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# The Future of Victoria Square

A Place for the People Kia Atawhai Ki Te Tangata

Round Three Survey Report

10 August 2015

-  Communication
-  Community & Stakeholder Engagement
-  Training



## Table of Contents

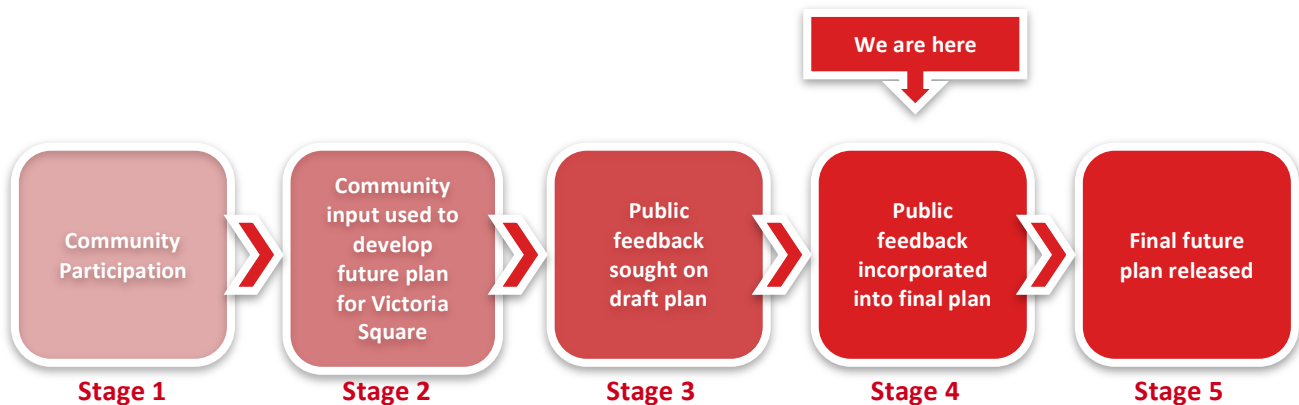
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
1.2	Location of Victoria Square	5
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Survey</b>	<b>6</b>
3.1	Survey questions	6
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Key survey findings</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1	Draft Restoration Plan feature ratings	7
4.2	Features of the plan to be further considered	9
4.2.1	Install artworks and elements that reflect the culture and history of Ngāi Tahu people and their relationship with Queen Victoria and the Treaty of Waitangi	9
4.2.2	Remove the path and prune vegetation to discourage anti-social and unsafe behaviour	9
4.2.3	Improve underground drainage on lawn areas so the grass is drier for sitting on	9
4.2.4	Widen the riverside path to allow cyclists and pedestrians to safely share it	9
4.2.5	Improve lighting to modern standards so it is safer at night, while still retaining the current character (site wide)	9
4.2.6	Install a new punt (waka) stop and amphitheatre opposite the Town Hall	10
4.2.7	Additional features	10
4.3	Community participation process	10
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Survey Findings in Detail</b>	<b>11</b>
5.1	Q.1 What features of the proposed plan do you like and dislike?	11
5.2	Q.2 Please tell us more about your choices above	12
5.2.1	Retain existing layout of Victoria Square (site wide)	12
5.2.2	Repair and restore the existing heritage structures, including the Bowker Fountain	14
5.2.3	Upgrade ramps, paths and steps to meet modern accessibility standards	15
5.2.4	Install artworks and elements that reflect the culture and history of Ngāi Tahu people and their relationship with Queen Victoria and the Treaty of Waitangi	16
5.2.5	Remove the path and prune vegetation to discourage anti-social and unsafe behaviour	19
5.2.6	Upgrade existing hard surfaces and low walls with stone that is in keeping with Victoria Square's character – extending the life of the asset (site wide)	20
5.2.7	Improve underground drainage on lawn areas so the grass is drier for sitting on	21
5.2.8	Install new seating that encourages social interaction	22
5.2.9	Widen the riverside path to allow cyclists and pedestrians to safely share it	23
5.2.10	Improve lighting to modern standards so it is safer at night, while still retaining the current character (site wide)	26
5.2.11	Install a new punt (waka) stop and amphitheatre opposite the Town Hall	27
5.2.12	Prioritise safe pedestrian movement to and from Victoria Square by installing signalised pedestrian crossings at Armagh and Colombo streets – connecting with the new Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct promenade	28
5.2.13	Re-establish the former amphitheatre beside the Floral Clock, upgrading so it integrates with the Town Hall's new proposed forecourt	29
5.2.14	Retain the diagonal walkway through to Victoria Street	30
5.3	What additional features would you like included in the proposed plan?	31
5.3.1	Overview	31
5.3.2	Key themes	31
5.4	Feedback about the community participation process	34
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendix A – Draft Victoria Square Restoration Plan</b>	<b>35</b>
6.1	This document is attached separately	35
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Appendix B – Survey</b>	<b>35</b>
7.1	This document is attached separately	35



