

ACTIVITY CENTRE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



SPRING SQUARE

Hallam



PUBLIC REALM CONCEPT DESIGN

SEPT 2026



INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

Acknowledgement to Country



Diversity Statement

The City of Casey is home to a remarkable diversity of cultures, languages, faiths, identities, landscapes, and stories. From our first Australians to our most recent arrivals and every wave between, the City of Casey

welcomes and represents all community members and their respective ambitions to live healthy, rewarding, and happy lives. These intersecting and overlapping community stories form Casey's collective identity

The City of Casey proudly acknowledges the traditional owners, Casey's Aboriginal communities and their rich culture and pays respect to their Elders past, present and future. We acknowledge Aboriginal people as Australia's first peoples and as the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we work and live.

The City of Casey is committed to reconciliation, guided by Casey's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and the Casey Aboriginal Gathering Place. These initiatives support cultural connection, strengthen community capacity, and work towards better outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Artwork:
Many Journey's, One Community -
Merindah Gunya Art.

and contribute to its evolving, rich history. We recognise this diversity as our strength and we aim to share, nurture, and celebrate it.

Project Summary

The City of Casey is delivering improvements to Spring Square in Hallam through the Activity Centre Improvement Program.

The Program responds to ongoing community feedback, urban design audits and officer analysis, identifying opportunities to improve the quality, safety and function of Casey's activity centres.

The Spring Square project will deliver targeted public realm improvements to enhance safety, accessibility, amenity and the

overall visitor experience. The project supports the vision and objectives of the Council Plan 2025-29 by creating a more vibrant, welcoming and resilient centre that supports both community life and local business activity.

Spring Square will evolve into a safer, greener and more welcoming community destination that celebrates Hallam's multicultural identity, supports local businesses and creates opportunities for people to meet, stay and connect.

What is an Activity Centre?

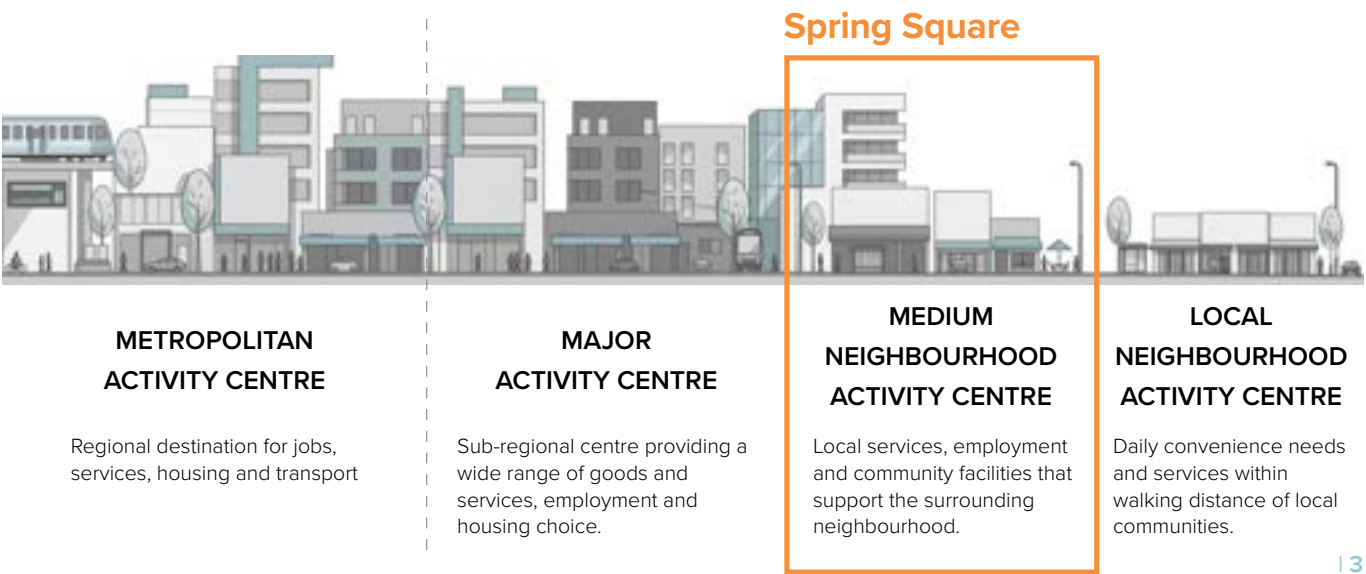
Activity centres are places where people can access shops, services, jobs, community facilities and public spaces in one convenient location. As identified in Casey's Activity Centres Strategy, they play an important role in supporting local

economies, meeting everyday needs and fostering community connection.

