

Acknowledgements

This strategy has been prepared with the support of the staff of Blur Architecture. Special thanks also to Longmore Landscape Architecture and Trafficworks for their contributions.

Blur acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, upon whose land we operate. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.



Executive Summary

Much has been written in recent times about the importance of the public realm in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for adequate active and passive recreation spaces. This however, has served only to exacerbate an underlying issue in that much of our urban landscape has prioritised the car over the pedestrian. What if we were to turn the tables and create spaces that provided a safe and attractive place for people to walk, sit or gather? This document proposes just that - and outlines a streetscape revitalisation strategy for Palmer Street in Fitzroy. Palmer Street is an east-west street that connects Brunswick Street through to the Melbourne Museum and presents a unique opportunity to create a mid-block connection that bridges together a number of cultural landmarks.

We invite the City of Yarra to facilitate this project.

The City of Yarra prepared an Open Space Strategy in 2020. On the back of extensive survey data, the Strategy seeks to set out preferred locations for new open space and improvements to the existing open space network to improve amenity for both residents and visitors.

In addition to this Strategy, the City of Yarra more recently developed the Brunswick Street Masterplan, which outlines a number of civic and streetscape enhancement projects to revitalise the area.

Notably, both documents did not propose any works within Palmer Street.

Why Palmer Street?

As detailed in Figure 1 and 2, Palmer Street is a midblock connection that ties Nicholson Street (west) through to Brunswick Street (east). The existing traffic/ landscape island within Palmer Street prevents vehicle connectivity and lends itself to pedestrian and cyclist usage. Flanked by the Melbourne Museum and the iconic Social Housing buildings, Palmer Street ties together two cultural landmarks in a way that is not currently recognised.

With the Ursula Frayne Memorial Chapel, the Brotherhood of St Laurence and the Fitzroy Mosque also located along Palmer Street, there is an opportunity to create a 'cultural bridge' that improves pedestrian connectivity within the City of Yarra. Underpinned by this layering of cultural diversity, Palmer Street also ties together the Carlton Gardens (west) and Atherton Gardens/Reserve (east) – providing municipal-wide benefits in improving links to larger open space areas.





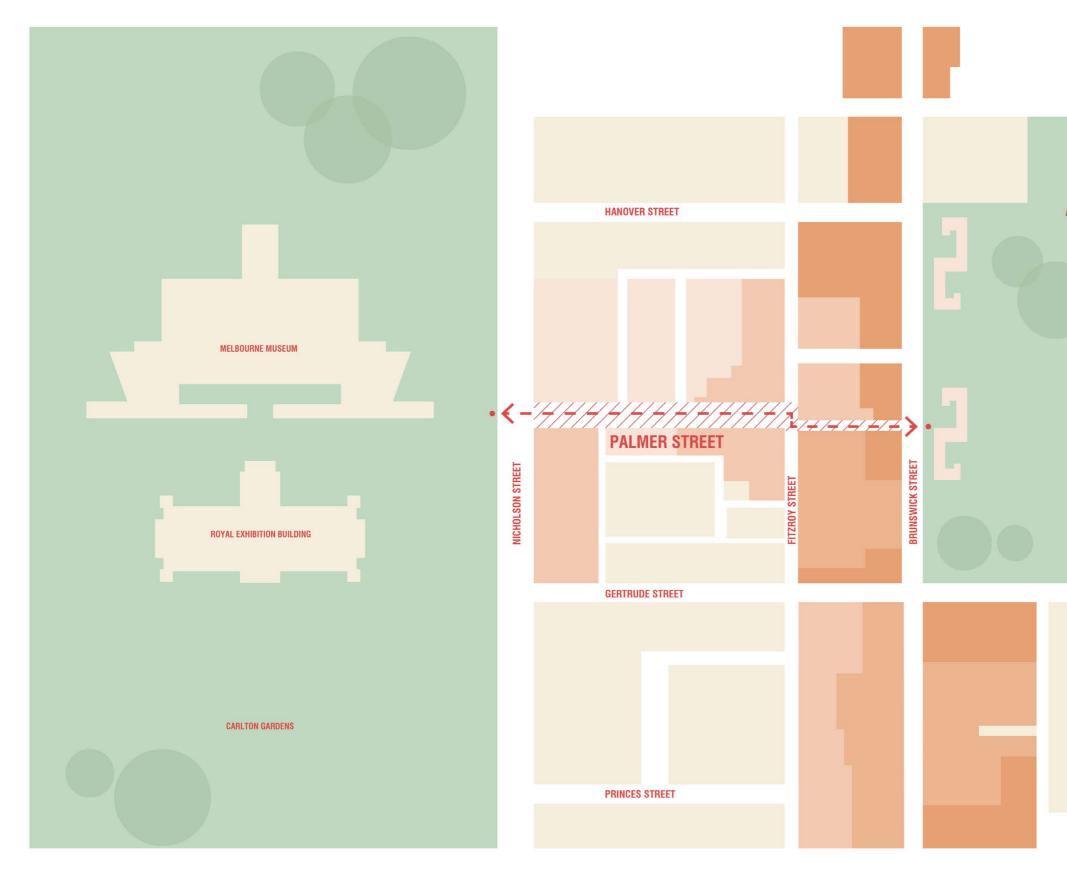
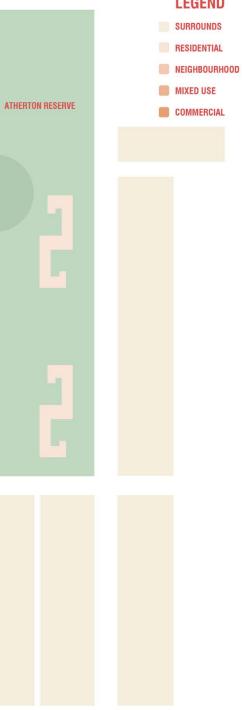


Figure 1: Site Context



LEGEND

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Figure 2: Site Analysis



LEGEND

	NARROW FOOTPATH
\leftarrow	HIGH FOOT TRAFFIC
\sim	TRAFFIC NOISE
\leftarrow	SIGHTLINES
	SHOPPING STRIP
	PLACES OF SIGNIFICANC
	FOCUS AREAS



A review of Council's existing strategic work provides a strong basis for streetscape enhancement projects such as this, and key findings are summarised below.

Open Space Strategy:

The top three values for open space across the municipality are: trees (73%), a place to relax and unwind (70%) and the feeling of space (61%);

On a daily basis, local streets for exercise are the most frequently used open space, with some of the most frequently used facilities being walking paths (80%) and seating (68%). This was reinforced within the findings for Fitzroy specifically, with most exercise taking place in the form of jogging and cycling;

Residents saw that being outside was a key to health and wellbeing and, after the importance of trees, most values centred on the belief that open spaces are places to relax and unwind, escape the city and the traffic, and enjoy the feeling of space.

Trees and shade were recognised as being highly important, with respondents aware that trees and vegetation are required to help reduce the heat island effect.

Safe connected routes can help encourage cycling as a mode of transport and make cycling more accessible for children. Fitzroy residents also valued the accessibility of open space at a much higher rate than the municipal average and also identified garden beds, flowers and the quiet are also of high importance.

Brunswick Street Masterplan:

- More greenery trees and shade, planter boxes, vertical greenery, garden beds.
- Friendlier, safer, and more accessible footpaths for pedestrians.
- More places to sit and gather.
- More public art.
- Improved safety, particularly at night.
- More bins and street cleaning.

Within this context, there is clear support for the revitalisation of Palmer Street and the project will bring together a range of disjointed cultural facilities through a cohesive streetscape enhancement project.

Precedents

The City of Yarra is home to a number of similar types of projects and examples are provided below. This proposal seeks to build upon these examples.

Kerr Street

A new seating space for the corner of Kerr & Brunswick Street.

Otter Street

Proposed road discontinuance to introduce a park.

Rose Street

Turning Rose Street into a shared zone with pocket parks, seating and art installations.



Figure 3: Precedent Examples and Locations

Proposal

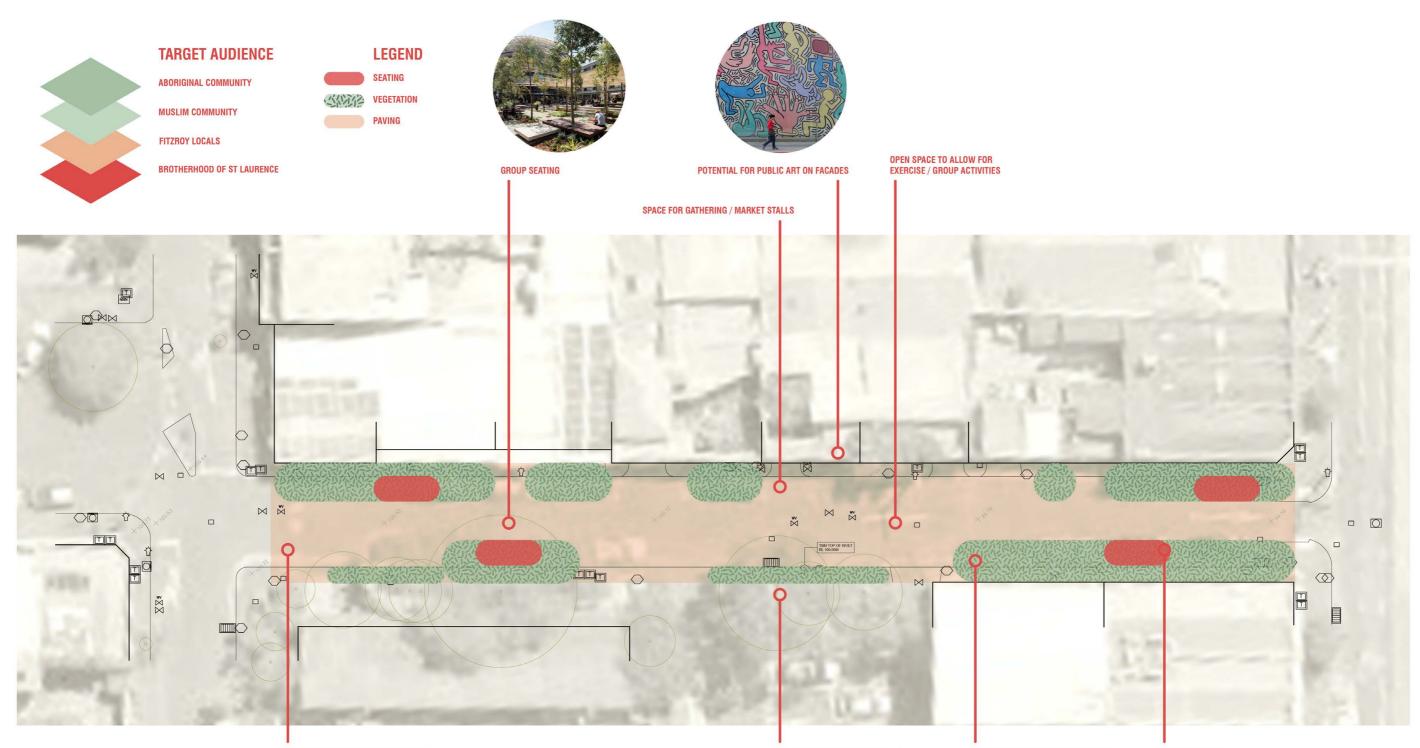
This streetscape enhancement project seeks to build on the findings within both the Open Space Strategy and Brunswick Street Masterplan to recognise an opportunity to create an east-west pedestrian connection.