## 1.0 Introduction

In collaboration with its strategic project partners, Christchurch City Council and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, CERA is undertaking a five-stage community participation programme to enable the public to have their say on the future of Victoria Square.

### Community Participation Programme



During Stage 1 of the programme, the community was invited to provide input regarding the future of Victoria Square via a survey conducted between 6 March and 24 April 2015. CERA received 2,192 survey responses and the results were presented in “The Future of Victoria Square - A Place for the People Kia Atawhai Ki Te Tangata Survey Final Report”. Survey results indicated there was a strong desire within the community to retain Victoria Square as it was in the past including preserving historical features, fountains, statues and the natural landscape. However, survey respondents also suggested changes that could be incorporated while maintaining the green and relaxing environment.

Accordingly, the report recommended the following elements be considered in any future plans for the Square:

- Victoria Square continues to be a place that provides opportunities and tranquil grassy spots for relaxation and meeting friends and whanāu
- A maximum amount of green space is retained within Victoria Square rather than extensive hard concrete areas
- Pedestrian access is retained to ensure connectivity within Victoria Square and the broader City of Christchurch
- Adequate lighting be provided to ensure safety
- Curved paths, edges, hills and sinuous lines be retained and enhanced. Limit the use of hard edges
- Meeting spots be retained and enhanced and contain adequate infrastructure including seating, bins and water fountains.

CERA, its Strategic Partners and the Victoria Square Community Reference Group reviewed the report and the Draft Victoria Square Restoration Plan, (Appendix A), was developed by CERA designers during Stage 2 of the participation program.

The Restoration Plan was presented to the public on 15 July with a media release. The community was



invited to provide their feedback on the plan through a second survey (Appendix B), which will be referred to as the “survey” throughout this report. The survey period was open for two weeks until 31 July 2015 and the following activities were undertaken to encourage community members to take part in the survey:

- Advertising in local media and via the CERA, Christchurch City Council and Ngāi Tahu websites and publications such as the Future Christchurch Update
- Subsequent media releases and coverage
- Individual briefings with interest groups
- Information stand at the Future Christchurch Showcase
- Presentations at key stakeholder gatherings
- Articles in the Future Christchurch Update
- Social media.

