

Your Street, Your Say

Preston West

Project Report

City of Darebin

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	5
2. The Project Map.....	6
3. Participation Data.....	9
4. Submissions.....	19
5. Spatial distribution of Spots.....	20
6. Vehicle Spots.....	23
7. General Spots.....	26
8. Walking Spots.....	29
9. Cycling Spots.....	32
10. Public Transport Spots.....	35
11. Top 10 Spots.....	36
12. Neighbourhood opportunities	39
13. Summary and Recommendations	40
14. APPENDIX	43

List of Figures

Figure 1. Preston West, Group A.....	5
Figure 2. Project map.....	6
Figure 3. Survey form.....	7
Figure 4. Example Spot	8
Figure 5. Participation data	9
Figure 6. Unique pageviews over time.....	10
Figure 7. Age.....	11
Figure 8. Gender	12
Figure 9. Language at home	13
Figure 10. Languages - % of those who speak a language at home	13
Figure 11. Language - % of all participants	14
Figure 12. Connection to Darebin.....	15
Figure 13. % Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.....	16
Figure 14. % Disability	16
Figure 15. No. of household vehicles	17
Figure 16. Submissions	19
Figure 17. Spot types.....	19
Figure 18. Vehicle Spot categories.....	24

Figure 19. General Spot categories	27
Figure 20. Walking Spot categories	30
Figure 21. Cycling Spots categorised	33

List of Maps

Map 1. Participant postcodes.....	18
Map 2. Spot is Preston West.....	20
Map 3. Preston West heatmap.....	21
Map 4. Preston West Spot types.....	22
Map 5 – Vehicle Spots.....	23
Map 6. Speeding traffic.....	25
Map 7. General Spots	26
Map 8. Area feels uncared for	28
Map 9. Walking Spots	29
Map 10. No pedestrian crossing	31
Map 11. Cycling Spots.....	32
Map 12. No bicycle lanes	34
Map 13. PT Spots	35
Map 14. Top 10 Overall Spots.....	36

1. Introduction

The *Your Street, Your Say* project provides an opportunity for the broad Darebin community to tell Council how they can improve local streets for people who live, work, study or travel through Darebin.

The City of Darebin launched Group A engagement activities on 11 October 2021. The interactive map was open for 2 months until 7 December 2021 and collected community feedback on transport mode experiences and general amenity. The study area included Group A suburbs comprising Reservoir West, Preston West and Thornbury West.

This map-based engagement is the first stage of community consultation. The data collected as part of this stage will be used to inform the potential priority improvements and subsequently, the communities feedback on those.

This report focuses on the feedback collected within Preston West. It is a record of community submissions and is not necessarily reflective of Council priorities.

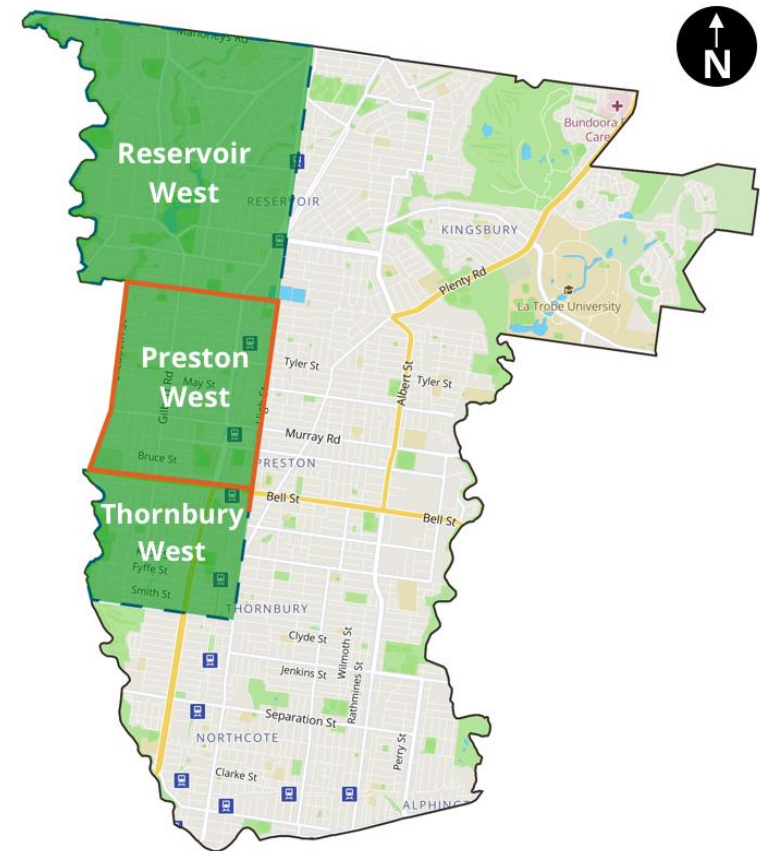


Figure 1. Preston West, Group A

2. The Project Map

The digital interactive map was accessed via the City of Darebin website or directly via the CrowdSpot map URL (<https://yourstreetyoursaygroupa.crowdspot.com.au/>). The map (Figure 2) allowed users to share their experiences relating to different transport modes or general amenities.

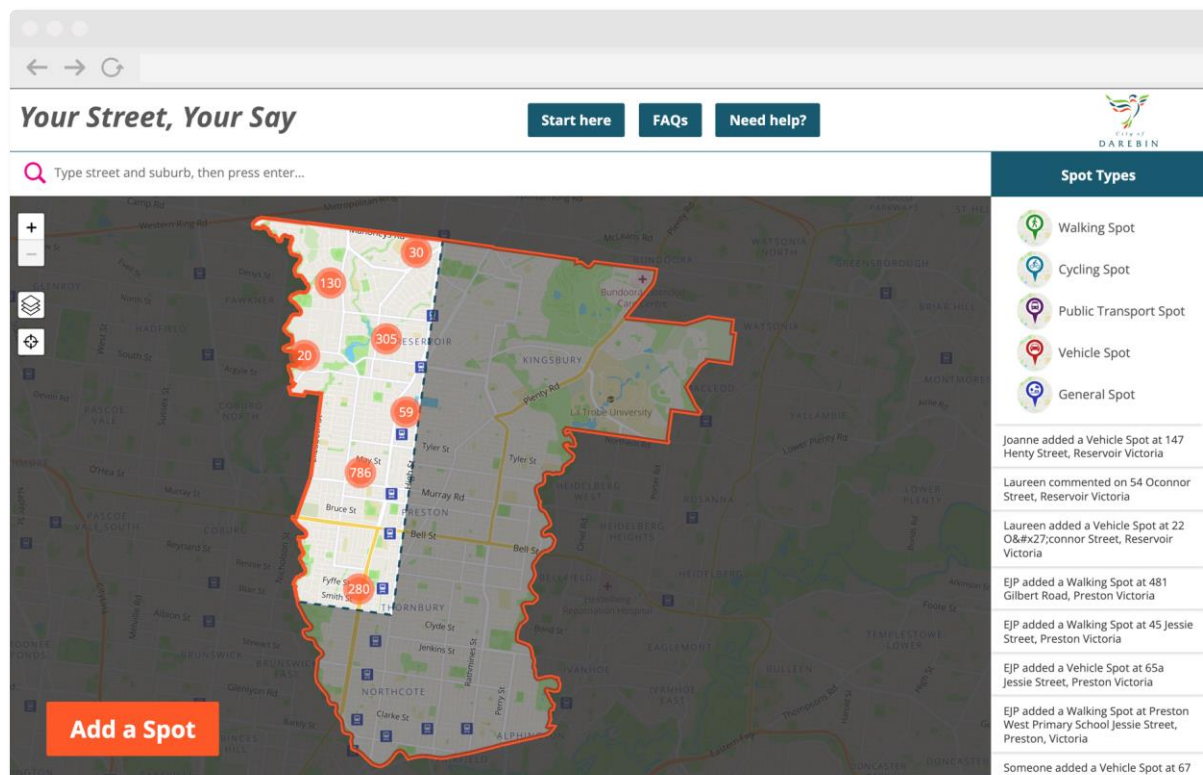


Figure 2. Project map

Contributing to the map

The survey form contained a combination of location specific questions (type of spot, etc.) in addition to demographic questions of the participant (eg. participant connection to City of Darebin). There were three ways people were able to actively contribute their input to the map. This includes:

1. Adding a Spot to the map via the survey form (five Spot types).
2. Commenting on existing spots already on the map (see Figure 4).
3. Voting on existing spots already on the map by clicking the 'Support' button.

The screenshot displays the 'Your Street, Your Say' web application. The top navigation bar includes links for 'Start here', 'FAQs', and 'Need help?'. The main content area is divided into a map view on the left and a form on the right. The map shows a street grid with various colored pins representing different types of spots. The form on the right is titled 'Tell us about this spot' and includes a text input field for the spot name, which is currently filled with '18 Park Avenue, Preston Victoria'. Below this, there is a section titled 'What type of issue would you like to share at this spot?' with five radio button options: Walking Spot, Cycling Spot, Public Transport Spot, Vehicle Spot, and General Spot. On the far right, a sidebar titled 'Spot Types' lists the five spot types with corresponding icons. Below this, a log of recent activity shows additions and comments by users like Joanne, Laureen, and EJP.

Figure 3. Survey form

3. Participation Data

In total, there were 1,248 participants who made submissions across the entire study area (all suburbs) whilst there was a total of 4,732 total pageviews across the data collection period. Figure 5 on the following page outlines the total number of views per day over the engagement period. There were 53 average daily page views and the peak occurred on 20 October with 275 page views.



Figure 5. Participation data

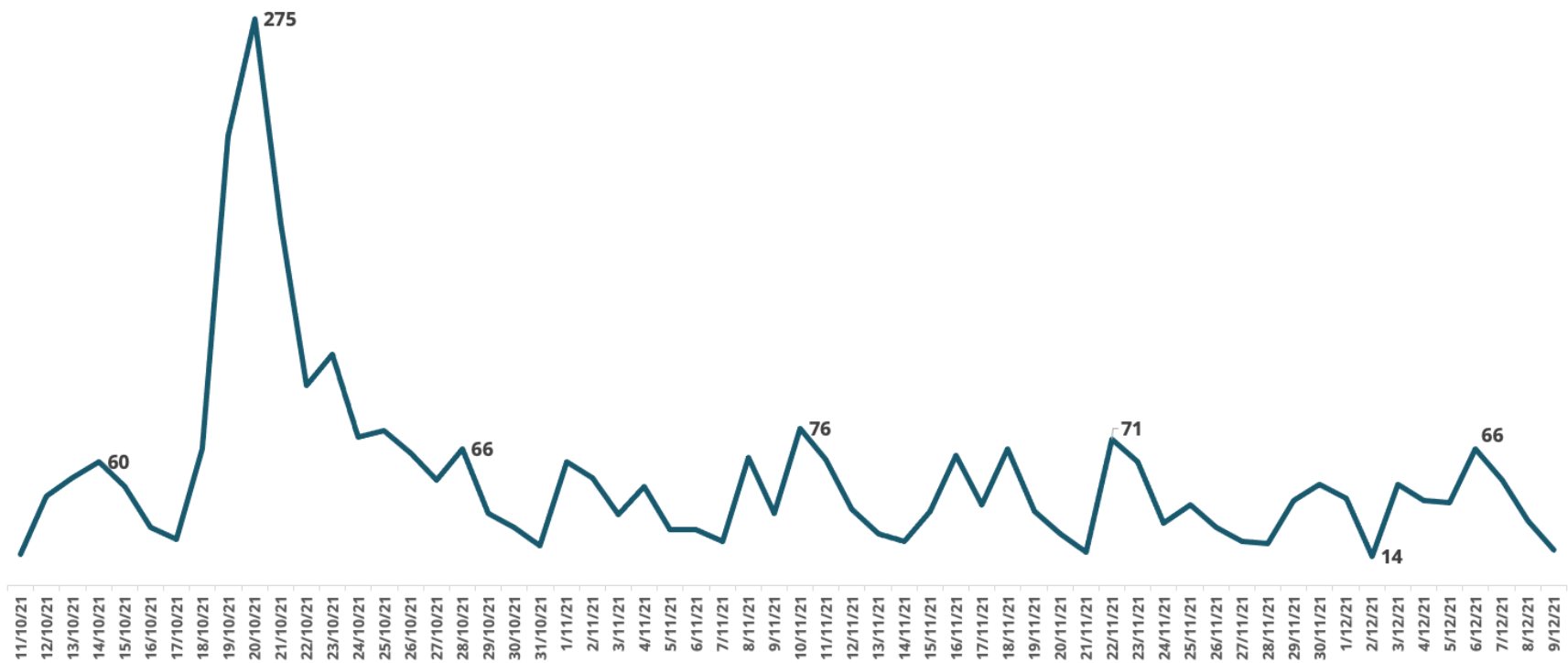


Figure 6. Unique pageviews over time

Age

The majority of Preston West participants were in the 35-44 age range, representing 43.5% of all those who submitted a spot on the map. Together with the 45-54 age range, these two age groups made up 63% of all participants. There was little participation amongst those aged below 25 and above 64.

