

## Otter Street partial road discontinuance

### Submissions made under section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989

#	Submission
1	<p>I am writing to retract my support for the pocket park at Otter and Smith. Recent parking and traffic issues for the residents in Bedford Street and the final park design have changed my mind. I am now against the park.</p> <p>From the outset I was very optimistic about what the park could be. Too optimistic as it turns out. There will be no genuine amenity from the park, but it could be an exciting opportunity architecturally. Alas, it's quite boring, uninspired and clearly a cheap and cheerful option. I believe it will only serve to foster the most unpleasant aspects of Smith street and won't deliver as the exciting hub I was expecting.</p> <p>My main concern is that vehicle access for Bedford Street residents will be reduced to Perry street from Smith and from Otter from Wellington. Which means, as is the case currently, we have to circle our home for often 20 minutes to find a car park. The current parking situation in Bedford Street simply doesn't work for residents and is virtually untenable for us. We are often left without anywhere to park.</p> <p>So the uninspiring park is not worth the added pain of having to drive around a much larger circuit to come back to Bedford to try again. For me, there beneficial value of the park design doesn't outweigh the negative parking aspects we already experience on a daily basis.</p>
2	<p>As a resident of Bedford Street (in between Perry and Johnston Street) I am still very concerned about the increase in traffic on Perry Street that the closure of Otter Street will cause. I haven't seen any suggestions/discussion around what actual planning is taking place in relation to this.</p> <p>Also, reading through the consultation report, I feel that 55 responses is inadequate to proceed with this proposal, for such a high density suburb as Collingwood. That number is hardly representative of the amount of residents in the area-especially when the pandemic has restricted people's ability to engage with ideas and proposals outside of their immediate covid-responses.</p> <p>As a resident in Collingwood for over 25 years, the increase in apartments/developments is at times overwhelming. Instead of road closures, I would expect that Yarra would be working with developers to provide access to green spaces to residents and neighbours of their multi storey developments.</p> <p>I believe that further consultation is required.</p>
3	<p>I live at [redacted] Bedford Street. I'm happy you're putting the park there, but why are you putting more parking on Smith Street? We know that car parks on Smith Street are a dooring risk for cyclists. Instead of making more dangerous spaces on Smith Street, why not extend the park out further? I provided this feedback to the last consultation but clearly it wasn't taken seriously. Why doesn't Yarra take dooring risk on its arterials seriously?</p>

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4	<p>I live in Bedford street and have done so for over 20 years.</p> <p>Our small house does not have permanent off street parking so we rely on street parking. Currently, in Bedford and Perry streets, we have 8 permit spaces and lots of one hour parking.</p> <p>Bedford street is a very popular place for people to park, especially since the bakery opened up. We have a VERY hard time finding somewhere to park our car if we ever want to come home in the middle of the day. We loop around the one way streets via Perry street (the small loop) and Otter street (the longer loop). I often have to do 5 or 6 loops before I can find a space has become available.</p> <p>If Otter street is closed, we will need to loop all the way down Stanley, then left into Otter and then right into Bedford. The mere idea of this raises anxiety as it is already so hard.</p> <p>PLEASE if this goes ahead, may it only be on the condition that much more permit parking is allocated in Bedford and Perry streets and that it is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*From 5pm daily</li> <li>*All day Saturday (as well as Sunday)</li> <li>*1hr parking is monitored properly, every day.</li> </ul>
5	<p>"I am a resident of [redacted], Collingwood, which is on the corner of Bedford and Perry Sts. We are directly affected by the traffic discontinuance due to the Otter St Park. I am writing on behalf of myself and my husband [redacted], who is also a resident of [redacted].</p> <p>Whilst we are supportive of a park, we are not supportive of the traffic discontinuance at Otter St and Smith St, which prevents access to Otter St from Smith St.</p> <p>The rationale for our lack of support is threefold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Traffic on Smith St is already very heavy. Traffic already backs up at the Smith St/Johnson St intersection past the turn into Perry St. We often need to use Otter St and then Bedford St to access our property as a result</li> <li>2. Cars often use Bedford St from Smith St as an alternative route to reach Johnston St due to the above traffic. Closing this will push even more traffic back to Smith</li> <li>3. Closing Otter/Smith will also push a significant amount of traffic down Perry St, which is a narrow one-way road and not suitable for heavier traffic</li> </ol> <p>Rather, we would be supportive of one-way access from Otter/Smith towards Wellington, alongside the proposed park. This would ameliorate the traffic issues identified above."</p>
6	<p>I'm in favour of the park. Would be nice to have bicycle access to otter St though</p>
7	<p>Great. Get on with it. City of Yarra takes too long to progress from glossy website/ brochure etc to implementation.</p>
8	<p>Streets Alive Yarra supports the proposal.</p>

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9	<p>I live on Perry St, just east of Bedford St, about 100 metres from the proposed park. The addition of the park is great for the area.</p> <p>My family rarely drives. On the occasion we do drive the road discontinuance will not cause us any inconvenience.</p> <p>I hope that you can monitor traffic levels on Perry St before and after and, if necessary, enact measures to reduce rat-running and make the street safer. Cars speed down the hill past the Perry St entrance to Collingwood Yards</p>