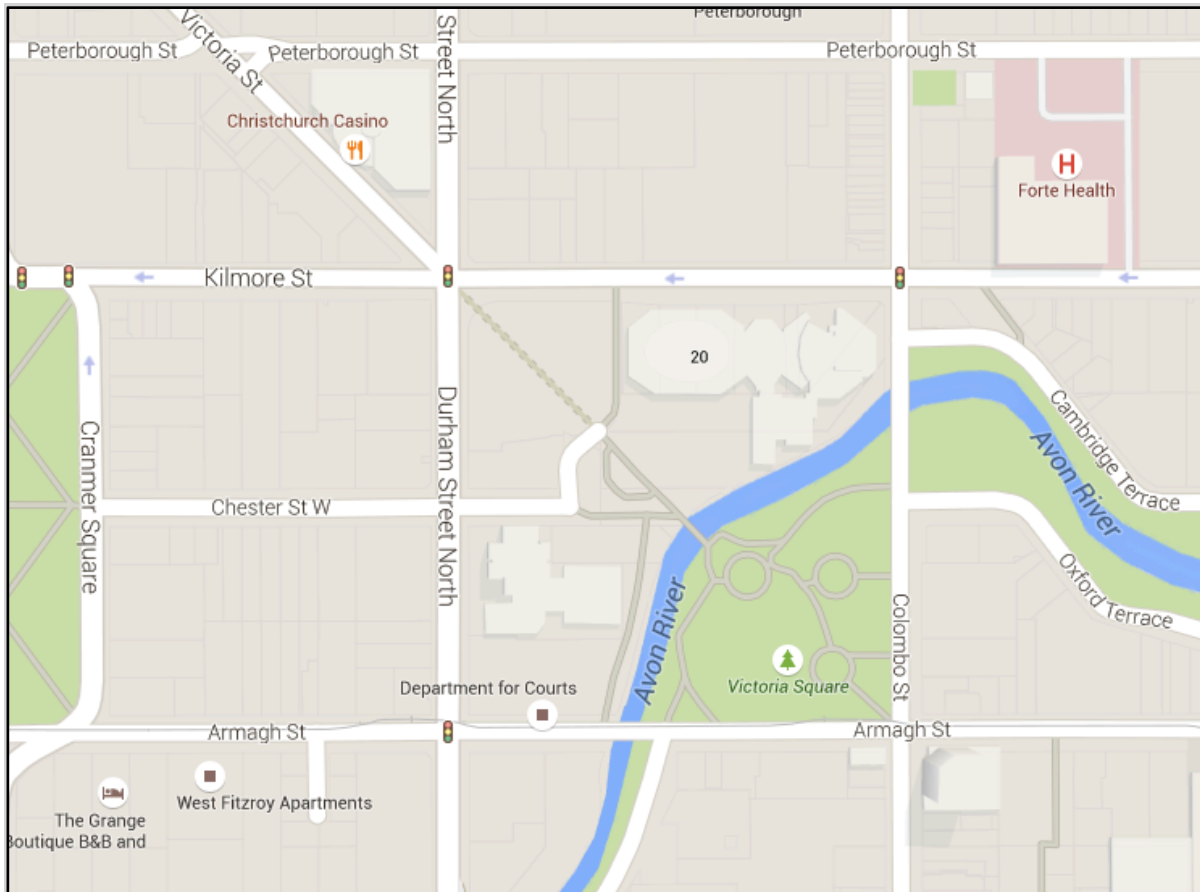
Additionally, a meet-the-planner session was held at Knox Church on 21 July. This was the first of three sessions throughout July where the community was able to drop in to talk with planners, see the proposed changes and complete the survey. The other two sessions were held on 23 and 29 July at the Future Christchurch Showcase, Re:START Mall. The Victoria Square Community Reference Group also attended a stall at the Downtown Market at The Commons on 26 July to talk to the public about the Restoration Plan.

This report outlines the results of the survey and will inform the development of a final Victoria Square Restoration Plan. The Associate Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery, the Honourable Nicky Wagner, will seek the endorsement of Christchurch City Council and Ngāi Tahu before approving this final plan. No changes will be made to Victoria Square in the meantime and the extent to which changes are made will depend on the feedback received from the community.



## 1.2 Location of Victoria Square

Victoria Square is situated on the corner of Colombo and Armagh Streets along the Avon River in Christchurch. Victoria Square is adjacent to the Town Hall and will eventually connect with the new Convention Centre and Performing Arts Precinct.