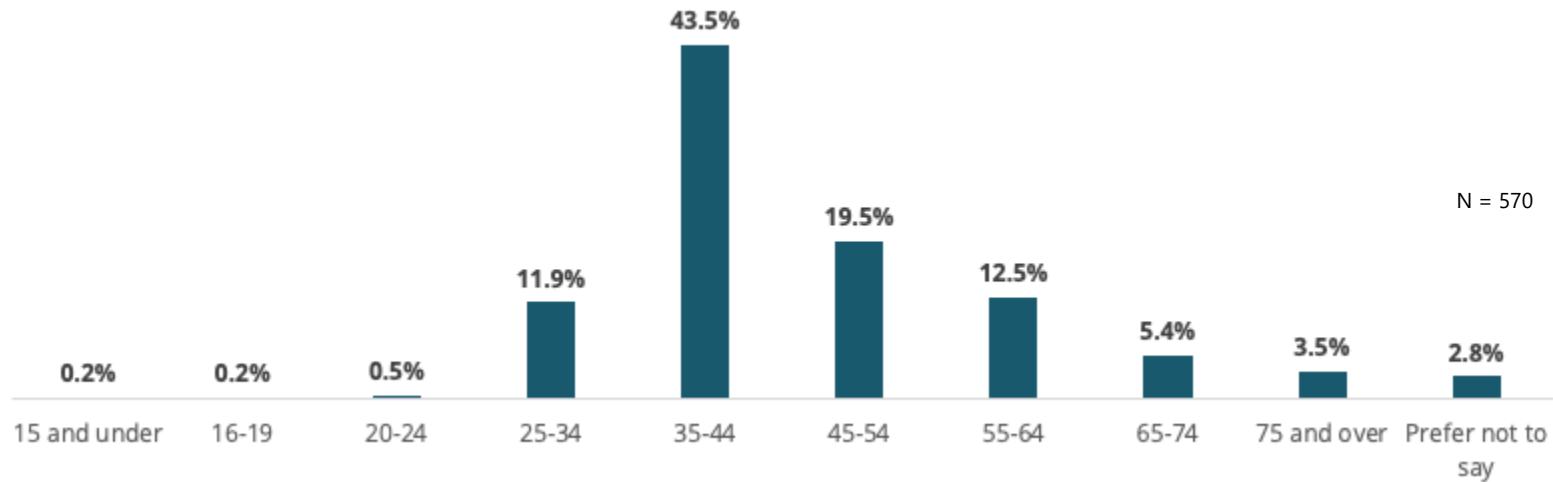


Figure 7. Age

Gender

The majority of spot submissions were made by participants who identified themselves as Female (55.3%), whilst the remaining gender identities included Male (36.5%), Prefer not to say (8.2%) and Prefer to describe (0%).

N = 570

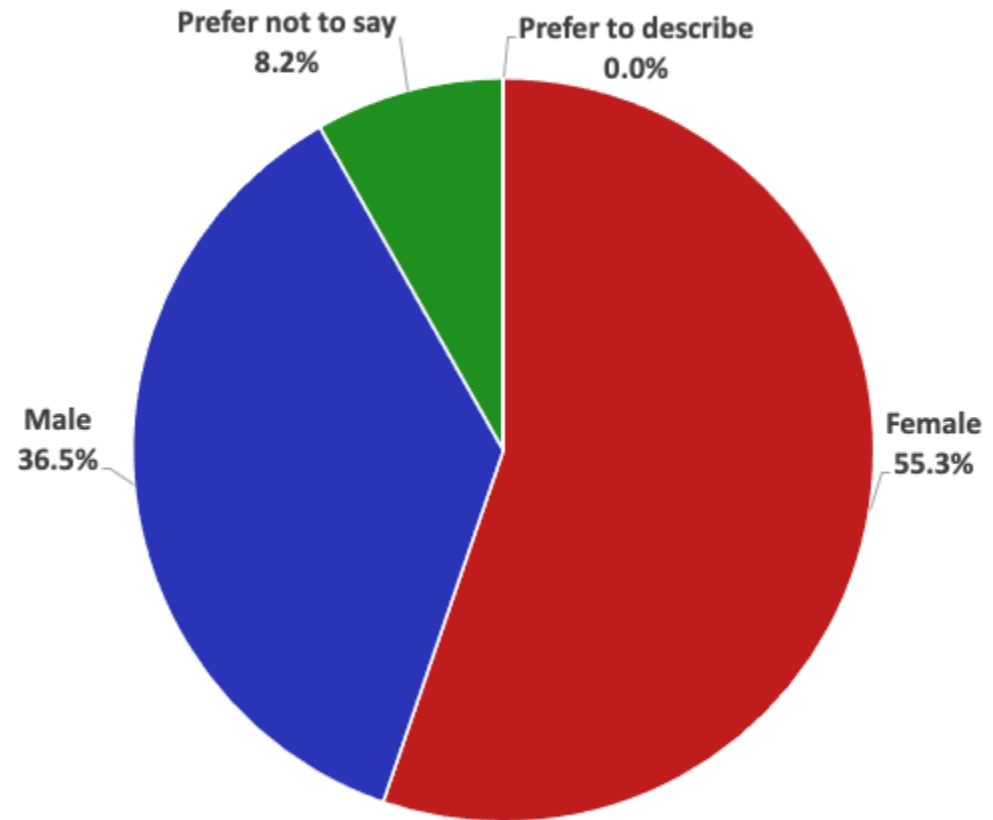


Figure 8. Gender

See APPENDIX A for ABS (2016) census suburb data.

Language

In response to 'Do you speak a language other than English at home?', 89.5% of participants selected 'No' with the remaining 10.5% selecting 'Yes' and asked to specify the language.

Overall, 79.6% of inputs were made up of Italian (49.0%), Greek (18.4%) and Vietnamese (12.2%). Languages spoken at home (other than english) are in Figure 11 on the next page.

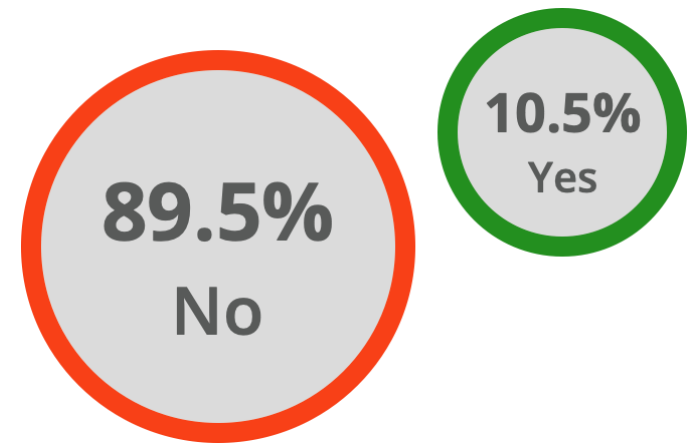


Figure 9. Language at home

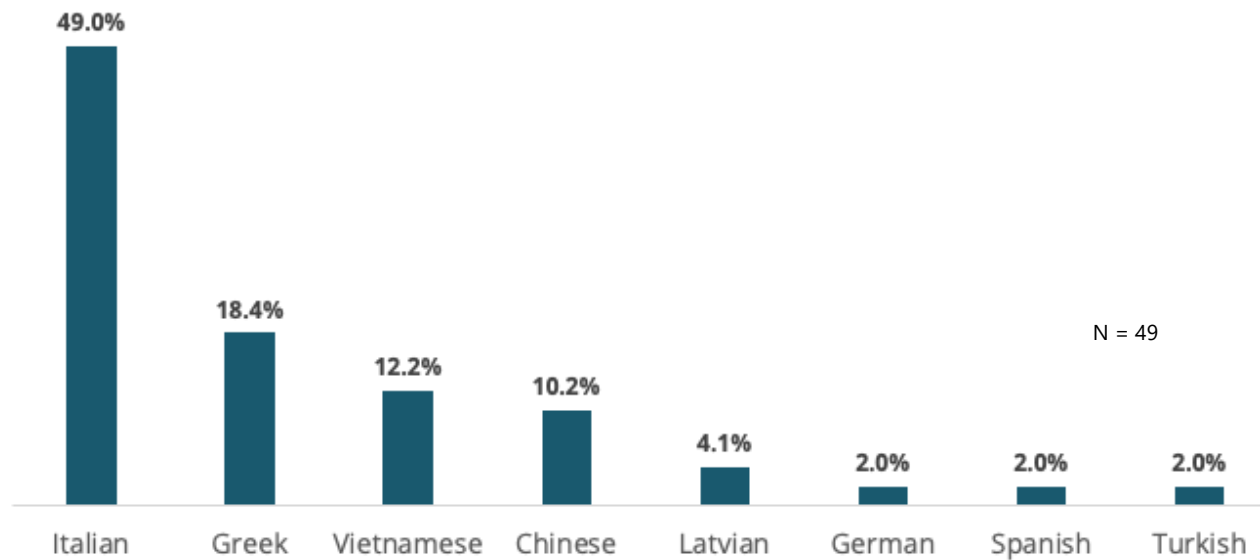


Figure 10. Languages - % of those who speak a language at home

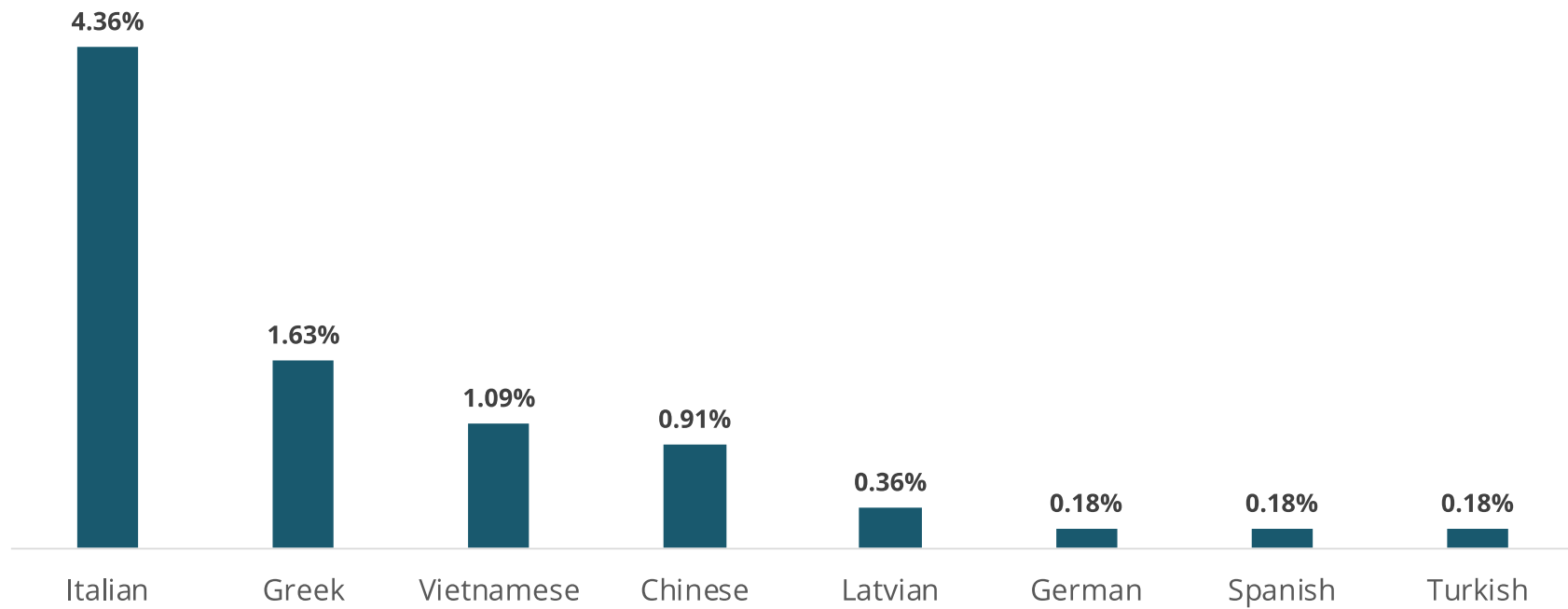


Figure 11. Language - % of all participants

Connection to Darebin

People who 'Live' within the City of Darebin represent 95.6% of people who submitted a spot on the map. Participants also indicated that they 'Work' (31.3%), 'Visit' (11.3%), 'Own a business' (5.5%) and 'Study' (2.7%).

