

Watsonia Town Square  
Community Reference Group  
Meeting #1: Tuesday 25 May 2021

## **Preliminary Ideas Summary**

### **Accessibility and Inclusion**

- Place for people of all ages to meet, including youth friendly
- Acknowledgement of local aboriginal history
- Access for all abilities, including the facilities
- Create shallow grades to flatten the area
- Include tactile markers for the visually impaired

### **Construction**

- “Shop Local” campaign during construction
- Careful consideration of construction timing – avoid peak periods and aim to finish construction in October

### **Public Toilets**

- New toilets for Watsonia
- Accessible – Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant
- Move public toilets to an area that is visible with enhancing lighting

### **Design Features**

- Include features that create a visual interest and invite people to sit and dwell
  - Comfortable seating
  - Personalised pavers – could include the Watsonia logo
  - Shelter that is weatherproof
  - Public Art
  - Playgrounds (all ages)
  - Active playful features e.g. water play/ artwork
  - Sensory experience
- Location of square to be spread across the two sides of Watsonia Road
- Wayfinding features
  - Central signage/ directory in the square
  - Wayfinding for shared user trails
- Enhance safety (day/night)
  - Include additional lighting

### **Events**

- Adaptable/ Flexible space
  - Cars and people
  - Could involve an extension to the library
  - Moveable Stage

- Pop up spaces
  - Mini golf
  - Markets
  - Moonlight cinemas

### Sustainability

- Environmentally friendly
- Green space
  - Grass
  - Planting with shade
  - Timber seats
- Solar Power lighting

### Technology / Futureproofing

- Future thinking
  - Public wi-fi
  - Bike and car charger

### Transport

- Remove roundabout
- Reduce intersection complexity
- Include traffic signals
- Cater for local and destination traffic only
- Connectedness between east/ west sides of roads (hostile crossings) including the railway bridge
- Consider the need for buses above station – not conducive to minimizing traffic
- Car parking
  - Traders level on multideck to create more customer carparking in the strip
  - Relocate car parking to edges of town square
- Cycling
  - Bike friendly features
  - Bike track and road opposite RSL, not in front of RSL
  - End of trip facilities/ bike parking

### Pedestrian priority

- Prioritise movement of people (reduce stress)
- Single town centre of large critical mass with strong connections to walking and cycle paths
- Integrated transport connections. Shared road with pedestrians first.

### Other

- Opportunities for additional cafes
- Power Line Towers
  - Consider removal of towers outside of library
  - Change into monopoles