**Source:** 2015 Google, MapData Sciences Pty Ltd, PSMA

## 2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this final report is to:

- Provide a thorough analysis of the Round 3 survey results
- Identify themes in the feedback
- Measure public support for the draft Victoria Square Restoration Plan



## 3.0 Survey

As previously mentioned, the survey period was open between 15 and 31 July and respondents were given the options of using a hard copy survey form or submitting their surveys electronically through the CERA website or via email. Throughout the 12-day survey period, 378 responses were received as follows:

- 240 hard copy submissions
- 4 letters
- 134 online submissions (some of these submission appear to be duplicates and this is explored in more detail later in this report).

### 3.1 Survey questions

Respondents were asked the following three questions:

**1. What features of the proposed plan do you like and dislike? (Respondents were given a list of 14 features and asked to rate each one as either: Strongly Dislike; Dislike; Neutral; Like; or Really Like). These features were:**

1. Retain existing layout of Victoria Square (site wide).
2. Repair and restore the existing heritage structures, including the Bowker Fountain.
3. Upgrade ramps, paths and steps to meet modern accessibility standards.
4. Install artworks and elements that reflect the culture and history of Ngāi Tahu people and their relationship with Queen Victoria and the Treaty of Waitangi.
5. Remove the path and prune vegetation to discourage anti-social and unsafe behaviour.
6. Upgrade existing hard surfaces and low walls with stone that is in keeping with Victoria Square's character – extending the life of the asset (site wide).
7. Improve underground drainage on lawn areas so the grass is drier for sitting on.
8. Install new seating that encourages social interaction.
9. Widen the riverside path to allow cyclists and pedestrians to safely share it.
10. Improve lighting to modern standards so it is safer at night, while still retaining the current character (site wide).
11. Install a new punt (waka) stop and amphitheatre opposite the Town Hall.
12. Prioritise safe pedestrian movement to and from Victoria Square by installing signalised pedestrian crossings at Armagh and Colombo streets – connecting with the new Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct promenade.
13. Re-establish the former amphitheatre beside the Floral Clock, upgrading so it integrates with the Town Hall's new proposed forecourt.
14. Retain the diagonal walkway through to Victoria Street.

**2. Please tell us more about your choices above.**

**3. What additional features would you like included in the proposed plan?**



## 4.0 Key survey findings

Survey respondents have expressed **overwhelming support for the Draft Victoria Square Restoration Plan with the majority of respondents liking or really liking the proposed features of the plan.**

Further, respondents have expressed their great satisfaction with the community engagement process undertaken to achieve the draft Restoration Plan, appreciating the opportunity to contribute to the future of Victoria Square.

This section of the report highlights key findings from the survey. More detailed information about survey results is provided in *5.0 Survey Findings in Detail*.

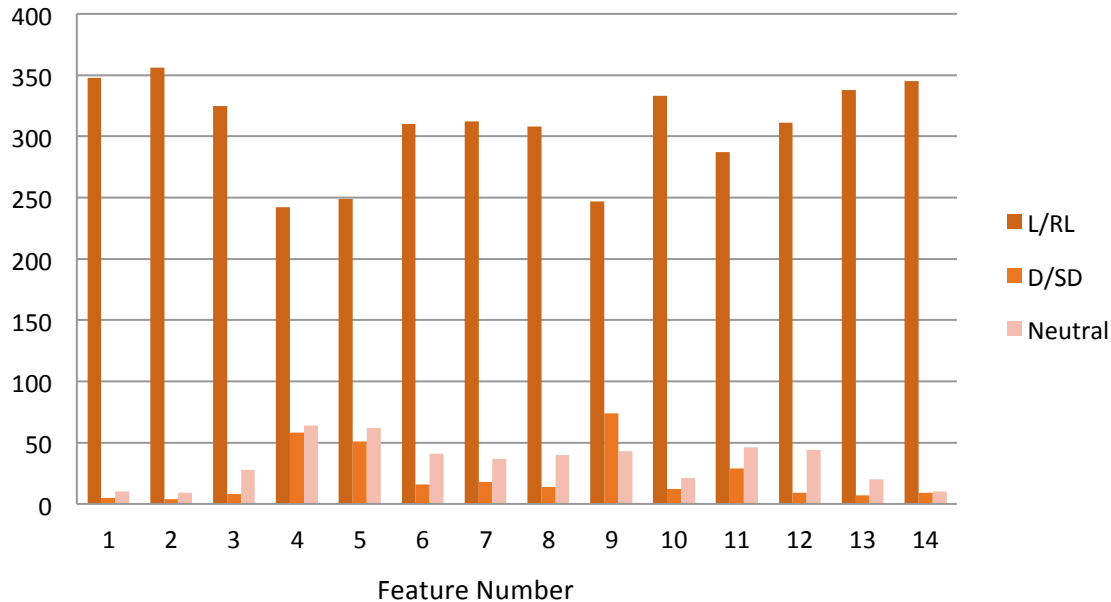
### 4.1 Draft Restoration Plan feature ratings