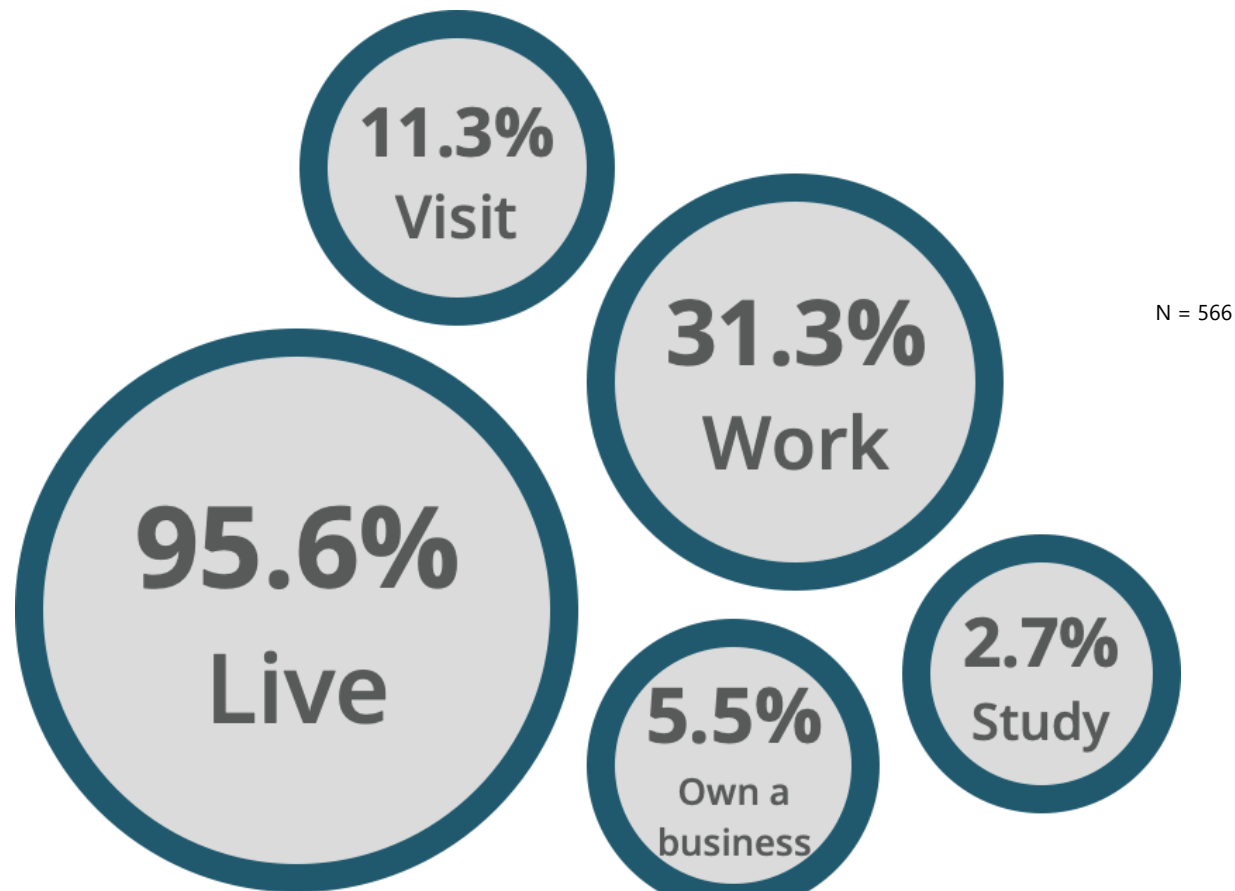


Figure 12. Connection to Darebin

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

When asked 'Do you identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander?', 0.9% of respondents selected 'Yes', 96.4% of respondents selected 'No' and 2.7% 'Prefer not to say'.

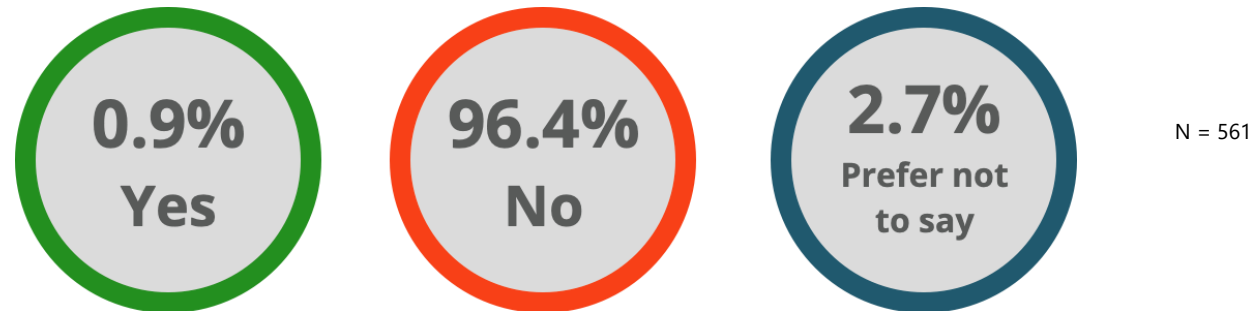


Figure 13. % Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

Disability

When asked 'Do you identify as having a disability?', 7.5% of respondents selected 'Yes', 89.3% of respondents selected 'No' and 3.2% 'Prefer not to say'.



Figure 14. % Disability

Household Vehicles

Participants were asked 'How many motor vehicles does your household own?', with the vast majority (89.8%) indicating that they own one or two vehicles in their household (Figure 15). 7.9% of respondents indicated that there are no household vehicles at their residence and the remaining 2.3% own three or more vehicles.

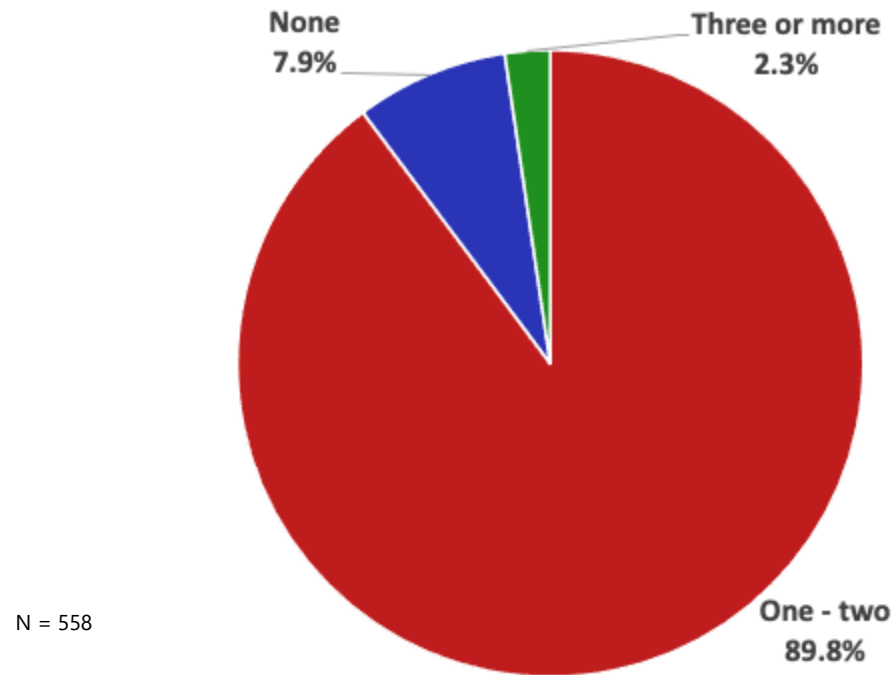


Figure 15. No. of household vehicles

Residential Postcode

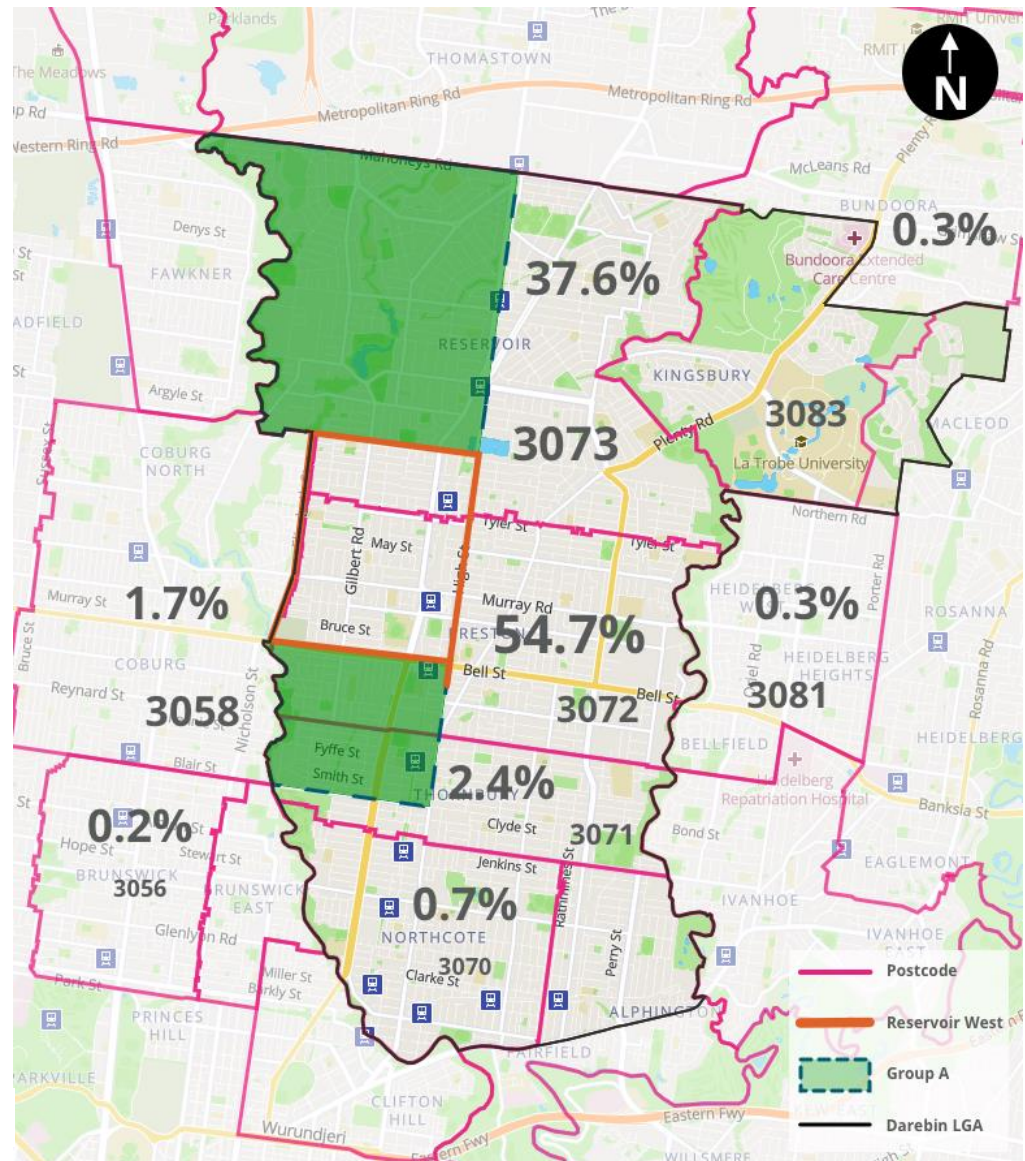
Participants who submitted spots within Preston West were made up mostly (54.7%) from people who reside within the 3072 postcode.

Postcode 3073, directly to the north of 3072 accounts for 37.6% of spot submissions.

Surrounding postcodes then made up the remaining participants' residential postcodes.

N = 577

Map 1. Participant postcodes



4. Submissions

There were a total of 2,528 submissions made up of Spots, Comments and Supports within Preston West.

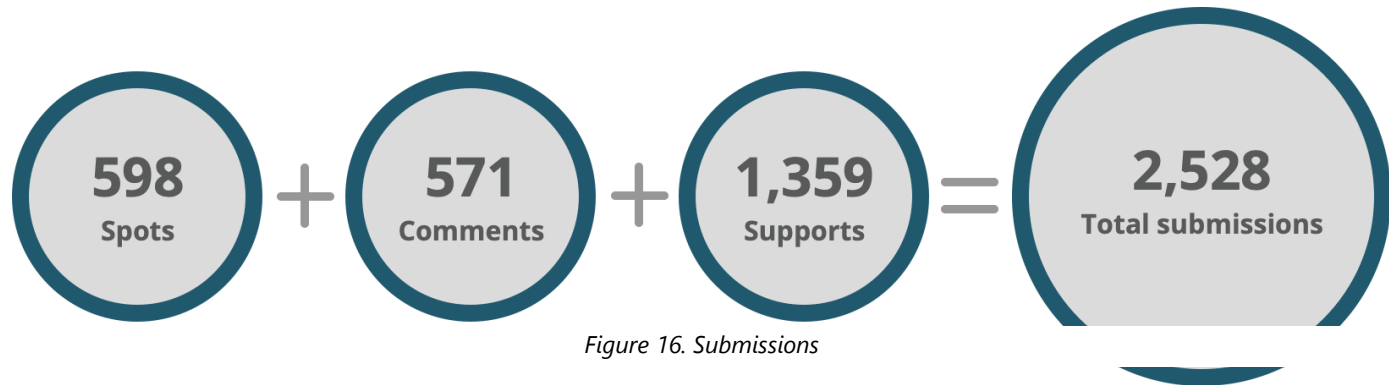


Figure 16. Submissions

Spot types

Vehicle Spots represent 34.1% of spots added within Preston West, followed by General Spots (25.1%), Walking Spots (24.2%), Cycling Spots (13.7%) and PT Spots (2.8%).