It is proposed that the project is delivered in two key stages; being:

- Stage 1: Palmer Street, east (between Fitzroy Street and Brunswick Street); and
- Stage 2: Palmer Street, west (between Nicholson Street and Fitzroy Street).

This document deals with Stage 1 and forms the basis of future works in Stage 2. The traffic analysis attached to this report also outlines how car parking within Stage 2 could be altered with no change to the existing parking provisions.

Stage 1 works are focused on providing a dedicated shared space that prioritises pedestrian connectivity and delivers improved landscape, seating, street art and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) opportunities - see Figures 4, 5 and 6 over. Further detailed plans can be found in Attachment A.



SPACE FOR GATHERING / MARKET STALLS

UTILISE EXISTING WIRE FENCE FOR PROPOSED VEGETATION

RAIN GARDENS FOR WATER CATCHMENT





Figure 4: Stage 1 Proposal

Blur Architecture

INTIMATE SEATING





Figure 5: View from Brunswick Street





Figure 6: View from Fitzroy Street



Next Steps

This document invites the City of Yarra to take a lead role in recognising an opportunity to deliver the Palmer Street 'Cultural Bridge.' This document forms the basis of a masterplan and provides a suggested design outcome that can be adopted by Council and provides a range of municipal-wide benefits.

Prior to formal delivery of the proposed works, it is suggested to create a 'soft implementation' of the project by utilising temporary measures such as planter boxes and movable furniture to introduce the concept to the community and assess use patterns to refine the project scope.

A final master plan can then be prepared and costed, for implementation by Council.



info@blurarchitecture.com

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Attachment A

Landscape Concept Plan by Longmore Landscape Architecture



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office@longmorela.com



PALMER STREET UPGRADE LANDSCAPE WORKS

OVERALL LANDSCAPE SCALE N.T.S

LONGMORE landscape architects

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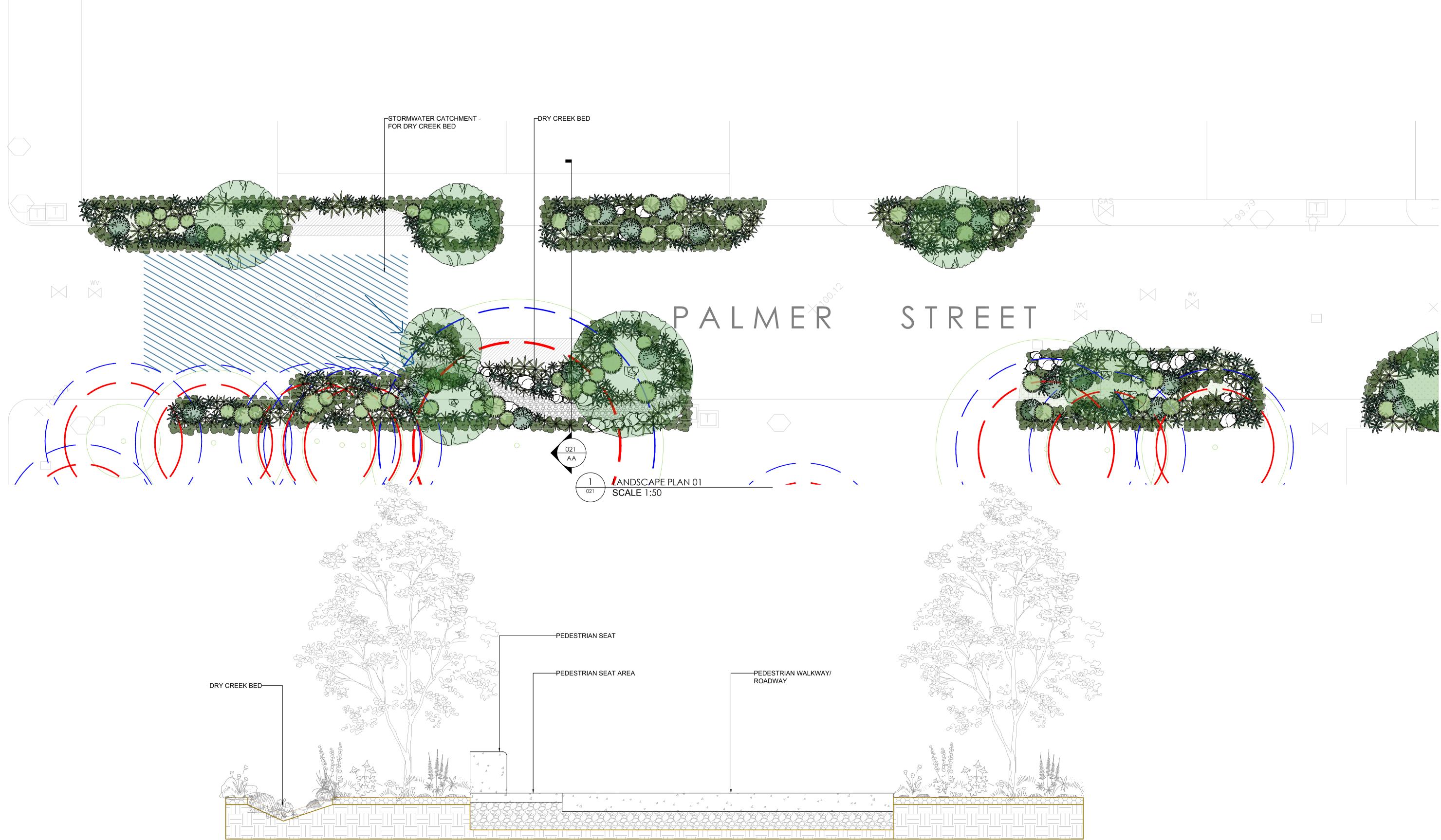
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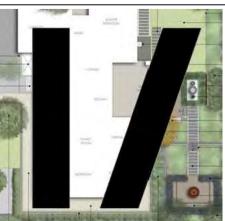
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office@longmorela.com





PALMER ST LANDSCAPE SECTION SCALE 1:20



LONGMORE landscape architects

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PROJECT

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LANDSCAPE PLAN - ZOOM 1

PALMER RD, FITZROY

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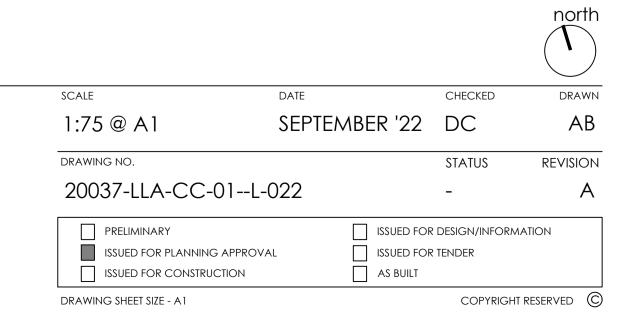
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Attachment B

Parking and Swept Path Analysis by Trafficworks



1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Rd Ivanhoe Vic 3079 PO Box 417 Ivanhoe Vic 3079 ABN: 59 125 488 977 Ph: (03) 9490 5900 www.trafficworks.com.au

Project No. 190939

22 July 2020

Ahmed Osman Associate / Town Planner BDN Projects 3/64 Johnston Street Collingwood VIC 3066

Via email: <u>ahmed@bdnprojects.com.au</u>

Dear Ahmed,

RE: Palmer Street, Fitzroy Streetscape - Traffic Advice

Trafficworks has been engaged by BDN Projects to provide traffic advice for the proposed streetscape works along Palmer Street, in Fitzroy.

The subject length is located approximately 1.2 km northeast of Melbourne's CBD and is bound by Nicholson Street to the west and Brunswick Street to the east. The subject length is separated into two areas:

- primary area (between Fitzroy Street and Brunswick Street):
 - o one-way eastbound local road
 - o approximately 85 m in length
 - very narrow and non-DDA compliant footpaths on both sides
 - o narrow carriageway when cars are parked along both sides
- secondary area (between Nicholson Street and Brunswick Street):
 - o two-way local road
 - \circ $\$ no through access along Palmer Street west of Fleet Street
 - o approximately 210 m in length

The subject length and surrounding road network is shown in Figure 1, with the primary and secondary areas shown in Figure 2.

The proposed streetscape works includes the following:

- provision for a pedestrian friendly environment with increased public realm such as widened footpath space, better connectivity and enhanced accessibility
- raised pedestrian crossing at the intersection Palmer Street and Fitzroy Street



- a shared zone with raised pavement within the primary area
- modified car parking space dimensions and removal of some car parking spaces



Figure 1: Location Plan (reproduced with permission from Melway Publishing Pty Ltd)

Figure 2: Primary and secondary areas of Palmer Street (Source: BDN Projects)





Raised Pedestrian Crossing Intersection

A raised pedestrian crossing treatment is recommended at the intersection of Palmer Street and Fitzroy Street. A raised pedestrian crossing intersection is a traffic calming device where it encourages vehicles to reduce speeds when approaching the intersection and provides pedestrian priority over vehicles to cross the road safely. The benefits of a raised pedestrian crossing intersection include:

- a reduction in vehicle speeds in the vicinity of the device
- highlights the presence of an intersection
- designated crossing for pedestrians
- reduces vehicle / pedestrian conflicts
- can be used as a form of threshold treatment

Refer to the Attachment A for the raised pedestrian crossing intersection concept plan for Palmer Street.

Shared Zone

A shared zone with a raised pavement is recommended along Palmer Street within the primary area as part of the streetscape works. A shared zone is an area utilised by both pedestrians and vehicles where the road is a low-speed environment and priority is given to pedestrians over vehicles. The benefits of a shared zone include:

- increase safety of pedestrians and cyclists
- reduction in the speed environment of the road
- drivers are more alert of the surroundings when entering a shared zone
- improved amenity without affecting access.

Shared zone (10km/h) speed limit signage should be placed at the entry of Palmer Street within the primary area. Refer to the Attachment A for the shared zone concept plan for Palmer Street.

Car Parking Spaces

The proposed streetscape works along Palmer Street includes the implementation of a shared zone within the primary area and the widening of southern footpath within the secondary area. As such, the proposed works will require the removal of some car parking spaces along Palmer Street.

In addition, the northern car parking spaces within the secondary area will be modified to 90degree car parking spaces. A comparison of the loss of car parking spaces have been made between the *Australian Standard AS2890.1-2004 Parking facilities – Off-street car parking* and Clause 52.06 of the Yarra City Council Planning Scheme.

Considering the secondary area of Palmer Street (between Nicholson Street and Brunswick Street) is truncated at its mid-point (i.e. has no through access), the car parking space dimensions as depicted in clause 52.06 of the Yarra City Council Planning Scheme, should be considered. Car parking provision in accordance with clause 52.06 will allow the maximise provision of car parking opportunities, whilst improving the streetscape and public realm.