Respondents were asked to rate 14 features of the draft Restoration Plan across a scale of five options – Strongly Dislike (SD); Dislike (D); Neutral (N); Like (L); or Really Like (RL). It should be noted that it was not compulsory to rate each feature. The findings are detailed in the below table and in the graph on the following page:

Feature	SD	D	N	L	RL	Total
1. Retain existing layout of Victoria Square (site wide).	5	0	10	33	315	363
2. Repair and restore the existing heritage structures, including the Bowker Fountain.	3	1	9	26	330	369
3. Upgrade ramps, paths and steps to meet modern accessibility standards.	5	3	28	73	252	361
4. Install artworks and elements that reflect the culture and history of Ngāi Tahu people and their relationship with Queen Victoria and the Treaty of Waitangi.	23	35	64	64	178	364
5. Remove the path and prune vegetation to discourage anti-social and unsafe behaviour.	19	32	62	76	173	362
6. Upgrade existing hard surfaces and low walls with stone that is in keeping with Victoria Square's character – extending the life of the asset (site wide).	6	10	41	103	207	367
7. Improve underground drainage on lawn areas so the grass is drier for sitting on.	4	14	37	108	204	367
8. Install new seating that encourages social interaction.	6	8	40	112	196	362
9. Widen the riverside path to allow cyclists and pedestrians to safely share it.	45	29	43	51	196	364
10. Improve lighting to modern standards so it is safer at night, while still retaining the current character (site wide).	4	8	21	99	234	366
11. Install a new punt (waka) stop and amphitheatre opposite the Town Hall.	16	13	46	113	174	362
12. Prioritise safe pedestrian movement to and from Victoria Square by installing signalised pedestrian crossings at Armagh and Colombo streets – connecting with the new Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct promenade.	4	5	44	85	226	364
13. Re-establish the former amphitheatre beside the Floral Clock, upgrading so it integrates with the Town Hall's new proposed forecourt.	5	2	20	73	265	365
14. Retain the diagonal walkway through to Victoria Street.	4	5	10	73	272	364



## 1. What features of the proposed plan do you like and dislike?



Feature
1. Retain existing layout of Victoria Square (site wide).
2. Repair and restore the existing heritage structures, including the Bowker Fountain.
3. Upgrade ramps, paths and steps to meet modern accessibility standards.
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14. Retain the diagonal walkway through to Victoria Street.





## 4.2 Features of the plan to be further considered

The quantitative results of Question 1 displayed very strong community support for the Draft Victoria Square Restoration Plan. Nevertheless, there are some features of the draft Restoration Plan that require further consideration based on recurring respondent comments in Questions 2 and 3.

These features and the themes associated with each of them are summarised below. More detail, including respondent comments, is provided later in this report. It should be noted that respondents tended not to offer a great deal of commentary on features they liked, but rather on those they disliked.