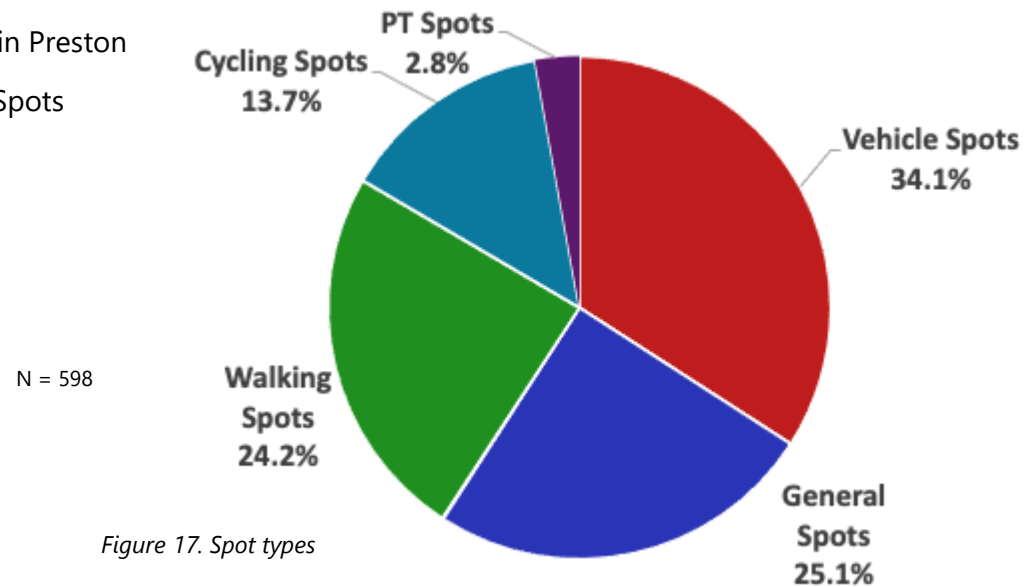


Figure 17. Spot types

5. Spatial distribution of Spots

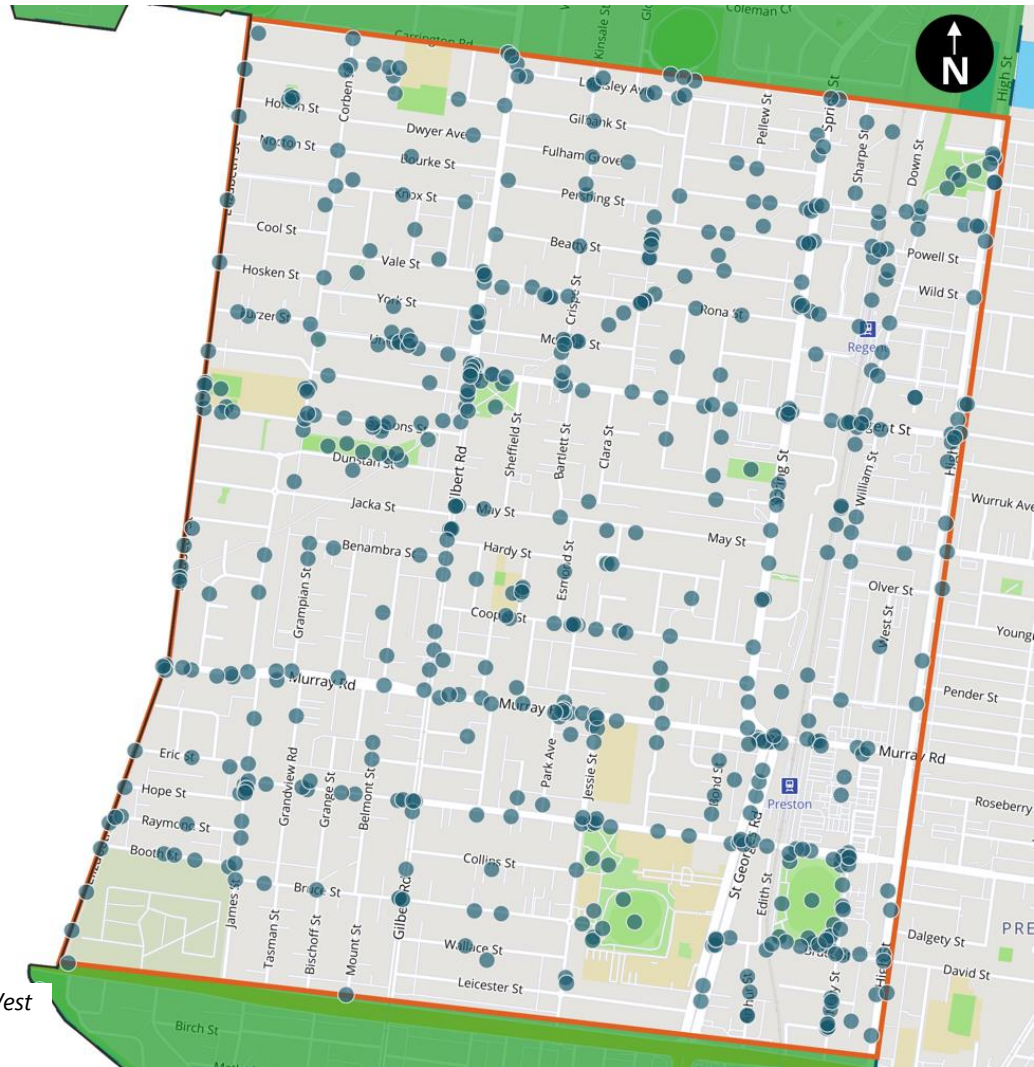
Map 2 represents all 598 spots added to the map within the Preston West suburb.

There is very good coverage across the area with clusters at or along:

- Murray Rd
- Gilbert Rd
- Regent St
- Preston City Oval

These clusters are also identifiable on the heatmap (Map 3) on the following page.

Map 2. Spots in Preston West



Map 3. Preston West heatmap



Map 4 represents all spots in Preston West colour coded by Spot type.



Map 4. Preston West Spot types

6. Vehicle Spots

Vehicle Spots were the most significant spot type with 204 spots or 34.1% of all spots added within Preston West.

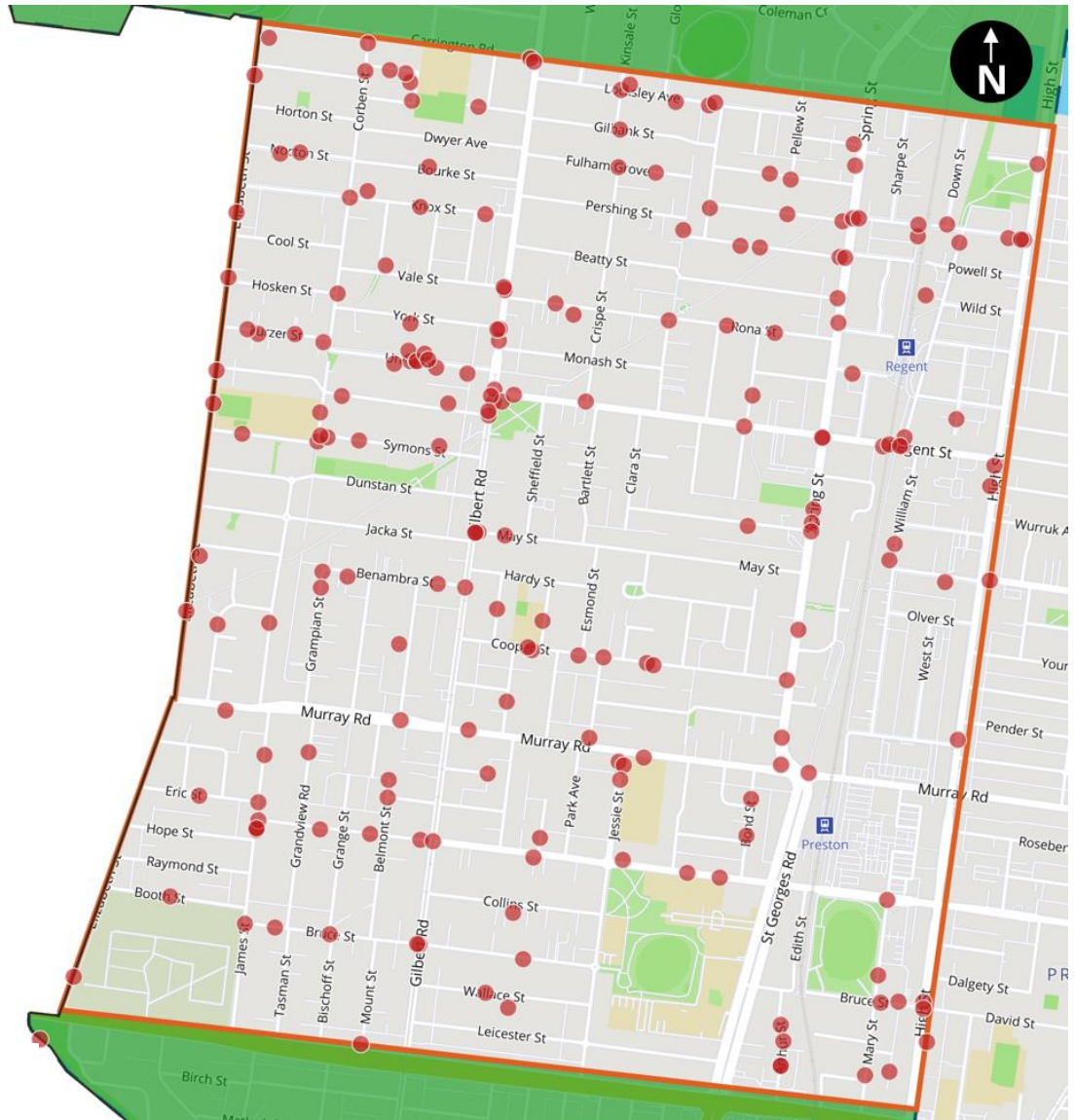
All Vehicle Spots are presented on Map 5.

Whilst there is coverage across Preston West, concentrations can be seen at the intersection of Gilbert Rd / Regent St and in the centre of Union St.

Vehicle Spot Categories

Participants were asked to associate their Vehicle Spot

Map 5 – Vehicle Spots



with a category that best describes the issue at that location. Under half of Vehicle Spots were related to 'Speeding traffic' (40%), followed by Parking issues (21%) and 'Too much traffic' (17%).

The spots indicated as relating to speeding issues are mapped in Figure 19 on the following page.

