Castlemaine Streetscape Plan and Design Standards

Introduction
Council has worked with a team of landscape architects, urban designers and town planners to develop streetscape plans and designs for the town centre of Castlemaine.

With careful design interventions and some improvements, the streets of Castlemaine would be improved for residents, visitors and businesses – to be more attractive and functional while remaining sympathetic to the historical features of the town.

The streetscape plan and design standards will guide Council and the community in the management, maintenance and improvement of the historical and socially significant town.

The document provides a strategic direction, with some practical short-term recommendations that Council can implement straight away, and some large projects that can be planned and budgeted for over a number of years.

The recommendations focus on preserving heritage, improving safety and connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists, more street trees and landscaping, strategically located street furniture to improve amenity, strengthening street character, and better signage and information to find your way around the town centre.

Why do we need a plan?
The streets in the town centre are the primary public spaces and beating heart of Castlemaine. They are where people go about their daily routines, run into neighbours, grab a coffee and do their shopping. For visitors, the streets are how they discover what Castlemaine has to offer.

The town centre provides important social and cultural spaces for people to meet, interact and engage in the community and for shop keepers and businesses to show their wares and services. The streets are central to vehicle movement and access across the town.

The streetscape plan guides a number of components including improved pedestrian connectivity, safer crossings, more street trees and improvements to public spaces.

The design standards provide detail for streetscape elements such as street furniture, paving materials and cross overs, which aim to respect and complement historic features of the town, and improve consistency, amenity and access across the town centre.

What we love about Castlemaine
Castlemaine is a picturesque, charming and relatively intact 19th century town in the goldfields region in Central Victoria. Appealing features include:

- Easily walkable and compact town grid
- Wide streets
- Verandahs
- Magnificent street trees
- Historical features like stone channels and kerbs

Opportunities for improvement
- Materials and aesthetics should reflect main street status
- Central car parking dominates streets views
- Barker and Forest streets lack tree canopy and grandeur as town entrances
- Some wide main streets are difficult to cross in locations
- Narrow footpaths and poor design in pedestrian routes like Frederick Street
- Tired, old and inconsistent street furniture
- Maintenance and decay of some stone cross overs and channels
- Inconsistent garden edging and kerb treatments

Guiding principles

1. Reference the history of Castlemaine
2. Green Castlemaine
3. Improve pedestrian and bicycle connectivity
4. Apply universal design principles
5. Expand the public realm
6. Keep it quirky
7. Have fun with temporary streetscape elements