Summaries of the net gain / loss of car parking spaces due to the proposed streetscape works for the primary and secondary area are shown in Tables 1 - 3.

Drange of Streetscene Works	Palmer Street Car Parking Spaces		
Proposed Streetscape Works	Existing	Proposed	Net Gain / Loss
Shared Zone	16	0	-16
Total	16	0	-16

Table 1: Net gain / loss of car parking spaces within the primary area

Dispessed Streetesens Warks	Palmer Street Car Parking Spaces		
Proposed Streetscape Works	Existing	Proposed	Net Gain / Loss
Widening of footpath	22	0	-22
Modified car parking dimensions	39	47	+8
Total	61	47	-14

Table 2: Net gain / loss of car parking spaces within the secondary area - Australian Standards

Table 3: Net gain / loss of car parking spaces within the secondary area – Planning Schemes

Drangend Streategene Works	Palmer Street Car Parking Spaces		
Proposed Streetscape Works	Existing	Proposed	Net Gain / Loss
Widening of footpath	22	18	-4
Modified car parking dimensions	39	44	+5
Total	61	66	+1

The proposed streetscape works will result in a net loss of 16 car parking spaces within the primary area of Palmer Street as shown in Table 1.

From Table 2, the proposed streetscape works along Palmer Street within the secondary area will result in a total net loss of 14 car parking spaces applying the Australian Standards dimensions and from Table 3, a total net gain of one car parking spaces applying the Planning Schemes dimensions.

The combined area will result in a loss of 15 car parking spaces for the Planning Schemes and a loss of 30 car parking spaces for the Australian Standards.

Refer to Attachment A for the proposed car parking layout concept plans for Palmer Street.



Swept Path Assessment

An initial assessment of the accessibility of the Palmer Street and Fitzroy Street intersection using the 'Auto-turn' software has been conducted. A 10.5 m waste collection vehicle was assessed and it was concluded that the waste collection vehicle can perform right-turn and left-turn manoeuvres from Fitzroy Street onto Palmer Street and right-turn manoeuvres from Palmers Street onto Fitzroy Street satisfactorily.

In addition, a B99 (99th percentile car) was also used in the assessment and it was found that vehicles can perform a U-turn manoeuvre at the court bowls satisfactorily and that cars will be able to enter/exit the court bowls in a forward direction (i.e. without having to undertake a correction manoeuvre) with the proposed parking arrangement.

Refer to the Attachment B for the swept path analysis for Palmer Street.

Conclusion

Based on the above assessments, it is recommended that the proposed streetscape works along Palmer Street include:

- a raised pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Palmer Street and Fitzroy Street
- a shared zone with raised pavement within the primary area
- widening of the footpath by 1.23 m 1.34 m on the southern side of the secondary area
- modify the current car parking space dimensions

It is concluded that the proposed streetscape works along Palmer Street within the secondary area will result in a total net gain of one car parking spaces for the Planning Schemes dimensions and a total net loss of 14 car parking spaces for the Australian Standards dimensions. Furthermore, the proposed streetscape works will result in a net loss of 16 car parking spaces within the primary area of Palmer Street.

Please contact me on (03) 9490 5906 if you would like to discuss this further.

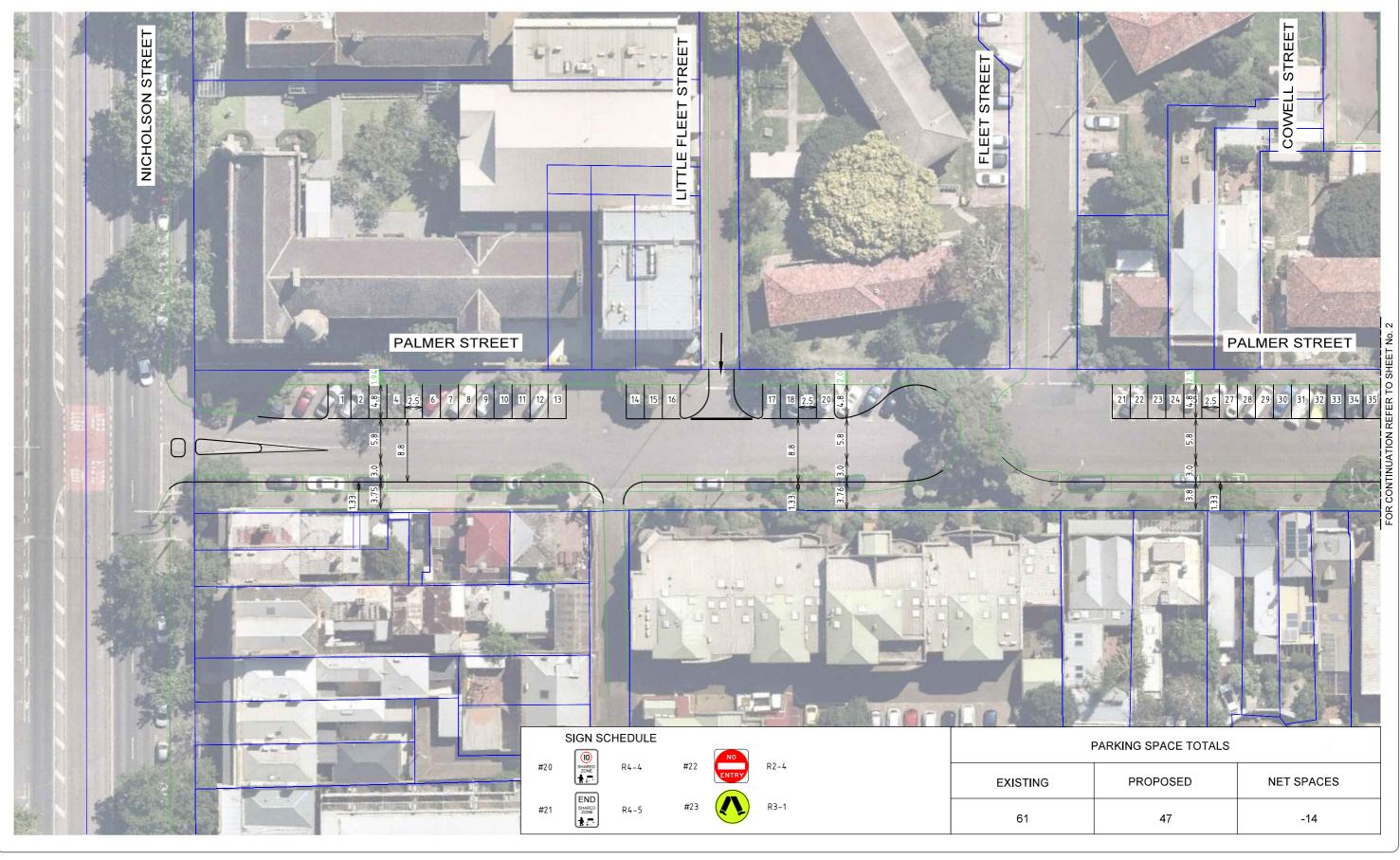
Yours sincerely,

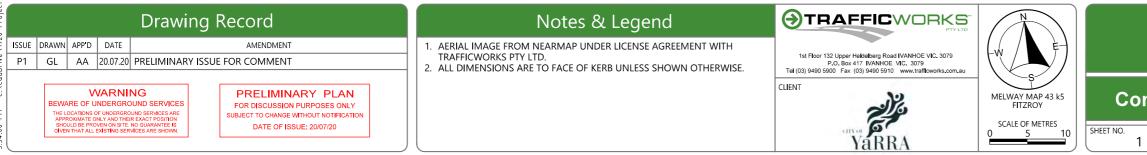
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Encl. Attachment A and Attachment B