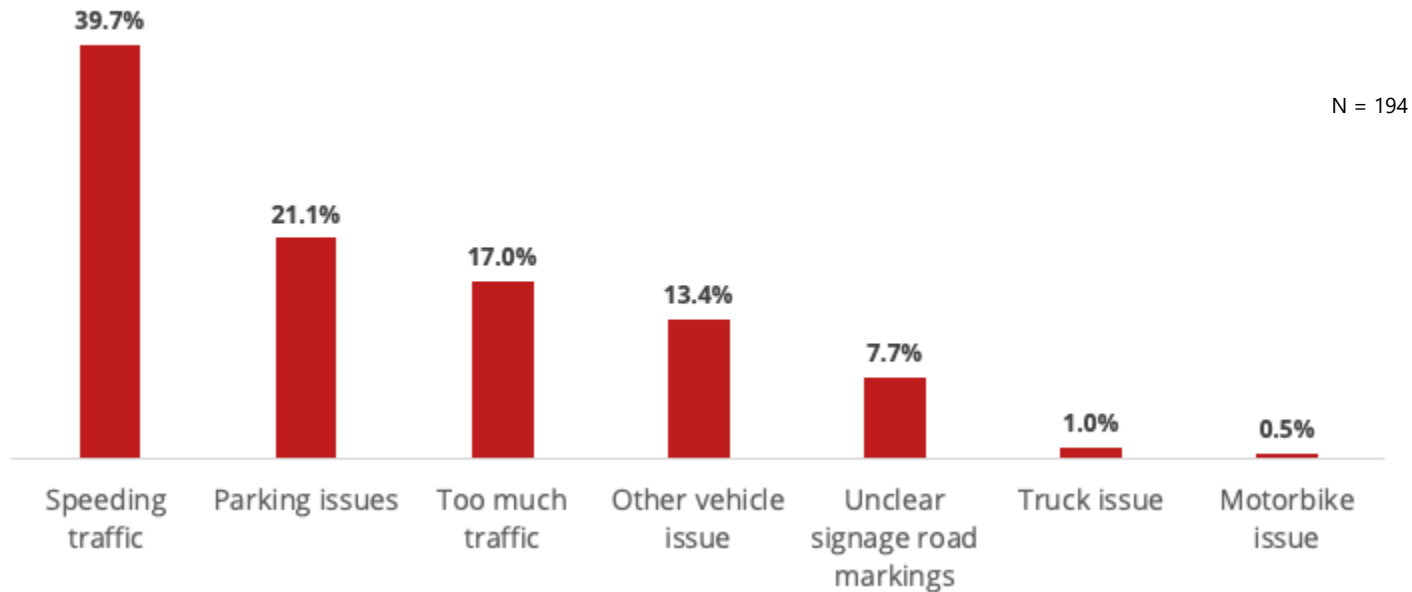
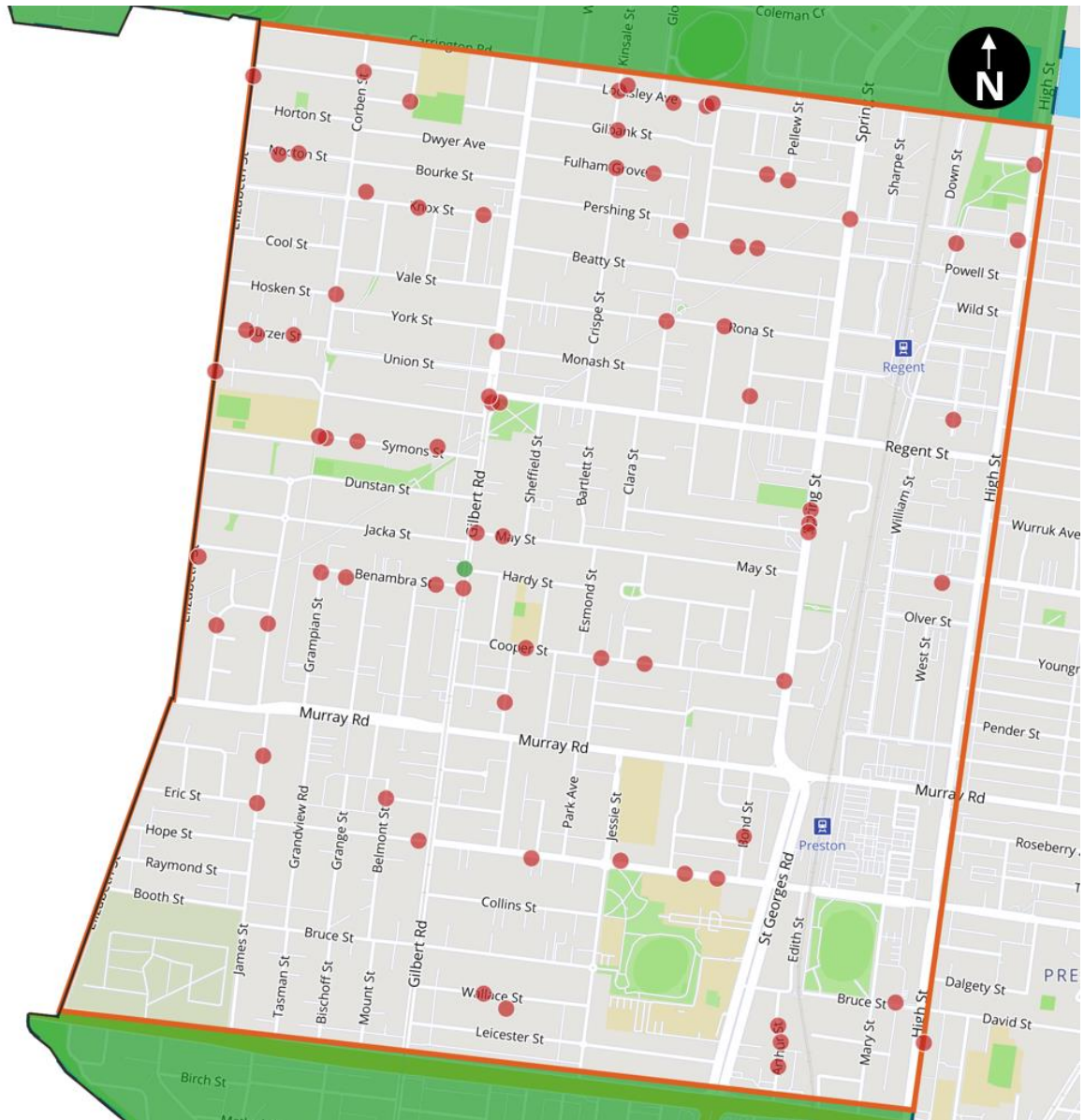


Figure 18. Vehicle Spot categories

Key locations for speeding traffic are experienced at:

- Cramer St
- Knox St
- Locksley Ave
- Furzer St
- Symons St



Map 6. Speeding traffic

7. General Spots

General Spots represent 150 or 25.1% of data points on the map within Preston West.

All General Spots are presented on Map 7.

Concentrations can be seen at the following locations:

- Preston City Oval
- James St pop-up park
- HP Zwar Park
- W.K. Larkins Reserve



Map 7. General Spots

General Spot Categories

The most selected General Spot categories include 'Other general issue' (30.5%) and 'Area feels uncared for' (28.4%). These two categories made up 58.9% of all General Spots. Many of the 'Other general issues' and 'Area feels uncared for' relate to better utilisation of spaces, rubbish dumping, air/odour pollution and overgrown vegetation. Locations categorised as 'Area feels uncared for' are represented on Map 8 on the following page.

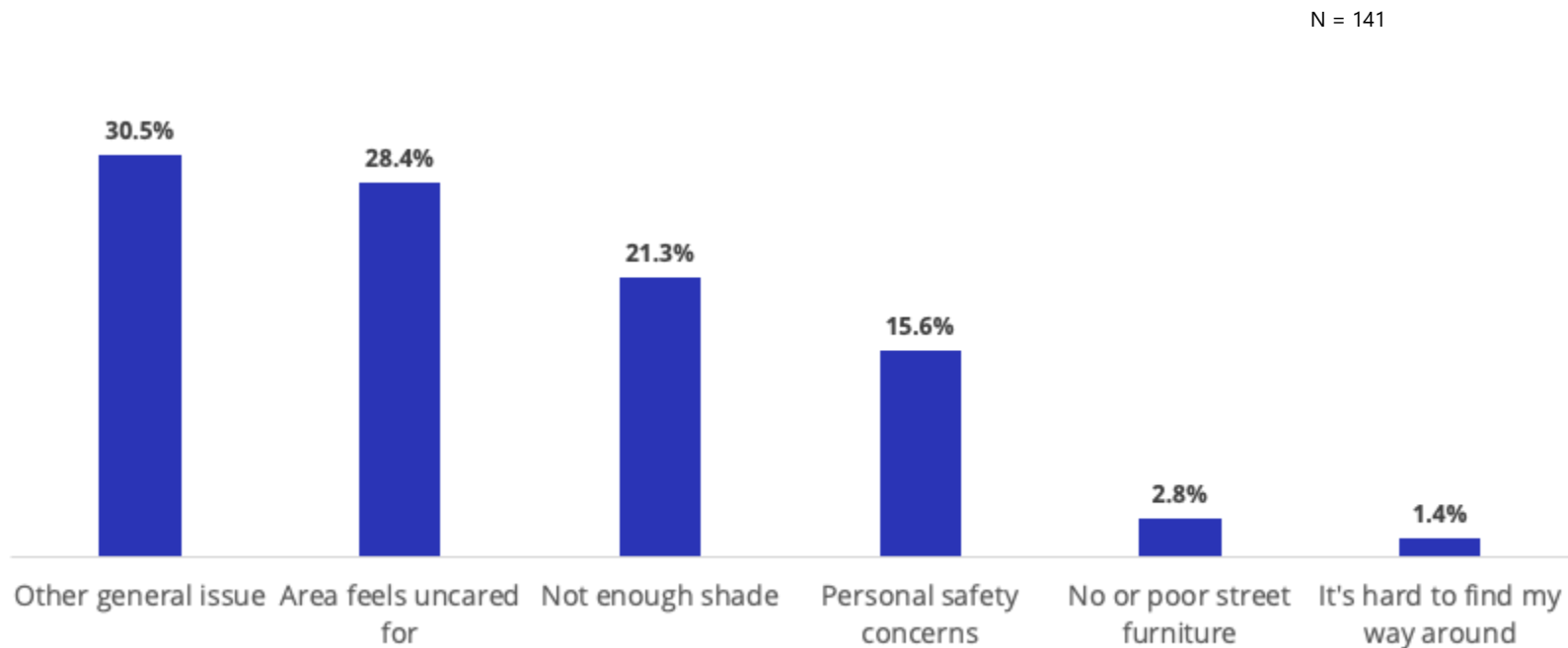
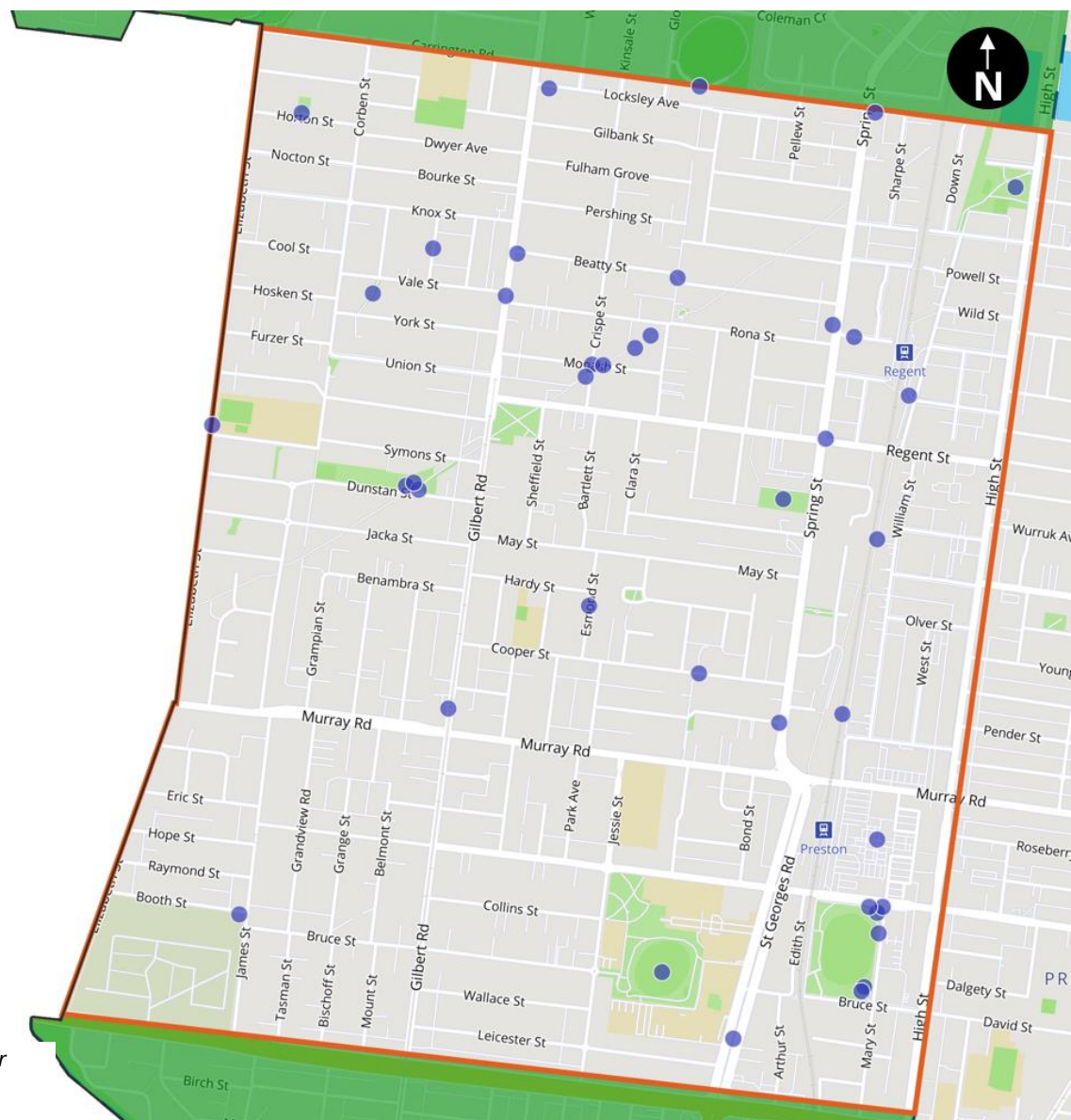