Casey's activity centre network includes four centre types: Metropolitan, Major, Medium Neighbourhood and Local

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PRINCIPLES FOR CREATING GREAT PLACES



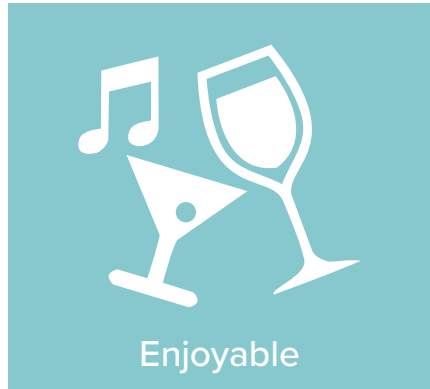
Activated



Accessible



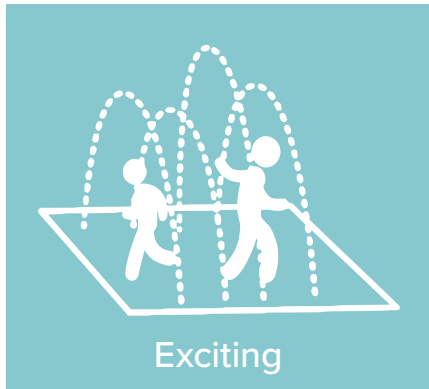
Diverse



Enjoyable



Looked After



Exciting



Socially Resilient

DESIGNING PLACES

The Process of Making Great Places

Great places are the heart of thriving communities. They are destinations that people can easily access, feel comfortable spending time in and return to regularly. Great places support everyday needs while also providing opportunities to meet others, connect with the local community and enjoy a positive and memorable experience.

Creating a great place requires more than just shops and access services. Successful activity centres are welcoming, safe, accessible and attractive. They provide comfortable places to sit and gather, celebrate local identity, support a diverse range of activities and encourage people to spend time beyond their immediate purpose for

visiting. Well-designed public spaces also create opportunities for social connection, economic activity and community life.

To understand how Spring Square is performing today and identify opportunities for improvement, the City of Casey undertook a comprehensive program of community engagement, centre audits and technical investigations. This work examined how people access and move through the centre, the quality of the public realm, opportunities for activity and social interaction, the centre's appearance and identity, and its ability to meet the needs of a diverse community.

Community feedback, site analysis and benchmarking against best-practice activity centres have informed the Spring Square Concept Design. Together, these findings provide a clear direction for creating a safer, more attractive and welcoming centre that supports everyday convenience while encouraging people to meet, stay and connect.

Project Stages

Great places are created through a collaborative and evidence-based process. By combining community feedback, site analysis, technical investigations and design expertise, projects can respond to local needs and create positive outcomes for the people who use them. The flowchart below outlines the key stages involved in delivering a project, from understanding a place and identifying opportunities through to implementation.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement Overview



The creation of vibrant and inclusive places starts with talking to the people who use them. To inform the development of the Spring Square Concept Design, the City of Casey engaged with residents, businesses and visitors to understand how people experience the centre and what they would like to see improved. Community feedback highlighted the centre's strengths, identified key challenges and helped shape a vision for its future.



Alongside community engagement, Council undertook a detailed assessment of Spring Square with input from specialist consultants and technical officers. These investigations examined movement, safety, public realm quality, centre identity and opportunities to enhance the visitor experience. The findings from both have informed the Concept Design and will guide future improvements to create a safer, more attractive and more welcoming centre.



Community members value the cultural diversity of Spring Square and identified opportunities to celebrate and strengthen this identity.

Parking, traffic circulation and pedestrian safety were consistently identified as key priorities for improvement.