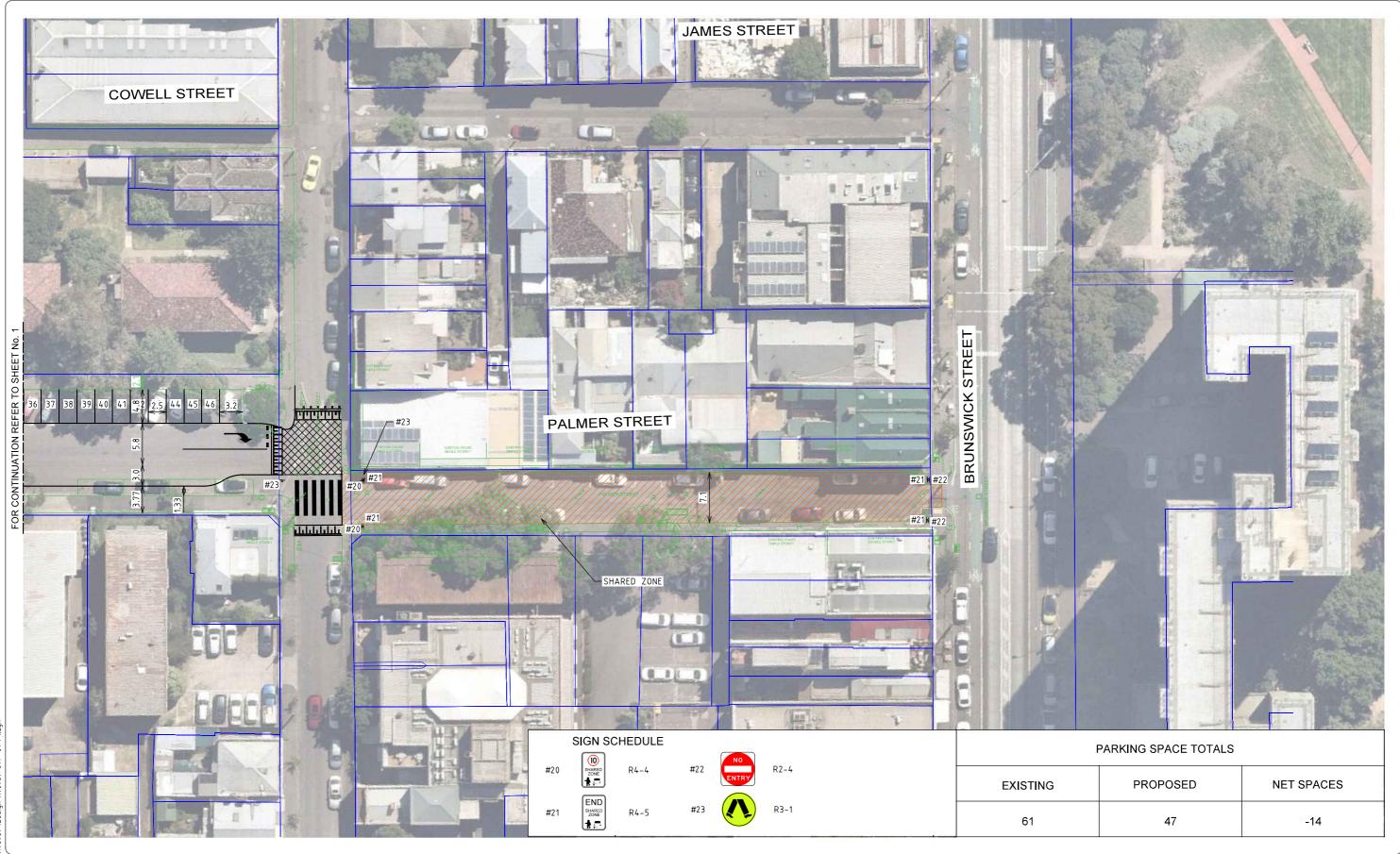
ATTACHMENT A – CONCEPT PLAN





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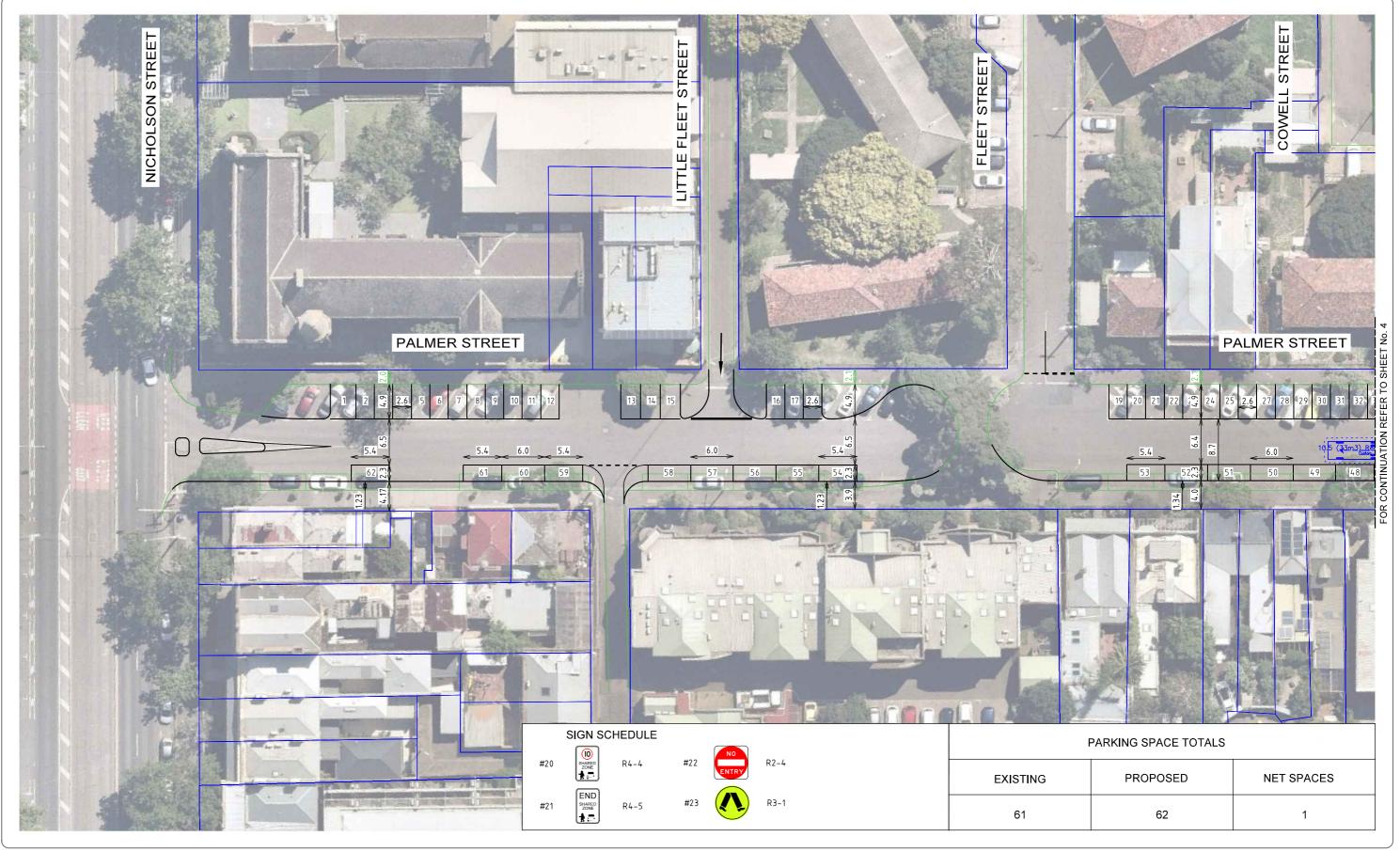
Concept Plan - Australian Standards

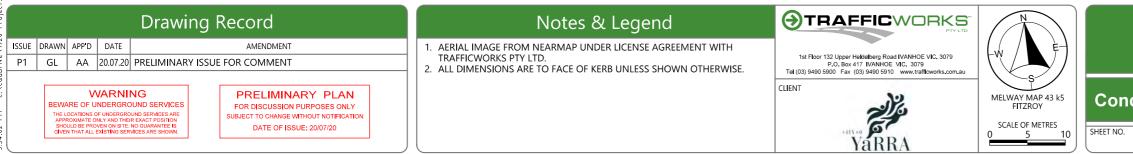


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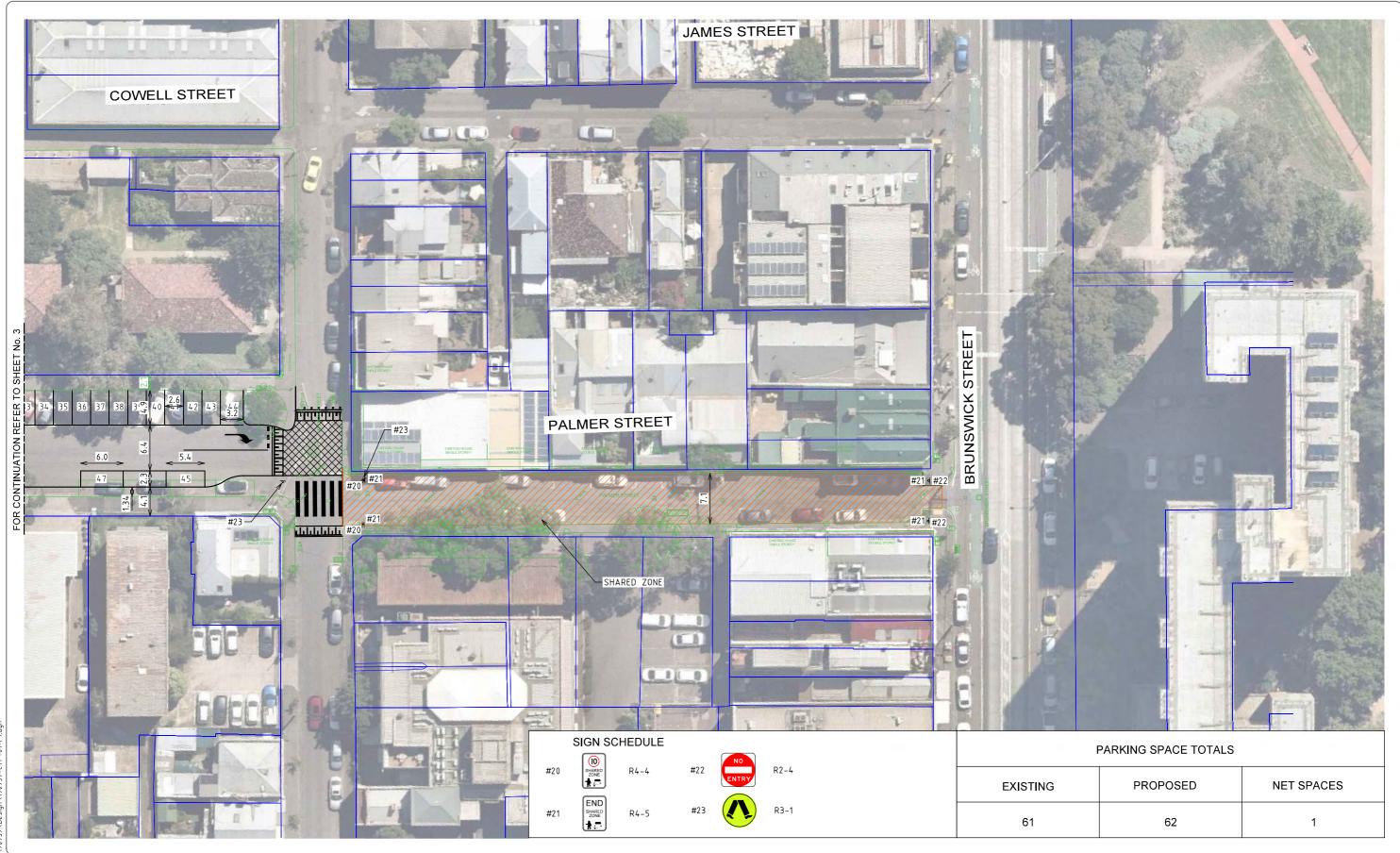


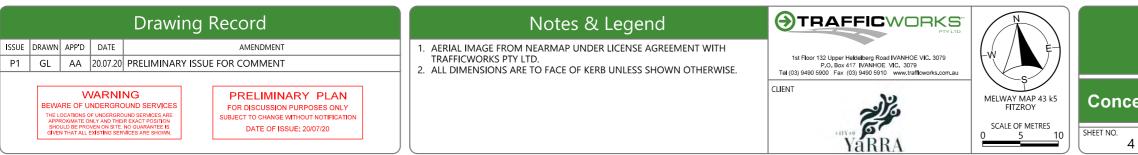


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Concept Plan - Planning Scheme Dimensions