Figure 19. General Spot categories

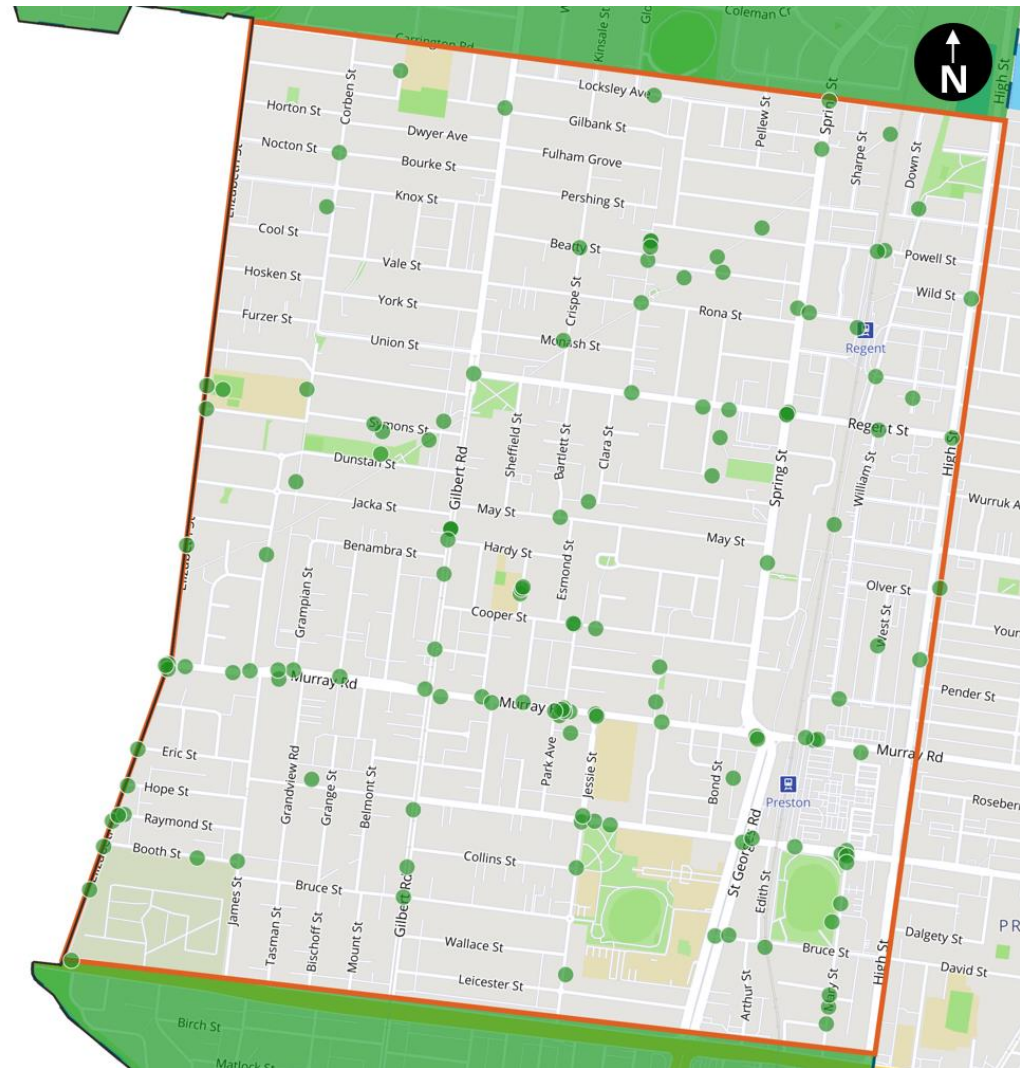
Map 8. Area feels uncared for



8. Walking Spots

Walking Spots represent 145 or 24.2% of all data points submitted within Preston West. The majority of these appear to be located along Murray Rd. Clusters can be seen multiple intersections including:

- Spring St & Regent St
- Jessie St & Cramer St
- Mary St & Cramer St



Map 9. Walking Spots

Walking Spot Categories

Representing one-third (33.1%) of all Walking Spots, 'No pedestrian crossing' was clearly the most significant walking issue in Preston West. This was followed by 'Unsafe driving behaviour' (17.6%) and 'Other walking issue' (16.2%). The majority of the 'other walking issues' are associated with accessibility and footpath maintenance issues.

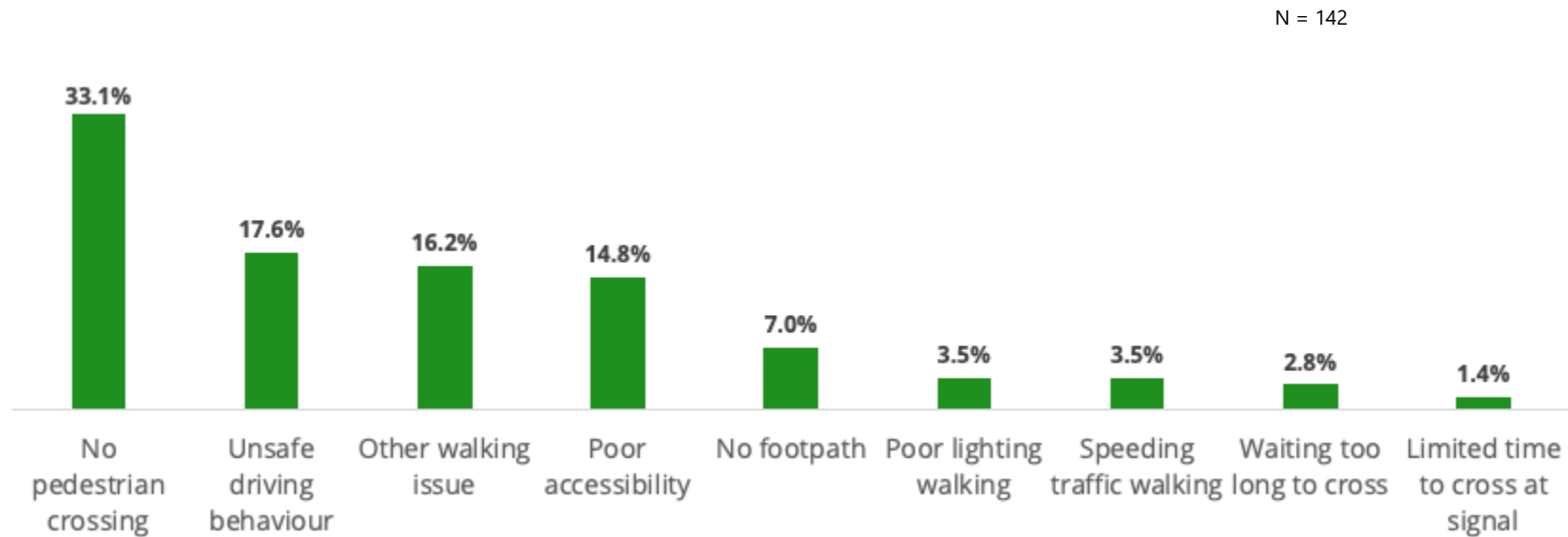


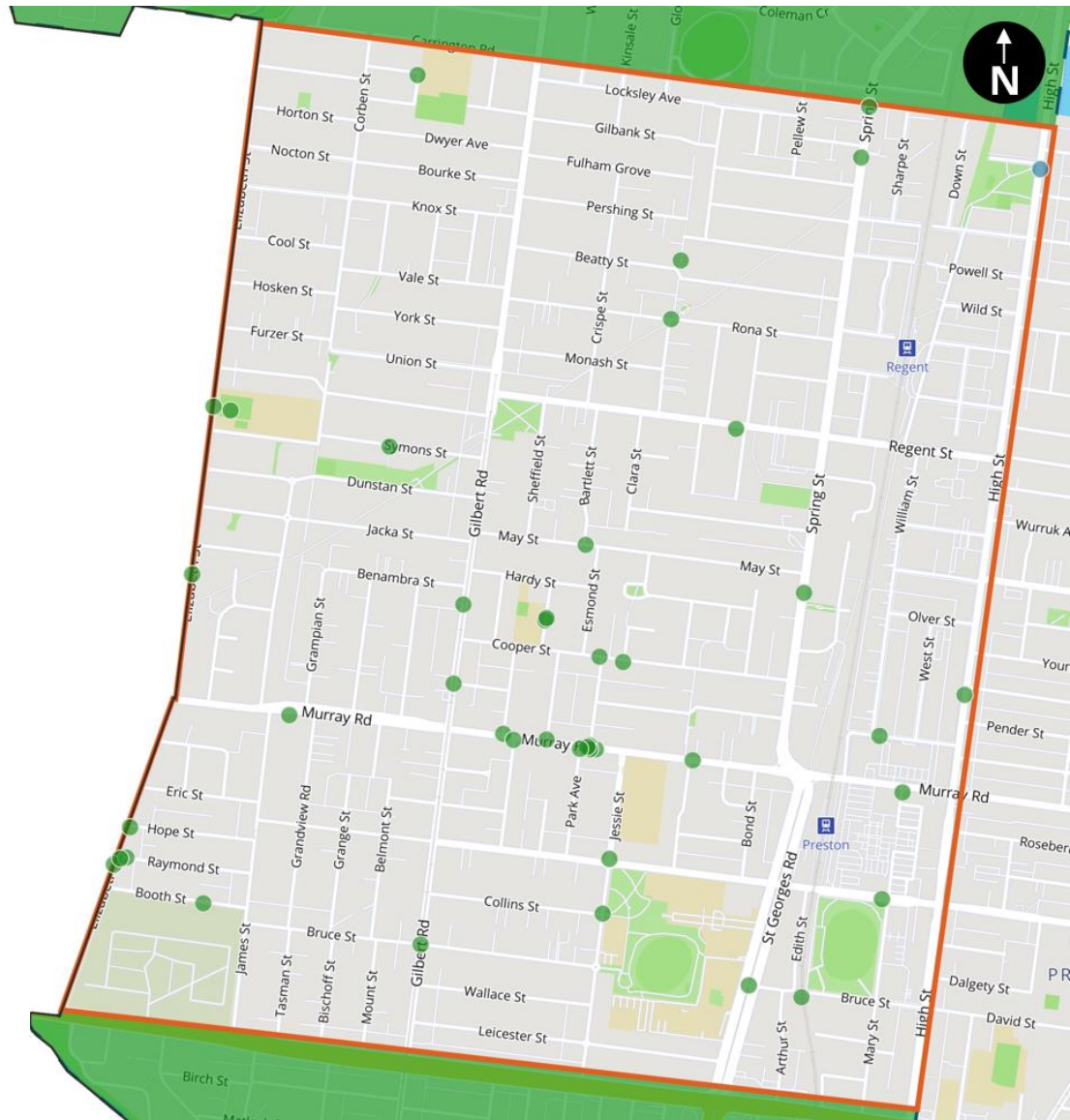
Figure 20. Walking Spot categories

The locations categorised as 'No pedestrian crossing' are mapped in Figure 25 on the following page. The primary 'No pedestrian crossing' location is on Murray Rd between Margtmary Ave and Fettleing St.