We Heard You!

Getting To & Around Spring Square | The Community Experience



67%
visit Spring Square weekly



9%
walk to centre



Car park traffic
was identified as the biggest barrier to moving around the centre.



82%
visit as it fits into their daily routines



91%
travel by car

How People Use Spring Square | The Community Experience



82%
visit for Shopping & Groceries



67%
Did not feel encouraged to spend additional time in the centre



36%
visit for cultural food & products



50%
of respondents visited only one shop, while the remainder visited several nearby shops.

Key Community Engagement Outcomes

Identified Areas Needing Attention

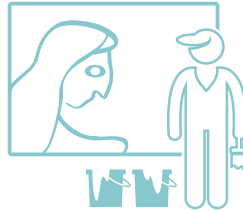
- Safer movement in carpark
- Character & identity
- Lighting improvements
- Shade and tree cover
- Seating and places to rest
- Cleanliness & maintenance
- Wayfinding and signage

Community Priorities for Improvement

- More cafés and food options
- Safer pedestrian crossings
- Lighting review
- Additional seating

Opportunities to reflect & celebrate the mix of cultures

- Outdoor gathering places
- Centre landscaping
- Public art



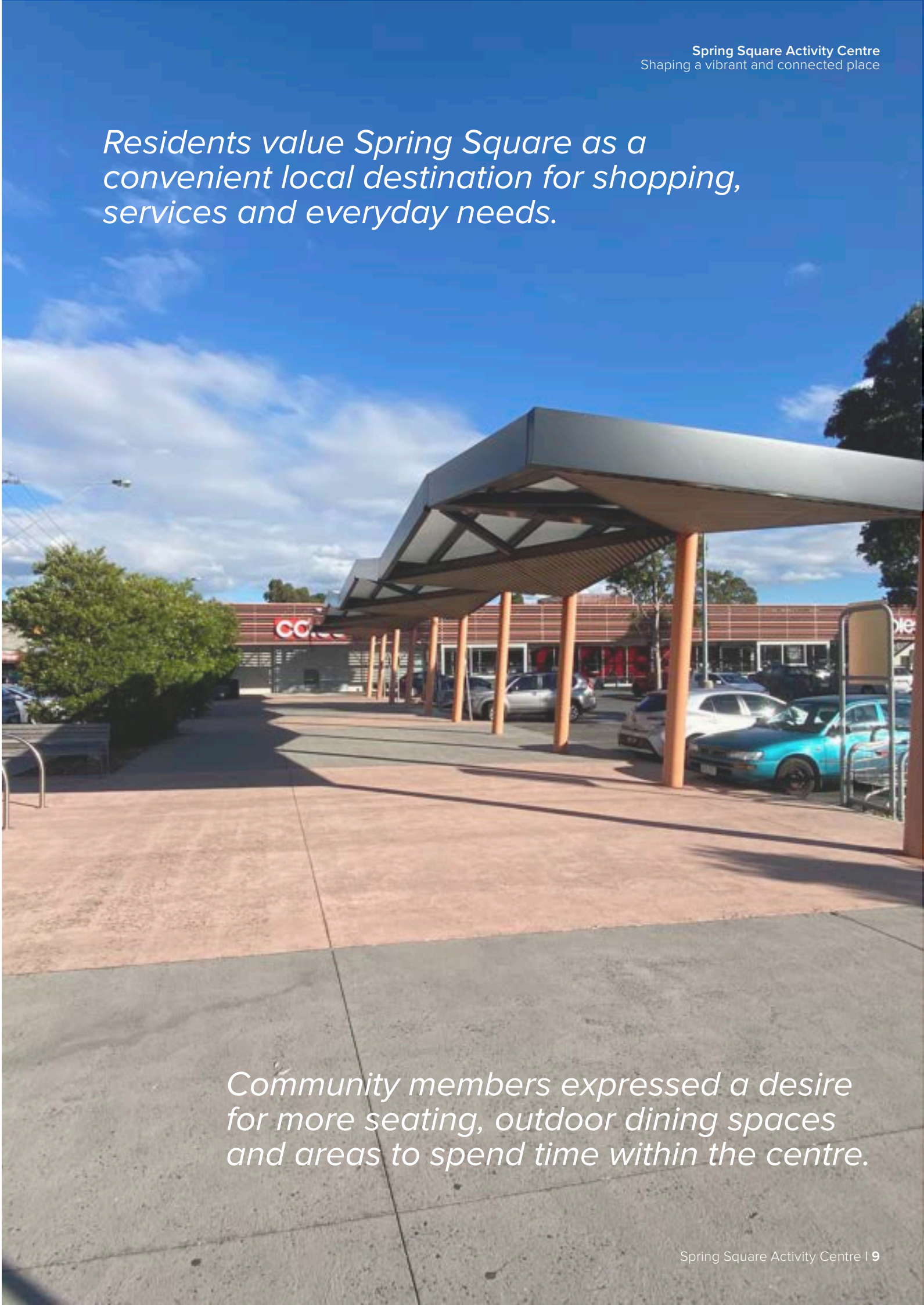
UNDERSTANDING EXISTING CONDITIONS

Spring Square Walking Catchment



Activity Centre Boundary	Major Land Uses	Education Uses
Train Station	1 Hallam Recreation Reserve	1 Hallam Secondary College
Bus Stop and Route	2 Hallam Community Theatre	2 Hallam Kindergarten / Hallam Primary School
	3 Commercial Zone	3 Kind Kids Early Learning Centre
	4 Hallam Family Health Practice	4 Hallam Early Learning
	5 Scott Close Reserve Playground	5 Sports Clubs

Residents value Spring Square as a convenient local destination for shopping, services and everyday needs.



Community members expressed a desire for more seating, outdoor dining spaces and areas to spend time within the centre.

UNDERSTANDING EXISTING CONDITIONS

Key Challenges and Opportunities



Legend

	Vehicle Access		Awning Structure
	Informal Pedestrian Crossings		Gateways