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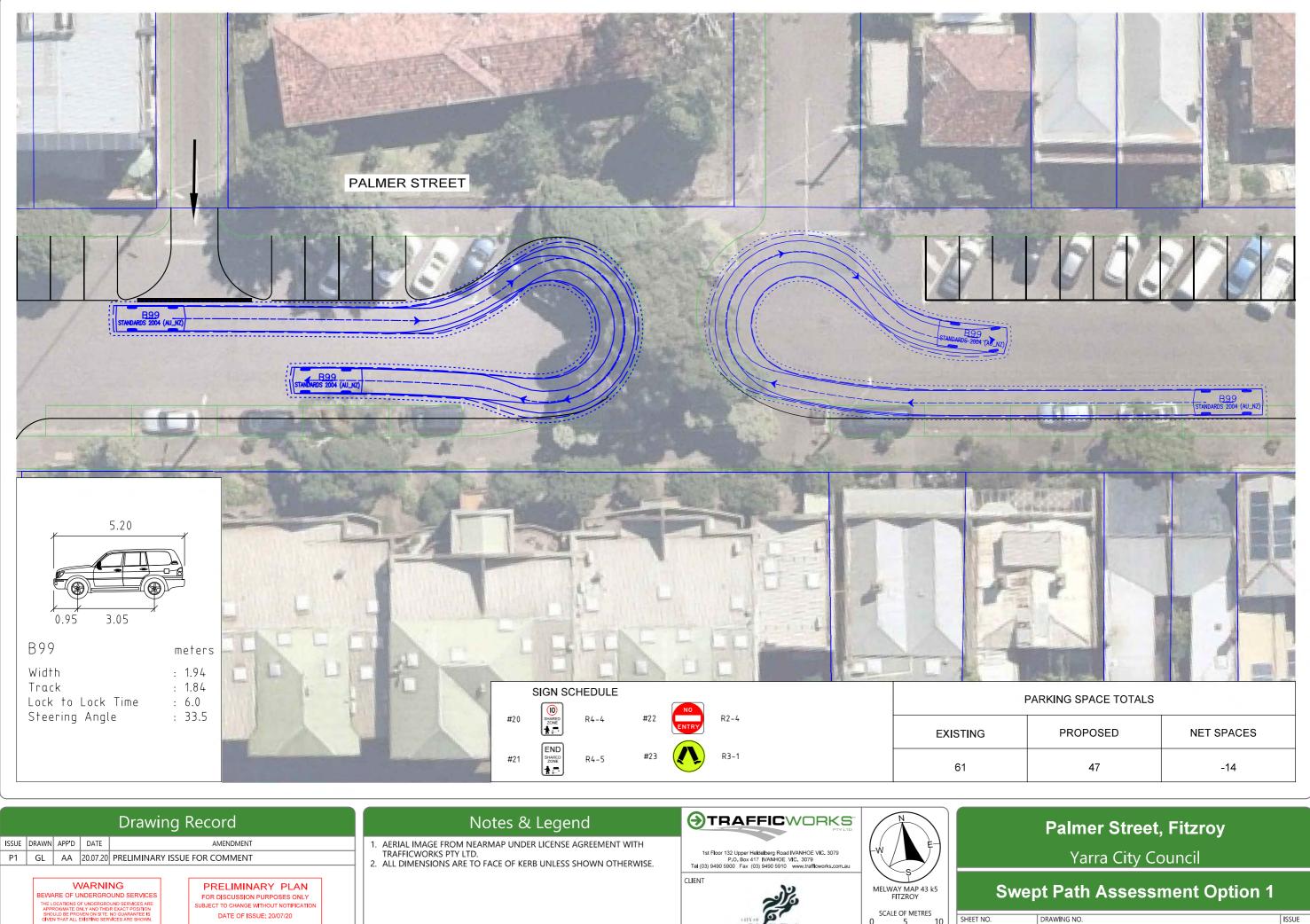
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Concept Plan - Planning Scheme Dimensions



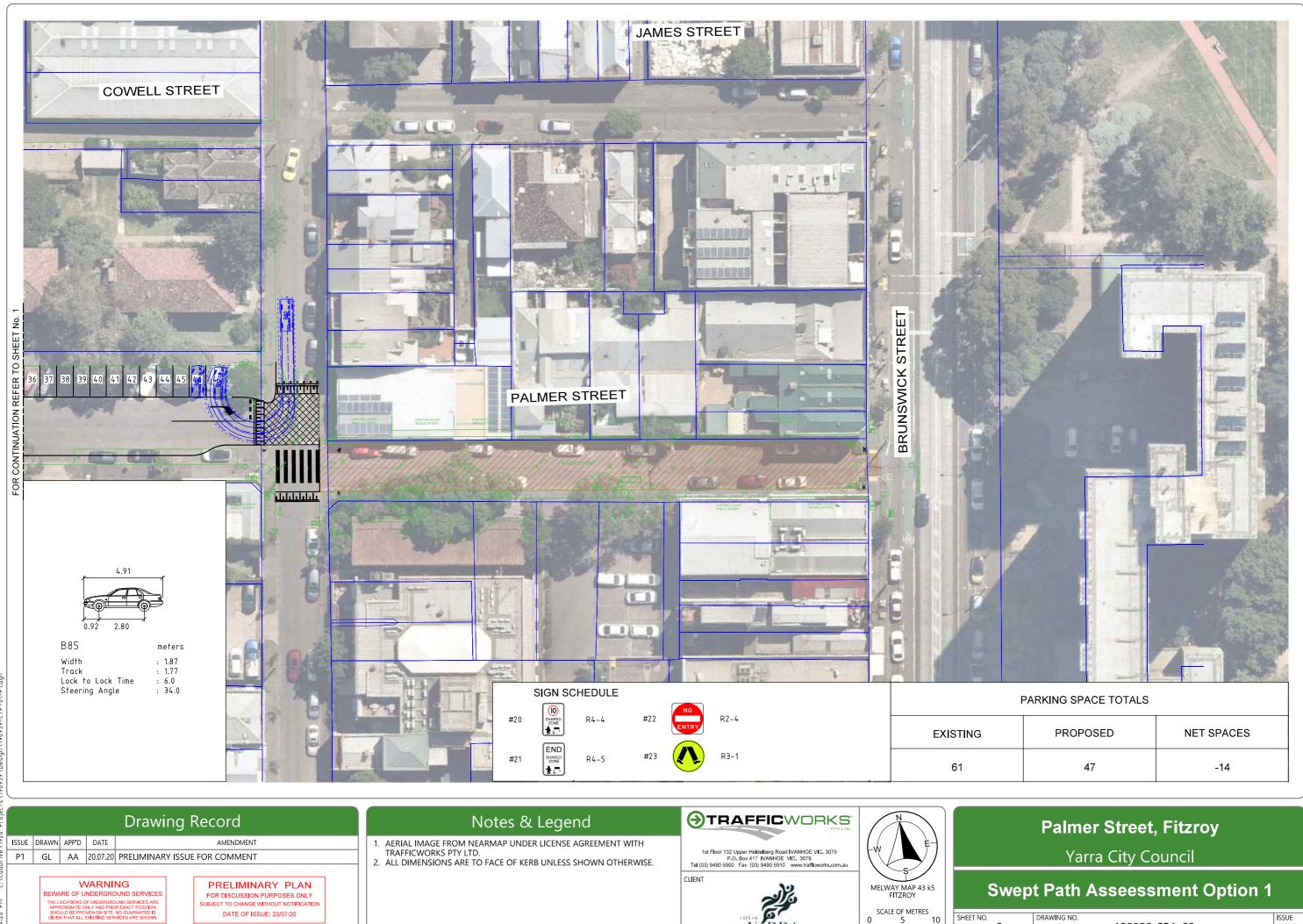
ATTACHMENT B – SWEPT PATH ANALYSIS



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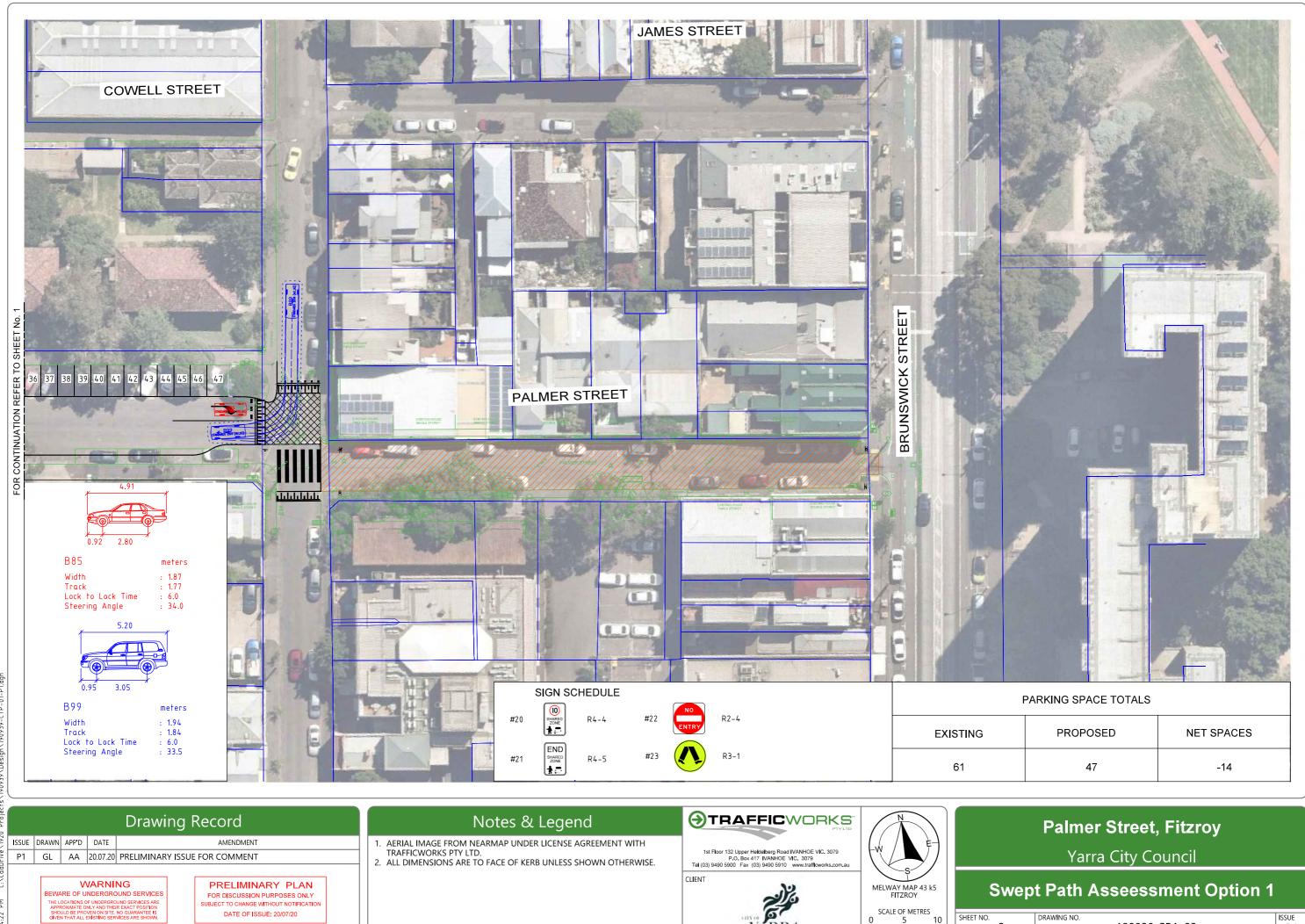
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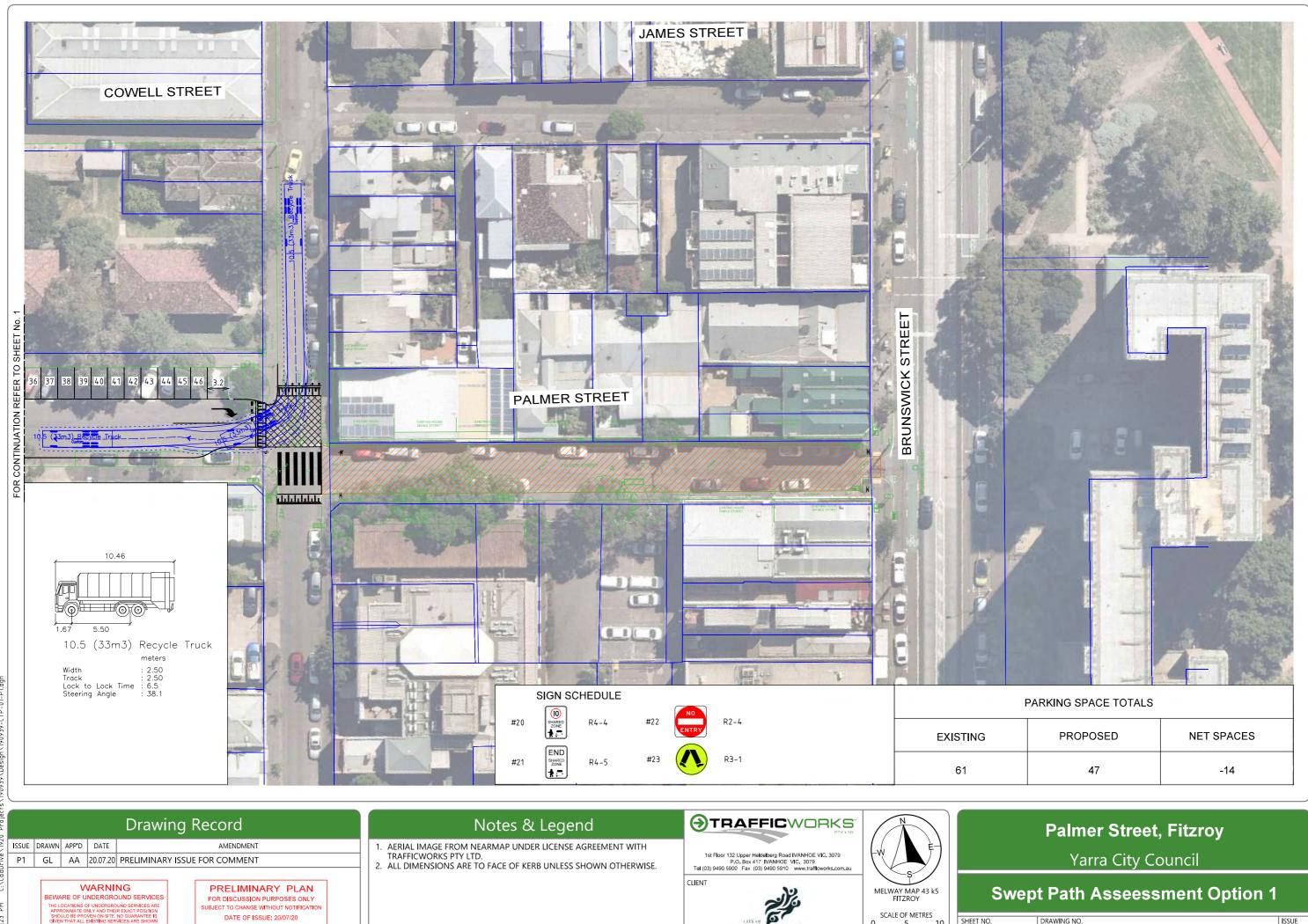