Other locations identified as requiring pedestrian crossing include:

- Spring St
- Breen St (next to St Raphael's Catholic Primary school)

Map 10. No pedestrian crossing

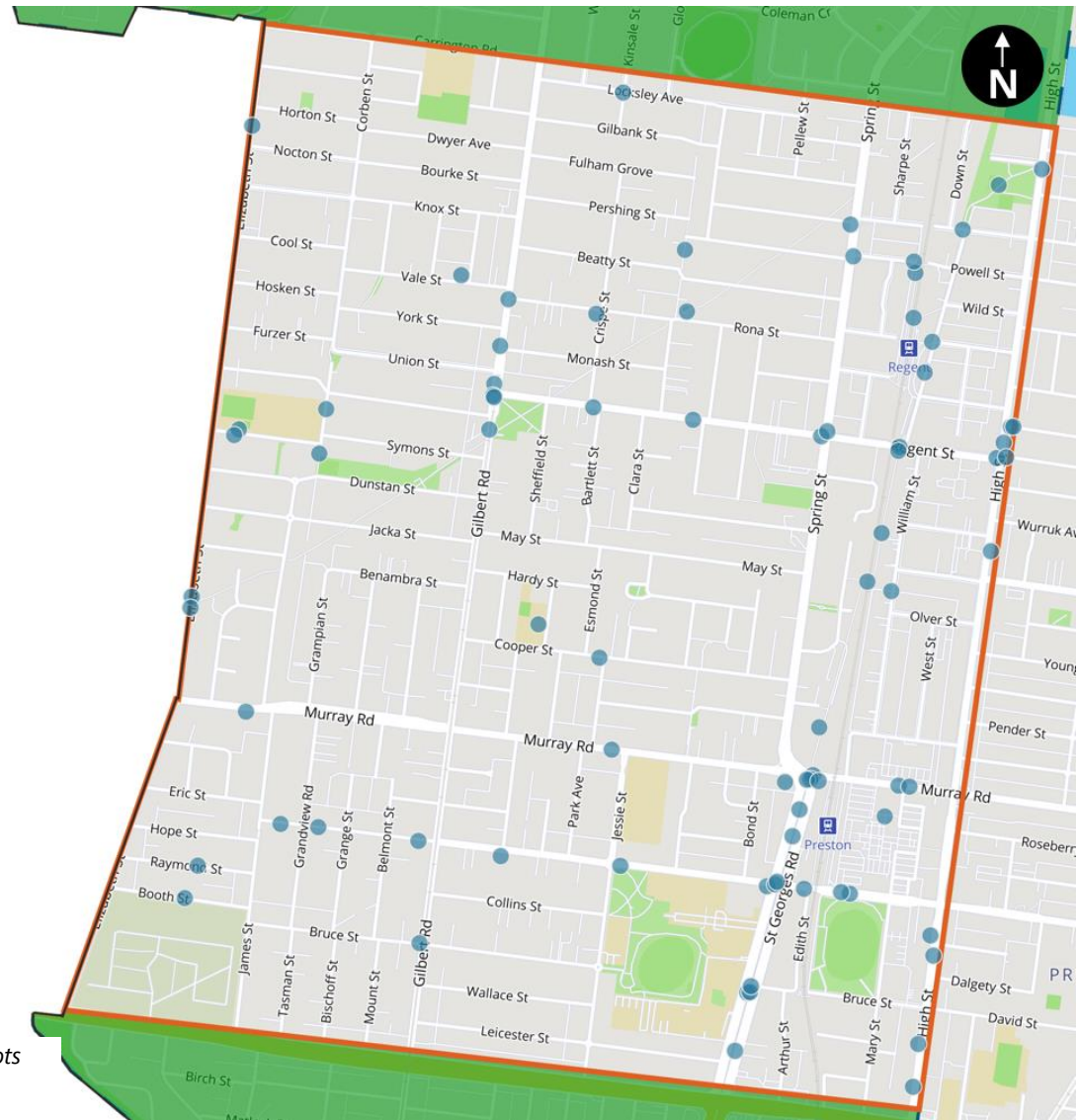


9. Cycling Spots

Cycling Spots are fairly scattered throughout Preston West. In total, 82 were within the suburb, representing 13.7% of all spots.

Cycling Spots concentrations are located:

- Along the St Georges Rd Trail
- St Georges Rd Trail & Bruce St
- St Georges Rd Trail & Murray Rd
- St Georges Rd Trail & Cramer St
- St Georges Rd Trail & Regent St
- Cramer St



Map 11. Cycling Spots

Cycling Spot Categories

'No bicycle lanes' was the most significant cycling issue identified in Preston West with 35.9% of all Cycling Spots. 'Dangerous Intersection' and 'Other bike issue' were the next top categorised issue with 16.7% and 12.8% respectively. 'Other bike issues' are mainly associated with no bike parking and overgrown vegetation. 'No bicycle lanes' locations are represented in Map 12 on the following page.

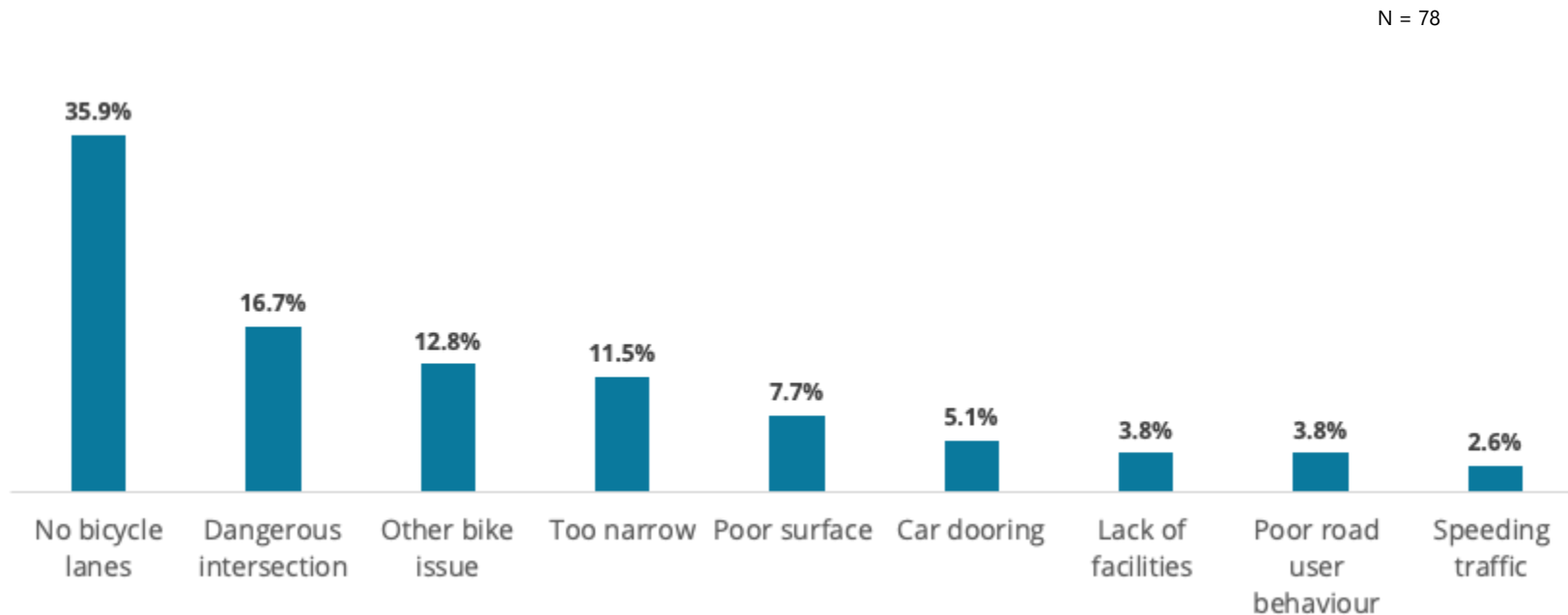
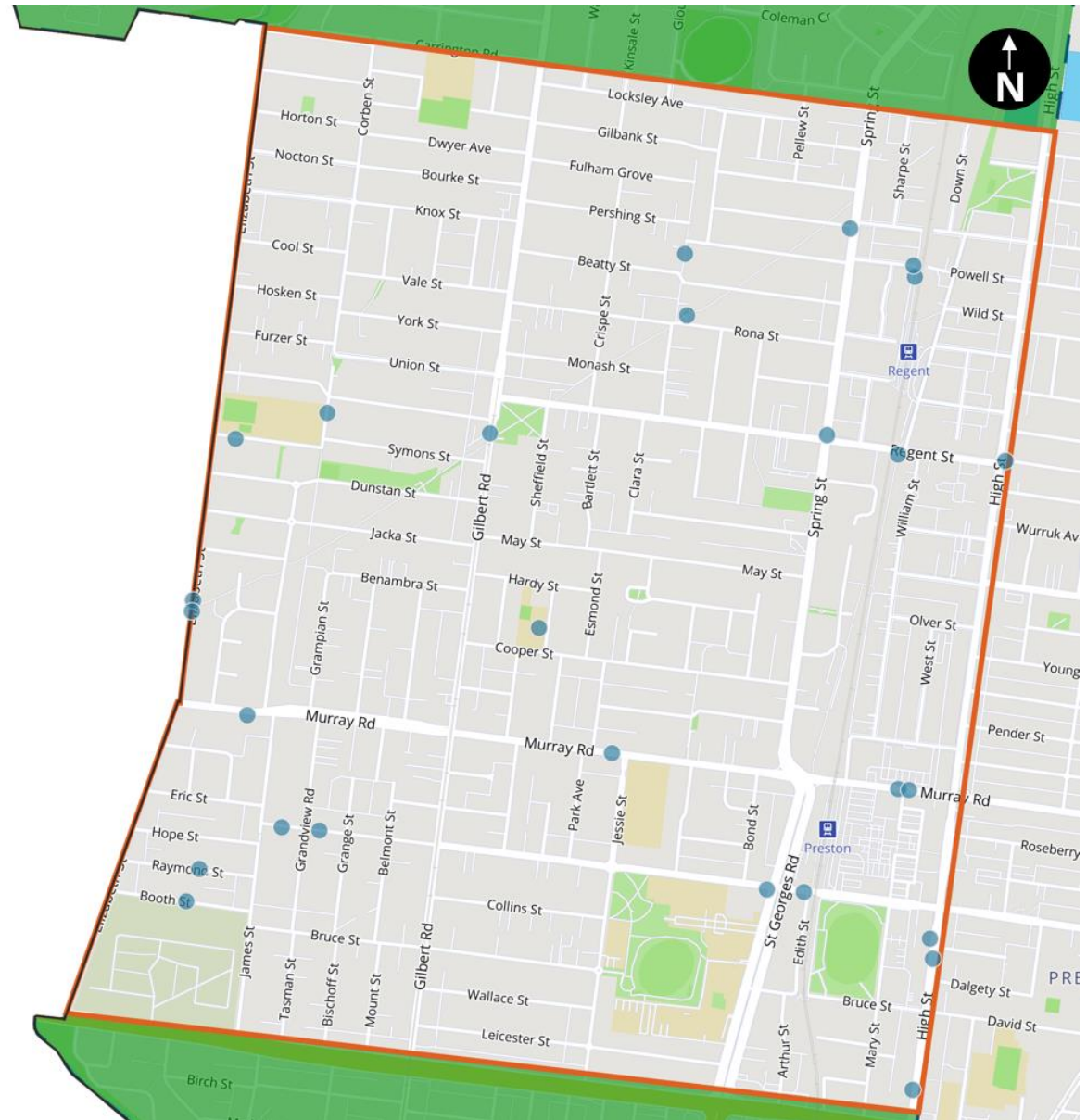


Figure 21. Cycling Spots categories

Map 12. No bicycle lanes

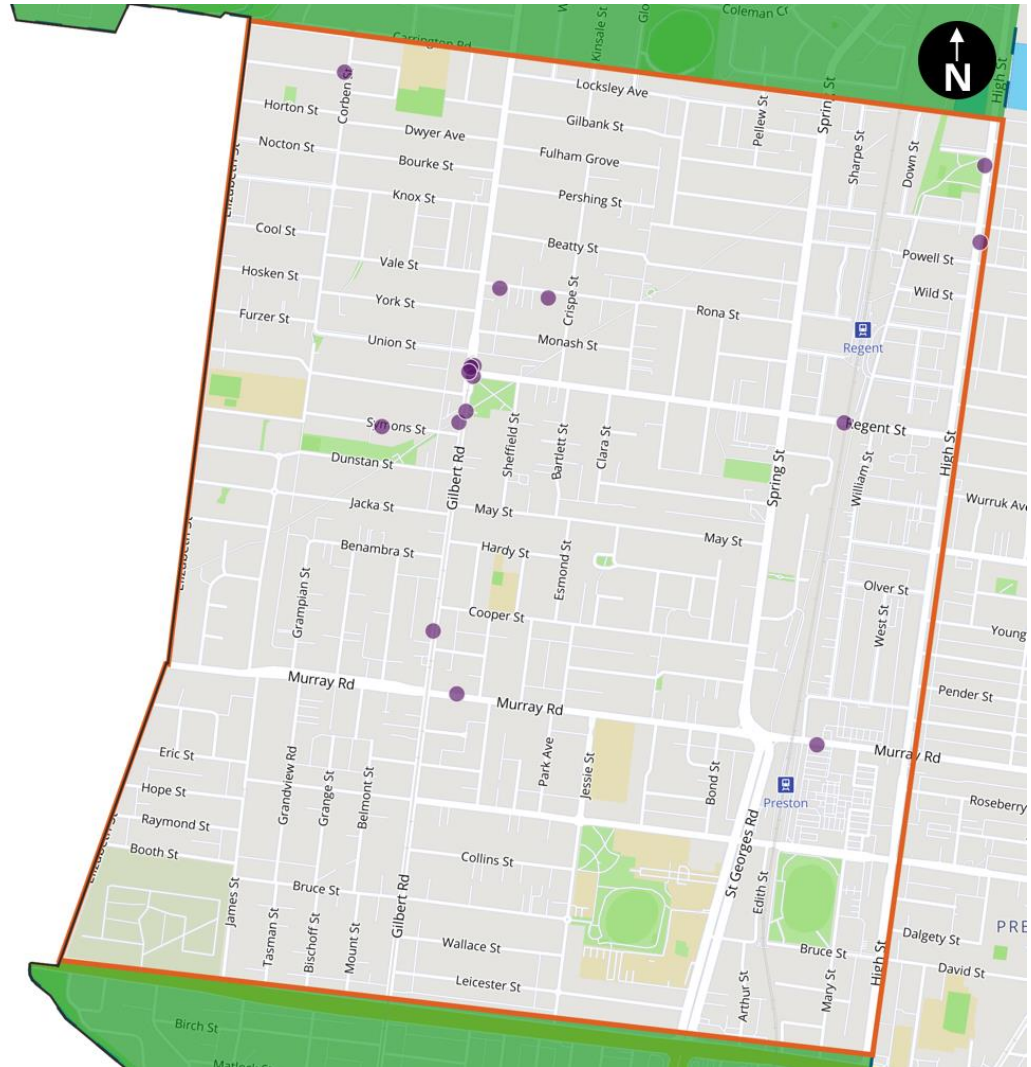


10. Public Transport Spots

Submissions relating to public transport were relatively limited with only 17 Public Transport spots added to the map within Preston West. This represents only 2.8% of data points within the area. The lack of public transport related submissions may be a result of limited public transport use due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is a clear concentration of Public Transport Spots on Gilbert Rd advocating for an extension to Tram Route 11. The extension of Tram Route 11 extension is a Council endorsed advocacy position.