	Zebra Pedestrian Crossings		Pedestrian & Vehicle Conflicts
	Pedestrian Movement on Path		Steps / Stairs
	Pedestrian Movement without path		

Challenges:

- Overhead powerlines restrict canopy tree growth.
- Vehicle and pedestrian conflicts.
- Unclear centre entry and arrival experience.
- Weak connections to the play space and reserve.
- Limited reflection of community identity and diversity.

Opportunities:

- Activate the underutilised central public space as a community gathering area.
- Build on the existing awning structure to support future activity and events.
- Enhance pedestrian connectivity through existing zebra crossing points.

Existing Site Photos



Vehicles undertaking illegal U-turns creating safety concerns for people walking through the centre.



Illegal parking contributes to conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians and affects the overall function of the centre.



Main car park servicing Spring Square Activity Centre.



Narrow footpaths limit opportunities for outdoor dining, outdoor trading and informal community activity.



Raised pedestrian crossing prioritises pedestrian movement and improves safety at key crossing points.



Existing lighting conditions.

SPRING SQUARE OVERALL CONCEPT

Key Design Moves



No loss of car spaces



Outdoor dining opportunities



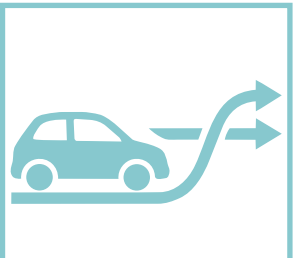
Improved connections



Additional tree canopy coverage



Celebrate cultural diversity



Traffic flow improved



Improved centre gateways



Public space for events



SPRING SQUARE MAIN ENTRY CONCEPT

Existing

- (01) Existing raised pedestrian crossing provides a safe road crossing point.
- (02) Existing speed humps assisting in traffic calming and reduced vehicle speeds at new crossing point.
- (03) Existing steps provide pedestrian access between the Activity Centre and reserve.
- (04) Removal of existing trolley bay to facilitate parking layout improvements and increased parking efficiency.