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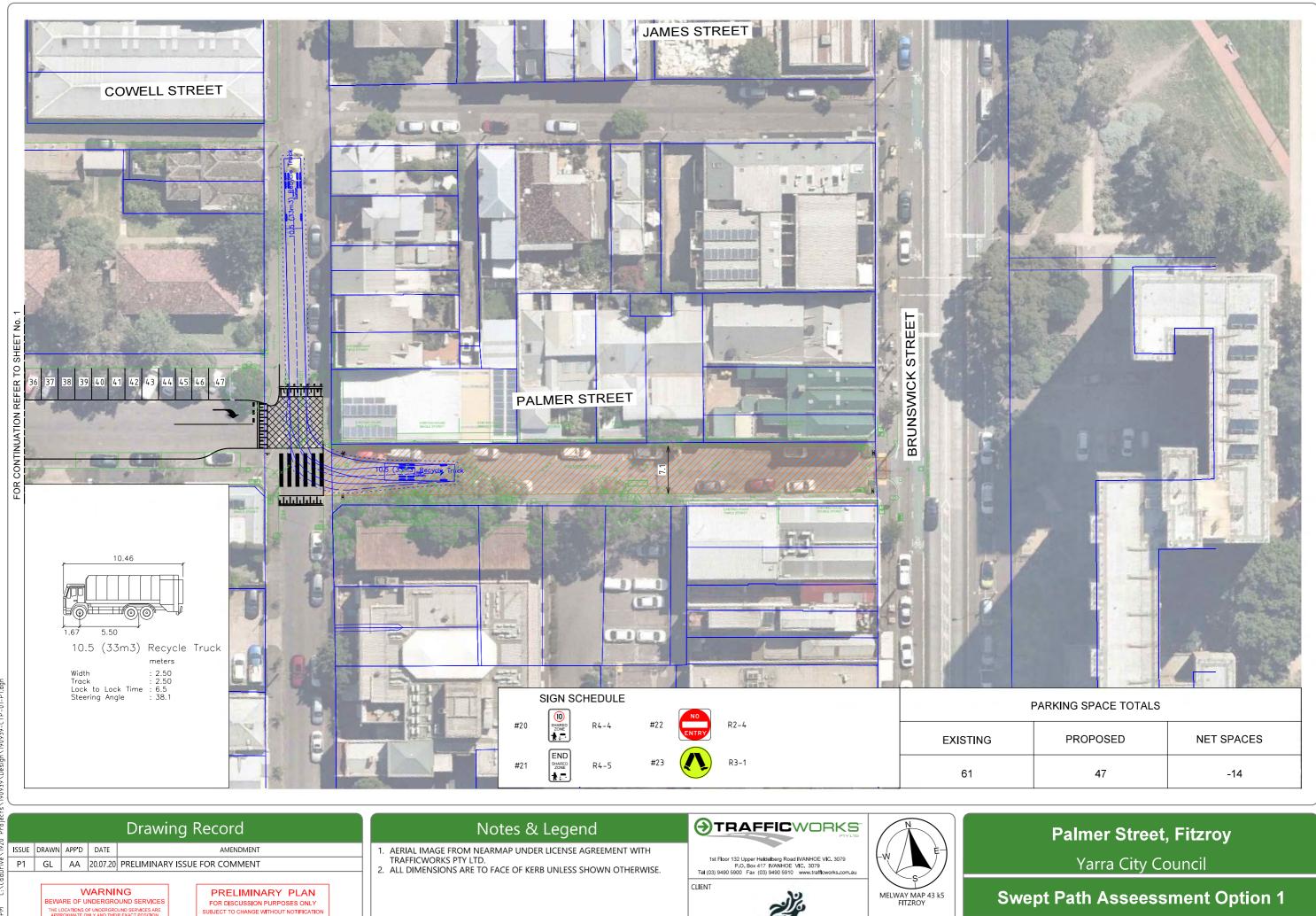
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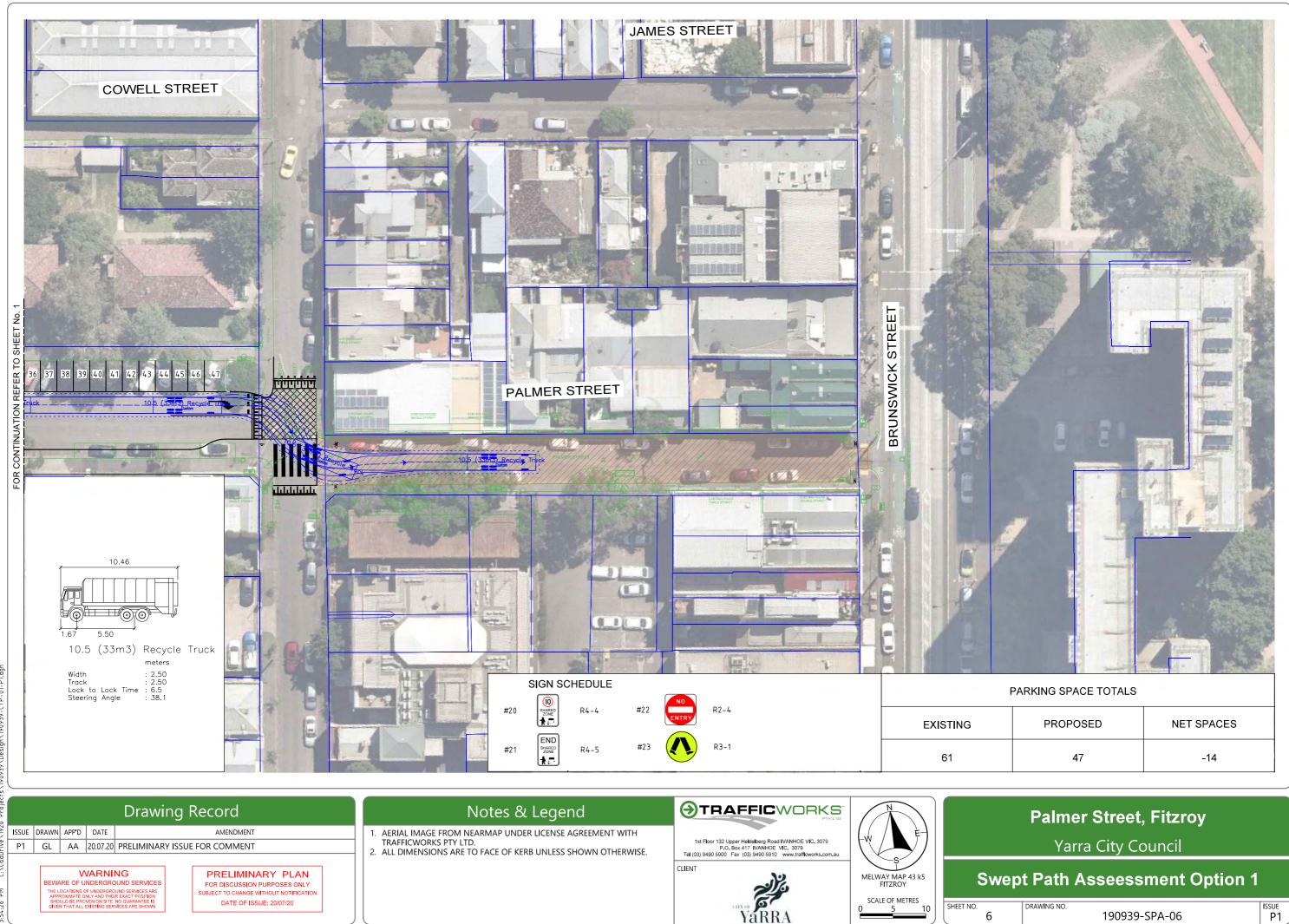
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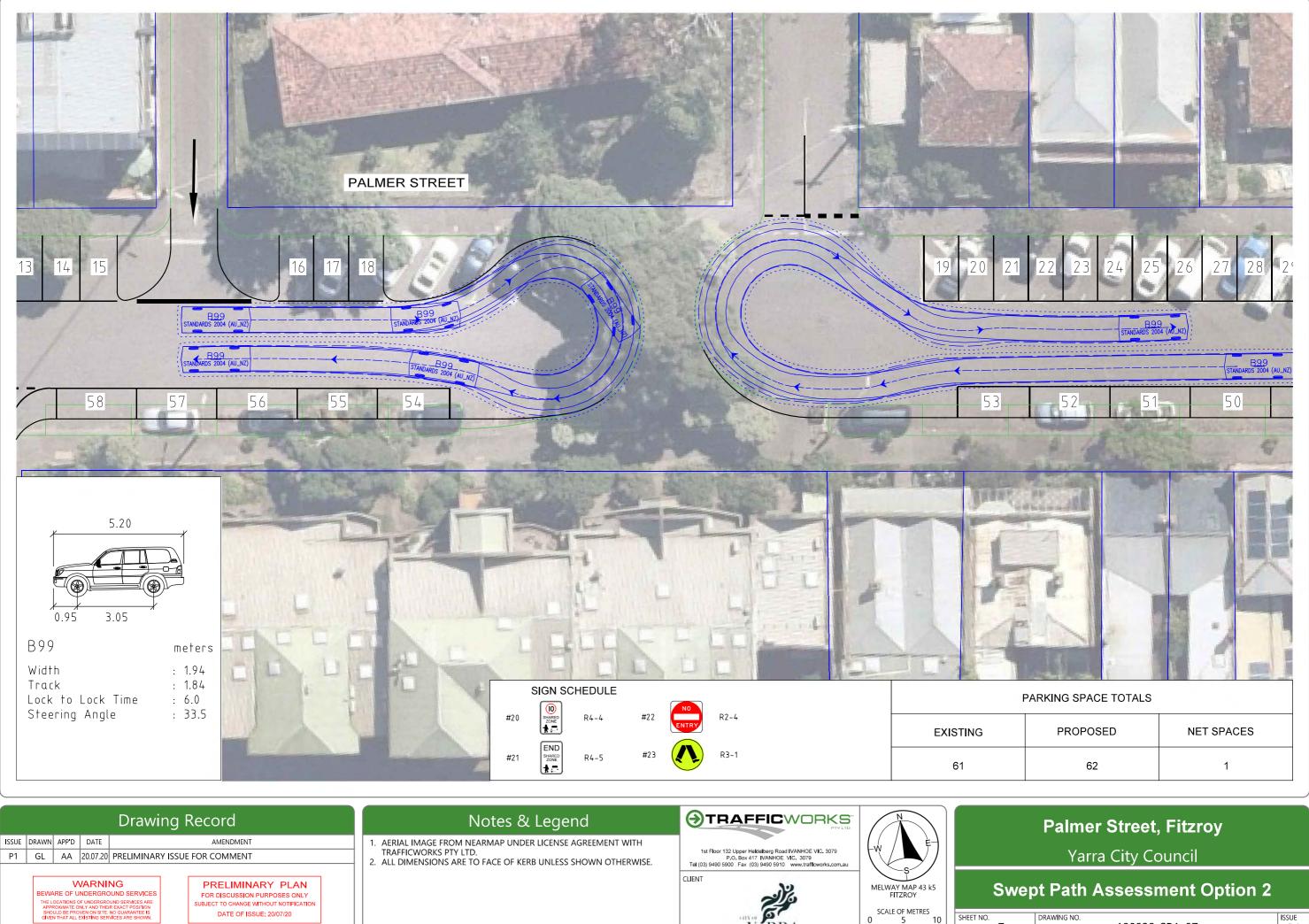