Map 13. PT Spots



11. Top 10 Spots

Map 14 to the right visualises the top 10 spots overall added to the map. The top spots are determined by the amount of 'activity' ('comments' + 'supports') a location received. Spots at the same location or area that share the same sentiment have been merged.

1. Cramer St - No bike lane, Too narrow

'Bike lanes are too narrow and unprotected. They should be given priority at crossings as there are always near misses with cars leaving Preston Market and other side streets.'

- Dan

2. Spring St - No pedestrian crossing

Map 14. Top 10 Overall Spots



'Spring St here is a 4 lane 60km/h road however there are no pedestrian crossing facilities between Murray Rd and Regent St, a distance of 800 metres. There should be a traffic light pedestrian crossing between May St and Spring St reserve.'

- Callum

3. St Georges Rd Trail & Murray Rd - Poor crossing, walking/cycling priority needed

'Feel like I've spent days of my life waiting here given the amount I ride. Given this is a major cycling route then if we're taking a modal shift towards active travel seriously then bikes and pedestrians need better priority here. Must add about 5 mins to my trip into the city, what does that amount to in economic terms?'

- Someone

4. HP Zwar Park - No shade, no toilets

'This is a lovely playground with shade over the seated areas but no shade over the playground itself. Shade over the playground would increase usability on hot/wet days'

- Jeanjean

7. St Georges Rd Trail south of Regent St

'This park is used a lot by local families. It would be nice to have some self cleaning toilet facilities that are available instead of kids weeing in the bushes!'

- RachelK

5. Preston City Oval at Cramer St & Mary St - Personal safety concerns, rubbish dumping

'My teenage daughter does not feel safe walking past this spot where there is a picnic table tucked in behind the Preston City Brass Bandroom.'

- KB

6. Tram Route 11 - Extend tram line north

'If we are serious about global warming and public transport, we need to put the infrastructure in place to support this. I can't think of anyone in this community who would not support extending the tram line at least to the lake and preferably across to Reservoir Station.'

- Sue

'The space from the pedestrian rail crossing up to Regent is horrific. It's full of rubbish and had zero appeal. This is actually a very large green space which could easily and cheaply be landscaped to create a lovely area for locals to enjoy'

- Phoebe

8. Diagonal off-road trail

'Good opportunity for an off road-bike route along the diagonal strip from Reservoir Dams to Merri Creek, linking many parks, recreational route.'

- Someone

9. St Georges Rd Trail - Poor surface, rest area requested (shade, water fountain, repair, etc.)

'Whole path needs repaving and needs to be smoother. Also would be good to get a repair station or pump somewhere'

- AM

10. St Georges Rd Rail & Regent St - Poor crossing

'A very clumsy integration of a cycleway with the train line, after waiting for a train or two at regent street, you then have to loop back over the train line and hope that you wont get caught by yet another train. Hopefully the path to St. Georges Road is under the proposed raised section.'

- Ryan

12. Neighbourhood opportunities

In the process of adding a spot on the map participants were asked *'Thinking more generally about this neighbourhood, what do you love and/or what changes do you want to make it better?'*. Below is a selection of responses that help capture the essence of Preston West.

'Being able to play out in the street is incredibly important for young children. It creates strong and safe neighbourhoods, and supports children in developing independence. I'd be installing very strong traffic restrictions to prevent through traffic, and slow cars to 10k right through this block. See <https://playingout.net/>

'Better utilisation of the Melb water pipeline - even if it's just a footpath and/or bike path. It would make a huge difference and help movement around the area. There's a big focus on bike infrastructure but i would prefer pedestrians be prioritised - considering the amount of young families and prams etc that live in the area.'

'I have been a resident on Knox Street for over 2 years, I love the neighbourhood however I have concerns in the rise of vehicle traffic due to the proximity of the Coburg Hill shops. My suggestion would be to add more Speed

Bumps or restrict access to the street to slow or divert traffic to the main roads.'

'I love that it is unpretentious, and convenient. The market is brilliant, good value, authentic and has quality produce sold by small business owners. What I am finding is that is still quite dirty in areas, lots of rubbish around the place e.g. next to the library in Reservoir in the new paved area. The garden beds need attention. More landscaping'

'I wish we had landscaping all up the st georges rd bike path north of bell the way it is south of bell. We seem to get duded with old tired looking patchwork of trees and nothing else.'

'More street trees please- especially down Crispe St where the street tree planting is dangerous lacking in light of climate change and widely inconsistent for character purposes'

13. Summary and Recommendations

The *Your Street, Your Say* Group A map was open for public submissions for a period of 8 weeks, from 11 October to 7 December 2021. Group A is made up of Reservoir West, Preston West and Thornbury West. This report focuses on the data collected within Preston West, where the map received 2,528 individual submissions made up of 598 individual spots and the comments (571) and 'supports' (1,359) within those spots. These submissions were made from 1,247 unique participants. There was a range of location specific feedback added within the different spot types. Based on all the information collected and their relative priorities, below is a set of broad recommendations based purely on community feedback.

Vehicle movement:

- Explore methods (traffic calming, etc.) to reduce driving speed along Cramer St, Knox St, Locksley Ave, Furzer St, and Symons St

General amenity:

- General Spots were focused on improving amenity in and surrounding open spaces including:
 - Preston City Oval – Rubbish, broken glass, personal safety concerns
 - James St pop-up park – Personal safety concerns
 - HP Zwar Park – Playground shade and toilets required
 - W.K. Larkins Reserve – Overgrown grass, broken furniture, better facilities requested

Walking:

- Improve pedestrian safety at identified intersections:
 - Spring St & Regent St
 - Jessie St & Cramer St
 - Mary St & Cramer St
- Explore installation of pedestrian crossing:
 - Murray St (between Margtmary Ave and Fettling St)
 - Spring St (between Murray Rd & Regent St)
 - Breen St (next to St Raphael's Catholic Primary school)
- Advocate and help establish connected off-road trail from Reservoir Dams to Merri Creek

Cycling:

- Explore options of for installing separated/dedicated bicycle lanes along:
 - Cramer St
- Improve intersections along the St Georges Rd Trail at for cyclists at:
 - St Georges Rd Trail & Bruce St
 - St Georges Rd Trail & Murray Rd
 - St Georges Rd Trail & Cramer St
 - St Georges Rd Trail & Regent St
- Advocate and help establish connected off-road trail from Reservoir Dams to Merri Creek

Public Transport:

- Continue advocacy for the extension of the Route 11 tram line

Next steps:

- Collect traffic data and consider community feedback to deliver a plan of proposed treatments.
- Conduct some special interest focus groups on the issues raised (prior to design).
- The 2nd round of community consultation planned towards the middle of 2022.
- Share park-related recommendations with the City of Darebin Open Space team.
- *Your Street, Your Say* initiatives will focus on road-related treatments.

14. APPENDIX

Demographic Analysis

Your Street, Your Say – Group A

Characteristic	Overall	Reservoir West	Preston West	Thornbury West
Population	51,000	26,000	15,000	10,000
Households (Average household size)	18,800 (2.8)	9,200 (2.8)	6,300 (2.4)	3,300 (3.0)
Persons with limited English fluency ¹	3,150 (6%)	1,875 (7%)	975 (7%)	300 (3%)
Households with no motor vehicles	2,090 (11%)	920 (10%)	720 (11%)	450 (14%)
Need for assistance (due to disability)	2,990 (6%)	1,820 (7%)	770 (5%)	400 (5%)
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	296 (0.6%)	175 (0.7%)	61 (0.4%)	60 (0.6%)
SEIFA Index Score (percentile) ²	-	960 (26th percentile)	1,024 (60th percentile)	1,055 (80th percentile)
Elderly (over 80)	2,330 (5%)	1,400 (5%)	600 (4%)	330 (4%)
Youth (10-19)	4,250 (8%)	2,200 (8%)	1,400 (9%)	650 (9%)

Source: <https://profile.id.com.au/darebin>

1. This does not include all people who speak a language other than English at home. Rather, it is those who speak another language at home AND have limited English fluency. This is based off a tool created by officers at City of Greater Dandenong that cross-tabulates data on 'English fluency by language spoken at home' with ABS census data (2016).
2. SEIFA: Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage

A higher score on the index means a *lower* level of disadvantage. A lower score on the index means a *higher* level of disadvantage or, in the case of IRSAD, a higher level of advantage.

The percentile column indicates the approximate position of this small area in a ranked list of Australia's suburbs and localities. It's meant to give an indication of where the area sits within the whole nation. A higher number indicates a higher socio-economic status. For instance, a percentile of 72 indicates that approximately 72% of Australia's suburbs have a SEIFA index lower than this area (more disadvantaged), while 28% are higher.

Number of persons speaking a language other than English at home

Language	Reservoir West	Preston West	Thornbury West	Overall
Italian	3272	1162	399	4833
Greek	1121	853	414	2388
Arabic	1537	551	149	2237
Mandarin	813	592	90	1495
Vietnamese	340	289	63	692
Hindi	413	165	45	623

Macedonian	345	173	44	562
Punjabi	446	59	17	522
Cantonese	277	183	57	517
Nepali	214	135	73	422
Spanish	140	187	89	416
Urdu	194	154	0	348
Filipino/Tagalog	138	63	0	201
Croatian	110	53	17	180
Bengali	65	98	10	173
Persian/Dari/Hazaraghi	128	43	0	171
Gujarati	63	40	58	161
Telugu	84	48	11	143
Maltese	126	16	0	142
Tamil	61	64	14	139
Turkish	84	40	11	135
French	58	37	40	135
Albanian	42	67	19	128
German	26	69	28	123
Japanese	38	66	13	117
Total population in area	26,000	15,000	10,000	51,000

Fluency in the Use of Spoken English (2016)

Language	Limited Fluency	Limited fluency rate (%)
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Greek	2,121	23
Italian	1,947	20
Mandarin	1,822	34
Arabic	913	21
Vietnamese	875	26
Cantonese	588	33
Macedonian	425	20
Non-verbal, so described	224	93
Spanish	122	10
Punjabi	117	9
Persian	112	23
Somali	90	16
Thai	89	25
Chinese, nfd	85	38
Hindi	78	5
Serbian	73	22
Croatian	69	14
Urdu	65	9
Nepali	57	6
Kurdish	50	40
Korean	43	24
Japanese	42	10
Gujarati	39	10
Turkish	39	11
Bengali	35	8
Albanian	33	13
Telugu	31	8
Portuguese	28	11
Maltese	28	11

Age

Age Group	Population	YSYS Participants	Representation
15 and under	16%	0%	Under
16-19	4%	0%	Under
20-24	7%	1%	Under
25-34	21%	17%	Under
35-44	16%	36%	Over
44-54	13%	28%	Over
55-65	9%	7%	Ok
65-74	5%	4%	Ok
75 and over	7%	6%	Ok

Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander

Our indigenous community make up 0.6% of the Group A population.

0.7% of posts on the YSYS platform were made by people who identified as aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander.

This is a huge success.

Disability

6% of Group A residents need assistance due to a disability.

6.3% of YSYS respondents identified as having a disability.