(B)*



(C)*

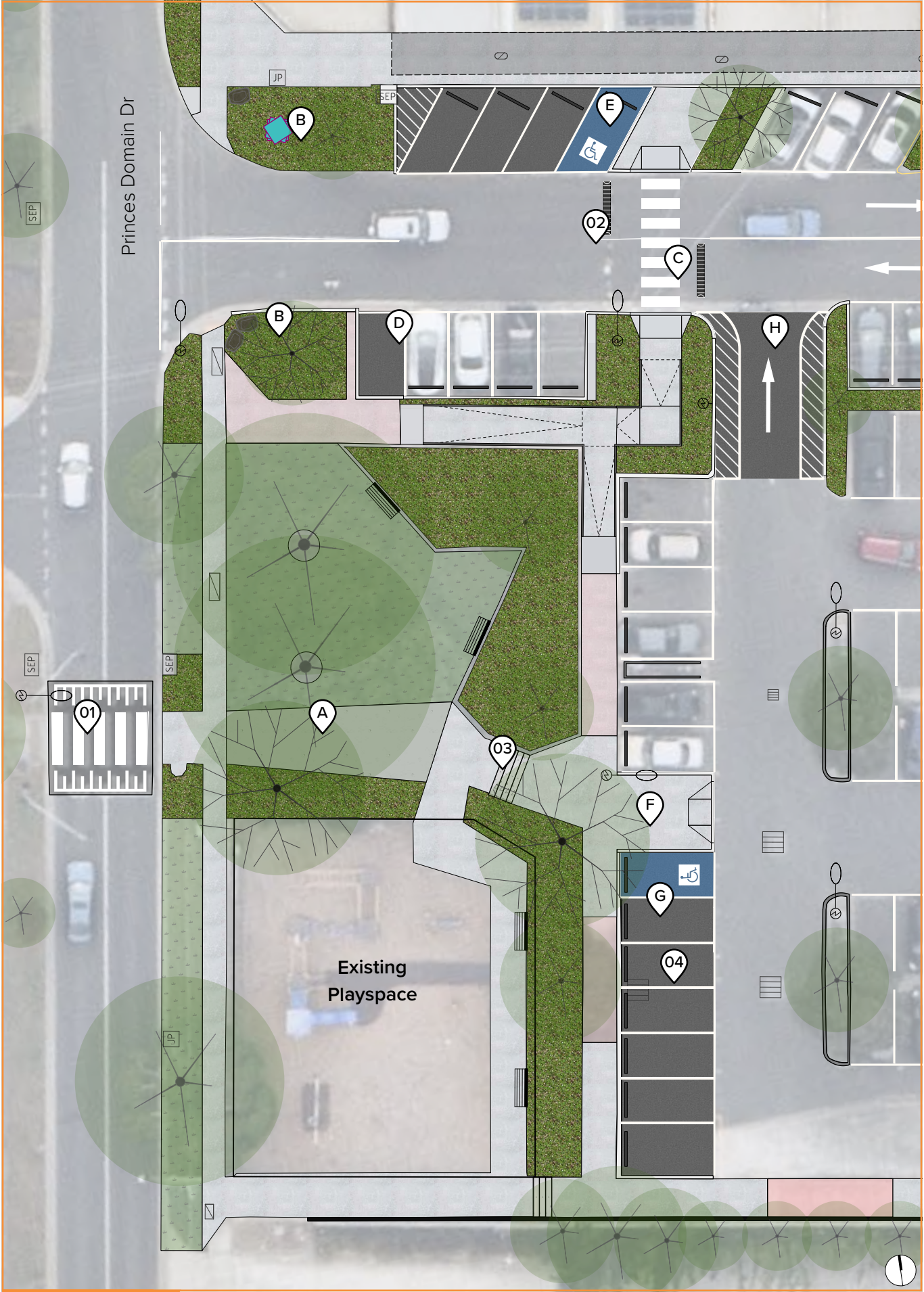
*Indicative photos shown as conceptual references only. Subject to final design.

Proposed

- (A) New concrete path connection and adjacent landscaped garden bed to improve pedestrian connectivity to the Activity Centre.
- (B) Enhanced gateway arrival experience to the Centre, including a new landscaped garden bed, wayfinding signage, and feature planting to strengthen identity and beautify the entry.
- (C) New zebra crossing to improve pedestrian safety and connectivity across the road, strengthening links between the Activity Centre, reserve and playspace. Supports increased activity, gathering opportunities, and longer visitor dwell times, including outdoor dining.
- (D) Existing parking space relocated to this location.
- (E) Existing DDA parking space relocated adjacent to the new crossing outstand to provide safer and more convenient access.
- (F) New car park entry point to improve access and connectivity to the reserve.
- (G) Reconfigured parking layout, including relocation of the DDA parking space to provide improved accessibility and pedestrian connections.

