Brisbane Street Refresh (Top of Town)

Community feedback and engagement have shaped the final concept plan for Brisbane Street. This plan sets out the key design interventions to make the street greener, safer and more welcoming, with more space for people, while celebrating the Top of Town's heritage and supporting local businesses.



Public Spaces for Street Life

Proposed kerb build-outs widen the footpath at selected locations along Brisbane Street, creating public spaces for people to sit, meet and gather. Locating these spaces in front of cafés, pubs and restaurants gives venues room for outdoor dining alongside public seating, while keeping a clear path past shopfronts.

Seats with backs and armrests offer comfortable places to pause, while outdoor tables and stools support dining and socialising. The design of these 'sticky spots' brings more life to Brisbane Street by creating shaded places to meet, making room for cafés and restaurants to spill outdoors and enjoy the heritage shopfronts that give the Top of Town its character.



Lighting and Evening Activation

Suspended overhead lighting marks the Ellenborough Street gateway and continues along Brisbane Street, working with pedestrian and facade lighting to improve visibility and make the street more inviting for outdoor dining and events after dark. Light posts can also carry spotlights to highlight heritage details and planting features, and project gobo lighting to share local stories through patterns of light, co-ordination with lighting design team to ensure glare and visual clutter are kept to a minimum.

Finding the Right Balance

Community feedback highlighted the need to balance vehicle access and parking with more space and shade for people on foot. The revised design keeps local businesses accessible by car and pairs additional public realm with new shade trees, creating more comfortable places to shop, dine outdoors and spend time at Brisbane Street's local businesses.





Heritage Character

The proposed materials palette pairs warm-toned granite paving at key locations with honed concrete footpaths that reveal the natural texture of the exposed aggregates. Creating a simple, refined finish that complements Brisbane Street's heritage facades and character. Coordinated colours and finishes across paving, plinth seating walls and other street furniture visually link the Top of Town with the Nicholas Street Precinct and Cultural Heart Precincts while still creating a distinctive character for Brisbane Street.
Renewing aged, uneven footpaths will not only improve the street's appearance but will also enhance accessibility and reduce trip hazards while improved drainage helps prevent water from pooling along the pavement.



Create a Cooler, Greener Street

Consistent tree planting along Brisbane Street will provide better shade over time. Where space permits, planting behind the kerb allows for additional trees while retaining on-street parking. In tighter spaces, lightweight arbours support climbing plants for vertical greening, while narrow strip gardens at building edges can add additional greenery along shopfronts.

Investment in StrataVault soil cells beneath the footpath gives roots more room to grow, helping new trees establish and develop broad, healthy canopies for long-term shade.



Ellenborough Street Gateway

Realigned kerbs, feature paving and accent planting mark the reconfigured Ellenborough Street intersection as the gateway to the Top of Town from the Nicholas Street Precinct. The layout accommodates a future bikeway along Ellenborough Street. Additional street trees along Brisbane Street between Nicholas and Ellenborough streets will provide more shade as they mature, making the walk more comfortable and inviting.

NOTE: This concept plan illustrates the proposed layout and key technical elements which will continue to be refined in the next phase of design development. The design remains indicative and is subject to further site investigations and technical coordination. Delivery of the proposed works is also subject to available budget.