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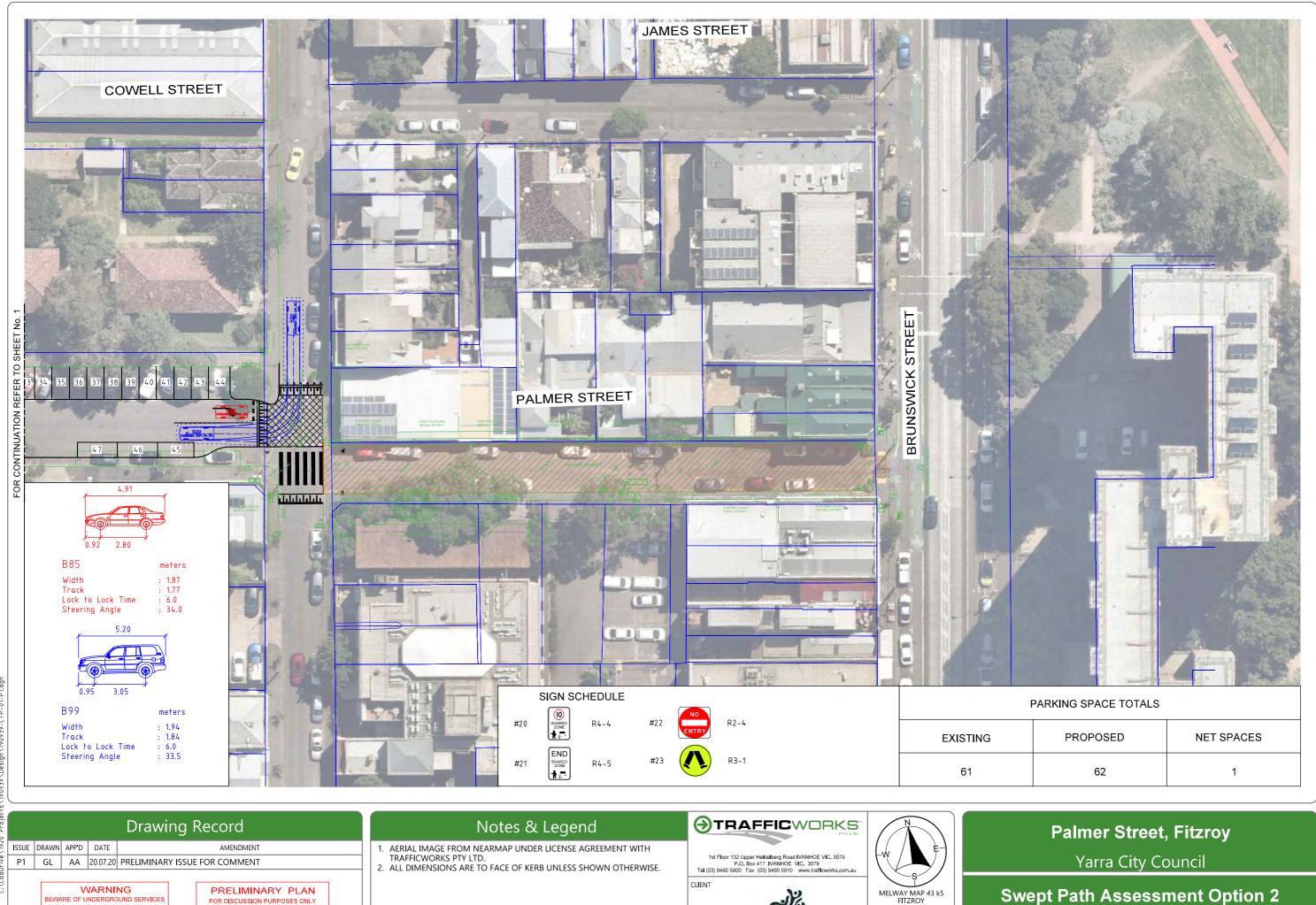
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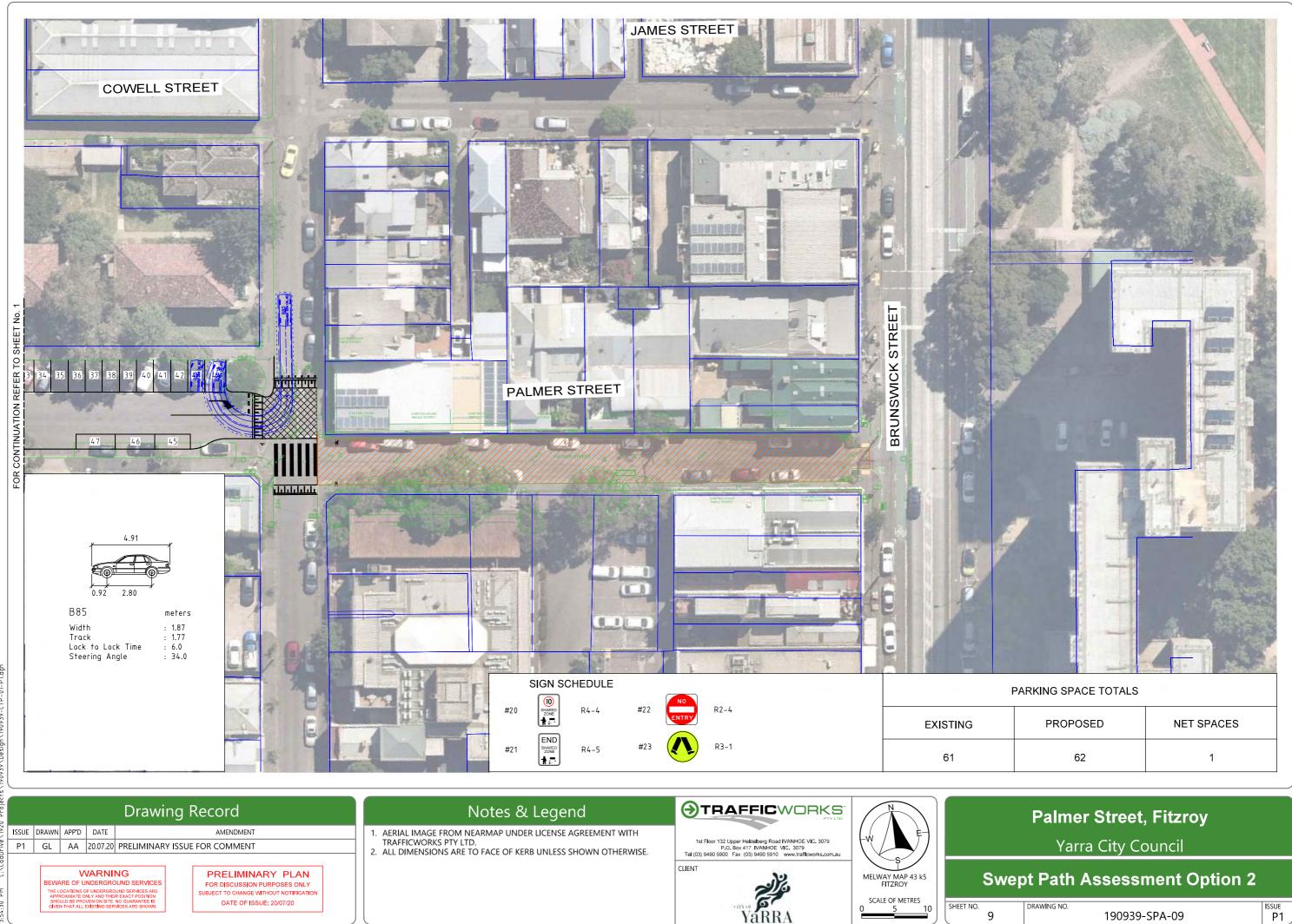
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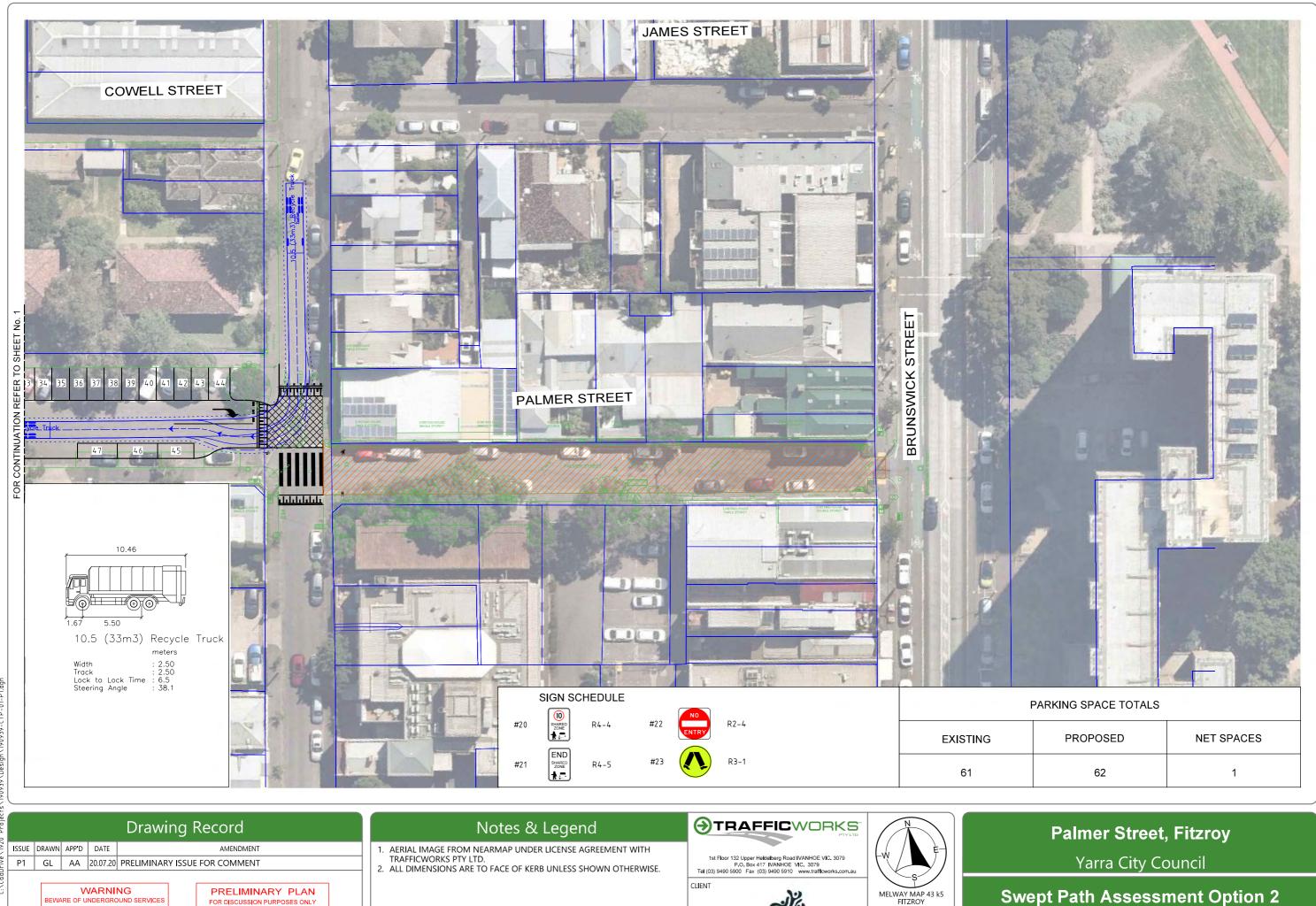