Trail Traffic Safety Improvements

- (H) Trial conversion of the car park entry/exit to an exit-only arrangement to improve traffic flow and reduce vehicle conflict points.



MAIN ENTRY

SPRING SQUARE COMMUNITY SPACE CONCEPT

Existing

- (01) Existing raised pedestrian crossing provides a safe road crossing point.
- (02) Existing at-grade pedestrian crossing supporting safe pedestrian movement across the road.
- (03) Existing canopy structure to be retained.
- (04) Coles supermarket entry.
- (05) Existing seating, garden beds and trees.
- (06) Telstra phone booth.



(B)



(F)

*Indicative photos shown as conceptual references only. Subject to final design.

Proposed

- (A) Expanded public space to support community gathering, enhance pedestrian safety and reduce conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles.
- (B) Creation of a public artwork on the ground surface that celebrates Hallam’s multicultural community, fostering local pride, strengthening community identity and enhancing the centre’s sense of place. The artwork will also strengthen visual connections throughout the centre and contribute to a more inviting public realm. (indicative artwork area shown)
- (C) Wayfinding signage positioned at key locations to improve navigation and reinforce the activity centre’s identity, character and sense of place.
- (D) Outdoor picnic table settings and a variety of seating opportunities to encourage social interaction, support local businesses, and create spaces for informal dining, relaxation and community gathering.
- (E) Retention of a flexible central gathering space that provides opportunities for future community events, seasonal activations, pop-up markets and other local activities.
- (F) Inclusion of additional canopy trees to provide shade, enhance pedestrian comfort and create a greener, more attractive activity centre.
- (G) Enhanced garden beds with landscape rock features, extending the existing landscape character established within the raised corner garden.
- (H) Refer to page 09.



SPRING SQUARE PRINCES HWY ENTRY CONCEPT

Existing

- (01) Existing accessible parking space located adjacent to the pedestrian crossing
- (02) Existing at-grade pedestrian crossing supporting safe pedestrian movement across the road.

