived as isolated/disconnected/underutilised and feels unsafe</li> <li>• Visible business vacancy rates around the Square</li> <li>• Area perceived as unsafe and desire for activation of the Square</li> </ul>	<p>Informed the Culture; Place (part 2); Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Culture; National Heritage Values; Public Art; and Events and Programming; (part 3) sections of the draft Master Plan</p>

Key theme	Summary of identified issues and opportunities	Consideration of feedback
	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balance use of the space for events, public access, residential wellbeing and recreational use</li> <li>• Create a bold vision that changes interaction with the space defines its character and purpose</li> <li>• Foster re-engagement with the Square as a destination and link to the west end arts and entertainment precinct</li> <li>• Draw out the unique historical and existing character and opportunities in the west end precinct and its context within the city and celebrate the diversity, creativity and culture</li> <li>• Include a resident focus for current and future needs of a growing residential population and to foster connection</li> <li>• Support the arts and education functions through better connectivity and opportunities in the Square</li> <li>• Reduce impact of traffic to transform the Square's association as a park in the middle of a roundabout</li> <li>• Create an accessible space that provides opportunities for inclusive recreation, social interaction and enjoyment</li> <li>• An event space(s) with a clear identity about the type of events to accommodate</li> <li>• A flexible space that maximises and encourages multi-purpose elements and diversity of users</li> <li>• Responsive to different day and night-time uses and aspirations and support activation of and connection with buildings fronting and surrounding the Square</li> <li>• Showcase artworks in the Square</li> <li>• Provide interpretation and educational opportunities of the cultural and heritage values</li> <li>• Explore potential for amphitheatre including potential for sunken courtyard in front of TAFE to serve this purpose</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Greening, trees, biodiversity and climate</b></p>	<p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Succession planting needed to retain tree canopy and shade over time</li> </ul>	<p>Informed the Environment (part 2); Greening; and Resilience and</p>



Key theme	Summary of identified issues and opportunities	Consideration of feedback
<b>change resilience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low biodiversity in the Square</li> <li>• Limited diversity of plantings</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend green edges of the Square into surrounding streets to signify distinct entry to the Adelaide Park Lands and address gaps in tree canopy</li> <li>• Increase tree canopy and shade for amenity and cooling</li> <li>• Integrate water sensitive urban design if road boundaries are redeveloped</li> <li>• Consider integration of space/s for nature play</li> <li>• Potential for the Square as a main artery linking biodiversity across the city</li> <li>• Reduce impact of traffic through greening</li> <li>• Increase diversity of plantings, native plants and colour</li> <li>• Reconsider rose garden in northern section</li> <li>• Provide greater opportunities for connection with nature and greening to support wellbeing</li> <li>• Link plantings to Kaurna knowledge and uses and provide educational opportunities</li> </ul>	Climate Change (part 3) sections of the draft Master Plan
<b>Interpretation of cultural features</b>	<p><b>Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William Light monument poorly interpreted and water feature surrounding the monument is a barrier and has unclear purpose/not supported</li> <li>• Artwork could be better interpreted</li> </ul> <p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased provision of interpretation with a focus on environmental, Kaurna culture, artworks and historical values of the Square</li> </ul>	Informed the Culture (part 2); National Heritage Values; and Public Art (part 3) sections of the draft Master Plan
<b>Sustainability</b>	<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore installation of solar generation (including embedded in shade structures) and potential use such as for equipment charging</li> <li>• Explore opportunity to trial recycled content materials and products</li> </ul>	Informed the Resilience and Climate Change (part 3) section of the draft Master Plan