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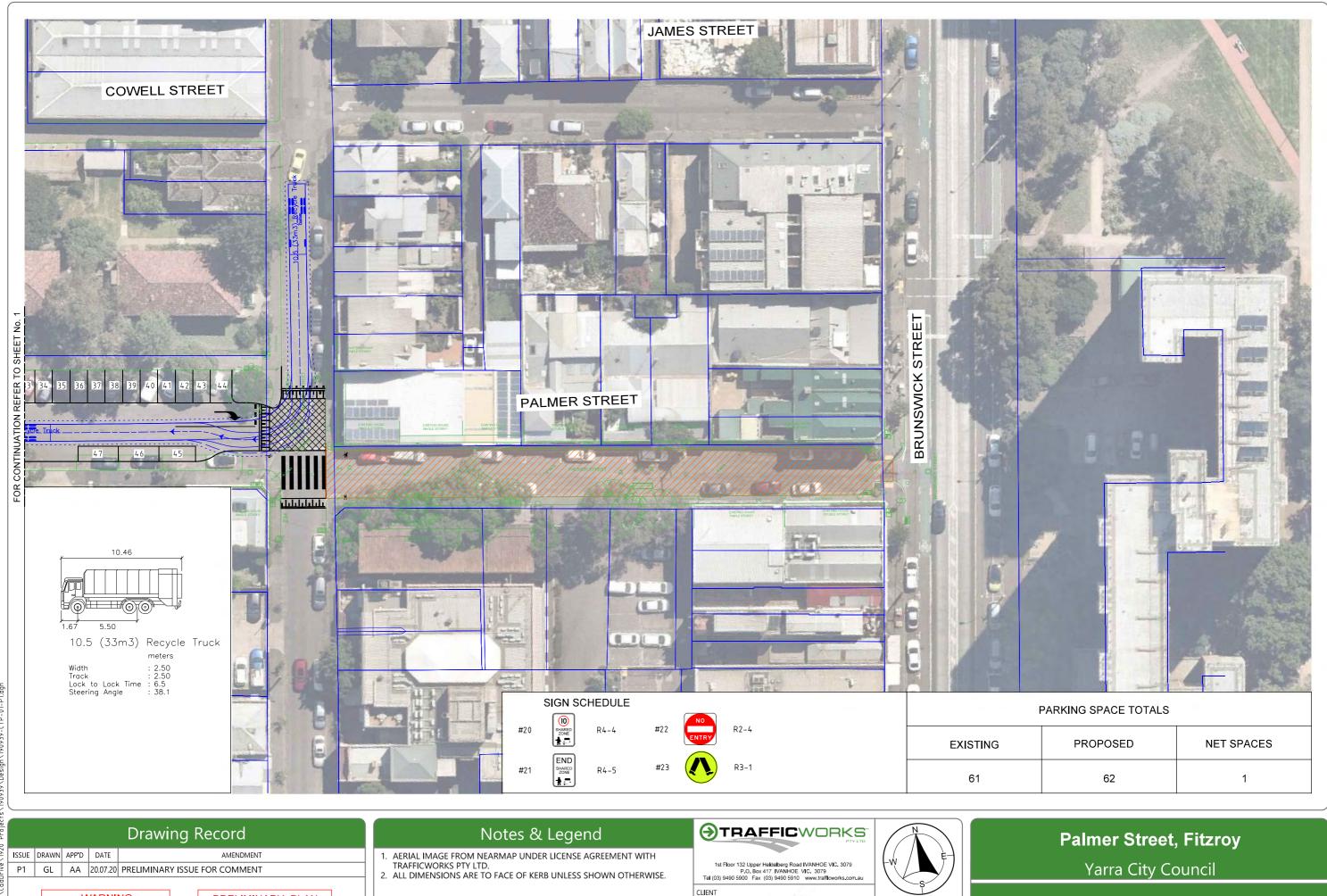
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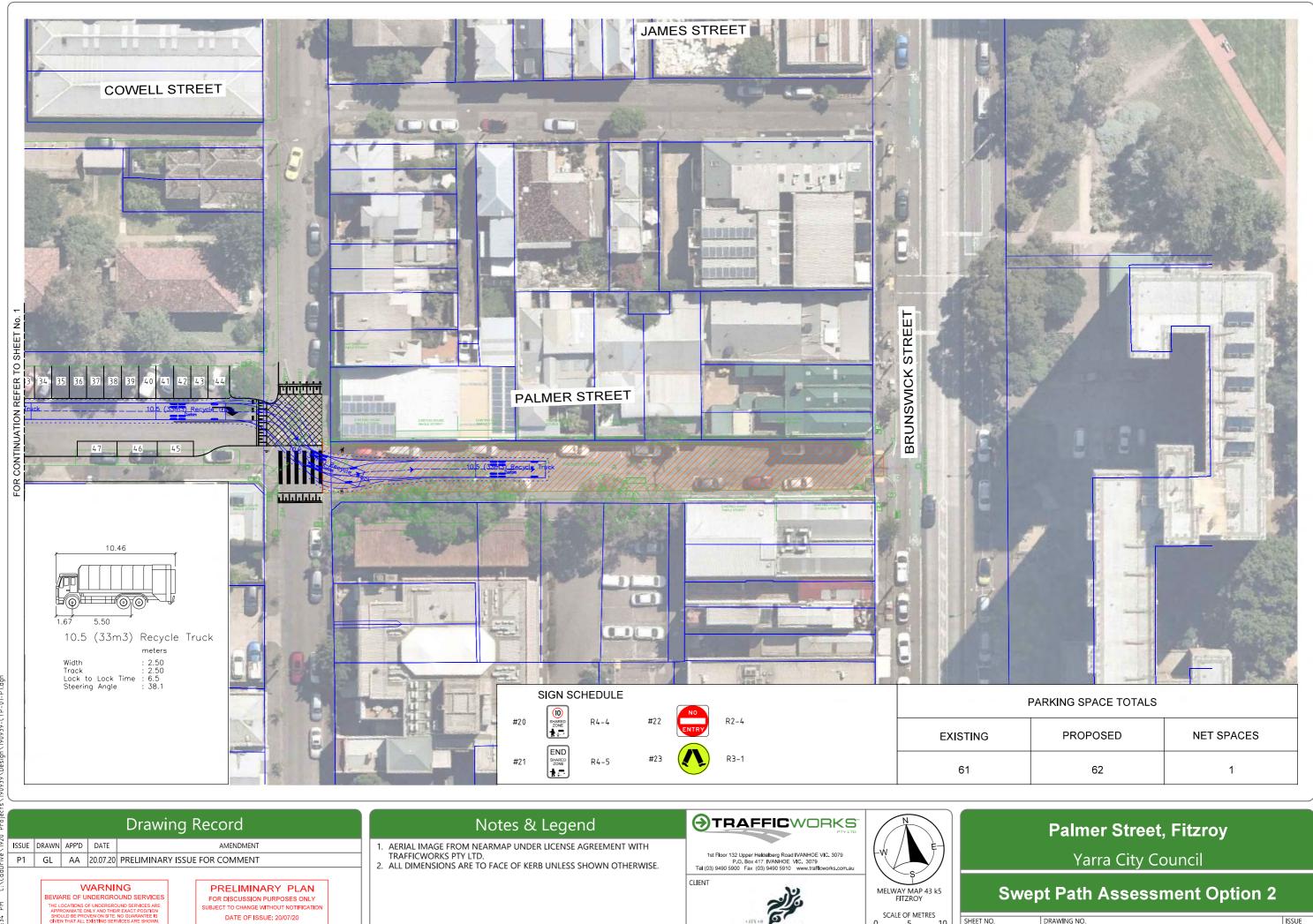
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