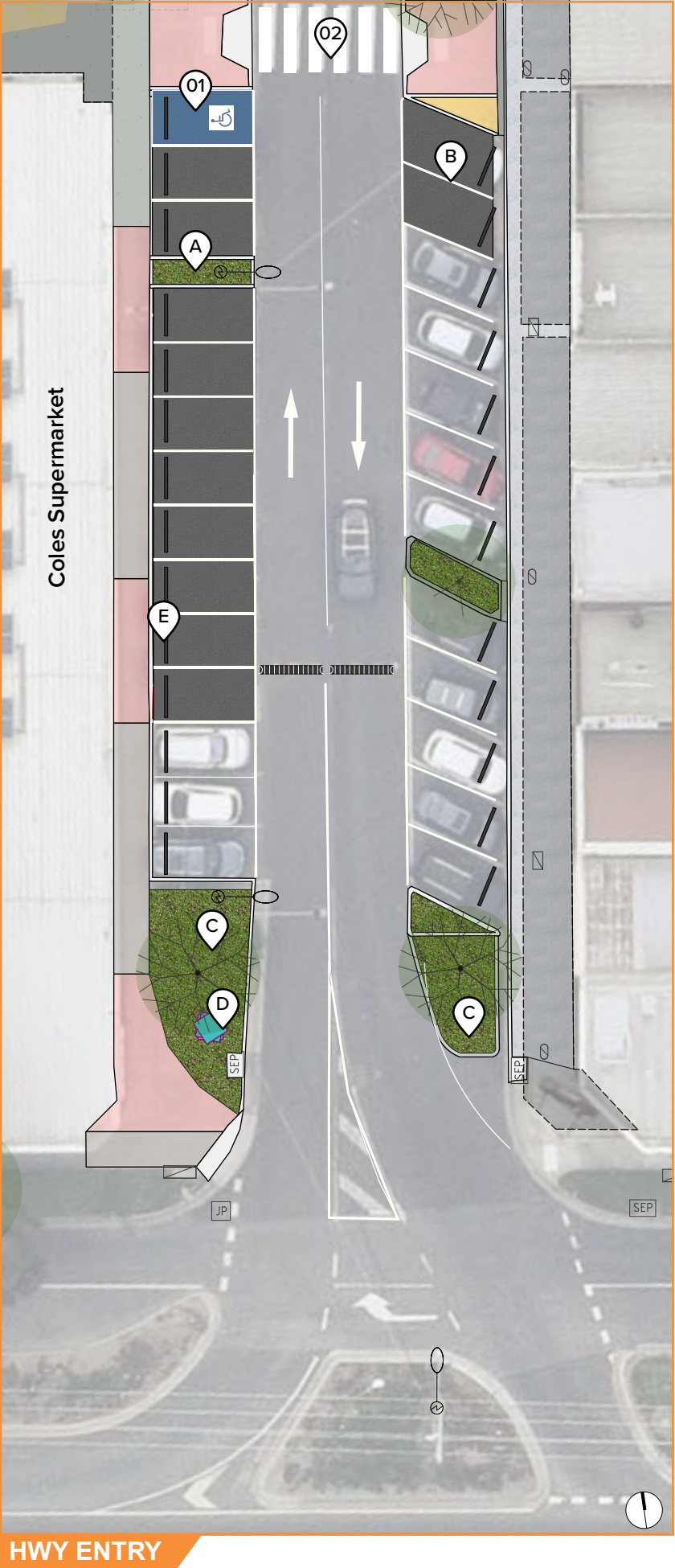


(C)

Proposed

- (A) Reduced landscaped area to optimise the parking layout and increase overall parking supply.
- (B) Relocated DDA parking space to increase overall parking capacity while maintaining accessible parking provision.
- (C) Extended garden bed incorporating additional shrub and tree planting to enhance landscape character and create a more attractive gateway to the Activity Centre.
- (D) Wayfinding entry signage to improve visibility and navigation to the Activity Centre.
- (E) Increased parking capacity through the provision of additional car spaces.

*Indicative photos shown as conceptual references only. Subject to final design.





FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

Spring Square Activity Centre
Shaping a vibrant and connected place

Community engagement identified a range of opportunities to further enhance Spring Square and the surrounding area. In particular, community members raised concerns regarding vehicle circulation, parking and movement through the centre, in addition to requests for improved lighting and upgrades to the adjacent reserve and playspace.

While the current project delivers a series of targeted public realm improvements, Council recognises that not all priorities can be addressed within the scope of a single project. Some matters require further investigation and collaboration with external stakeholders, service authorities and government agencies. The following opportunities have

been identified for future consideration and may be explored through future planning, funding and renewal programs.

Lighting Improvements

Community engagement identified opportunities to improve lighting throughout the activity centre to enhance comfort, visibility and the overall visitor experience. While lighting improvements are outside the scope of the current project, Council has heard this feedback

and may investigate opportunities to enhance lighting in key locations throughout the centre as part of future works. Any future lighting upgrades would be subject to further investigation, design development and funding availability.

Spring Square Reserve and Playspace Renewal

The Spring Square Reserve and Playground play an important role in the broader precinct, providing opportunities for recreation, play and community activity.

Successful activity centres offer more than just shops and services, they offer a diverse range of activities and destinations, encouraging people to spend longer in the centre and creating opportunities for social connection.

The proposed concept design seeks to strengthen connections between the reserve/playground and activity centre through improved pedestrian access, safer crossings and enhanced wayfinding, making it easier for people to move between these spaces.

By better integrating the reserve and activity centre, visitors may be encouraged to spend more time in the precinct, supporting local businesses and creating

opportunities for families and friends to gather, purchase food or coffee, and enjoy the surrounding open space. While renewal of the reserve and playground is outside the scope of the current project, future upgrades may be considered through Council's ongoing reserve and playspace renewal programs to ensure these valued community assets continue to meet the needs of local residents and visitors



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