### 4.2.1 Install artworks and elements that reflect the culture and history of Ngāi Tahu people and their relationship with Queen Victoria and the Treaty of Waitangi.

It is clear that while there is support for installing artworks and elements that reflect the culture and history of Ngāi Tahu, there is concern that more detail regarding these artworks and elements should be provided in the Draft Victoria Square Restoration Plan. It also appears that there is a gap in the community's understanding of the links between the Ngāi Tahu people and Victoria Square. Some respondents requested that the community be able to provide input into the types of artwork to be installed in Victoria Square.

### 4.2.2 Remove the path and prune vegetation to discourage anti-social and unsafe behaviour.

There appears to be some concern among the community about the degree to which vegetation will be pruned. Some respondents believe the large trees should remain as they are.

### 4.2.3 Improve underground drainage on lawn areas so the grass is drier for sitting on.

Some respondents did not support installing additional drainage or only wanted this done if the contours of Victoria Square remained the same.

### 4.2.4 Widen the riverside path to allow cyclists and pedestrians to safely share it.

A fifth of respondents expressed their apprehension about this element of the draft Restoration Plan, citing the safety concerns associated with cyclists and pedestrians sharing the same path. Further, respondents did not favour paths being widened because of the perceived subsequent loss of green space. Additionally, this element of the design attracted criticism regarding the new straight path from Colombo Street to the Bowker Fountain, which was not highlighted in the list of features for comment and which respondents believe is not in keeping with the curved nature of the other paths in Victoria Square.

### 4.2.5 Improve lighting to modern standards so it is safer at night, while still retaining the current character (site wide).

The general theme of feedback about lighting was that respondents preferred any new lighting to be subtle and in keeping with the existing character of Victoria Square.



#### **4.2.6 Install a new punt (waka) stop and amphitheatre opposite the Town Hall.**

Although overall there was support for the new punt stop and amphitheatre, some respondents who commented on this feature of the plan questioned the need for a second amphitheatre in Victoria Square and some suggested more information should have been supplied regarding the use of these amphitheatres.

#### **4.2.7 Additional features**

A substantial number of respondents raised the need for additional public toilets. Additional drinking fountains, seating and, to a lesser extent, rubbish bins, were also submitted as further requirements.

### **4.3 Community participation process**

It is clear from respondents' comments that the community is pleased to have been given the opportunity to provide input into the future of Victoria Square. However, comments also included strong criticism for having not had this opportunity in the first place. More detail regarding this feedback is provided later in this report.



## 5.0 Survey Findings in Detail

In understanding the survey findings, it must be noted that of the 134 online submissions received, 14 of these were duplicates, suggesting that some respondents may have submitted their survey multiple times. However, as this cannot be conclusively proven, these responses have been included in the statistics but are unlikely to have skewed the results significantly. The findings for each of the survey questions are outlined below between 5.1 and 5.3.

### 5.1 Q.1 What features of the proposed plan do you like and dislike?

Respondents were asked to rate 14 features across a scale of five options – Strongly Dislike (SD); Dislike (D); Neutral (N); Like (L); or Really Like (RL). It should be noted that it was not compulsory to rate each feature. The findings are detailed in the below table:

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More detail about the above respondent choices (including graphs and respondent comments) are outlined in 4.2 Q.2 - “Please tell us more about your choices above”.



## 5.2 Q.2 Please tell us more about your choices above.

As this was a broad qualitative question, responses were carefully analysed and broken down into each of the features that respondents were asked to rate in Question 1. As mentioned earlier in this report, respondents tended not to comment as much on the features they liked, as they did on the features they disliked.

To give these comments context, the quantitative results of each feature in Question 1 are also provided throughout this section.

### 5.2.1 Retain existing layout of Victoria Square (site wide).

There was overwhelming support from respondents to retain the existing layout of Victoria Square. Of the respondents who rated this aspect of the draft Restoration Plan, **96% either liked or really liked retaining the existing layout.** However, the variation of comments below indicates that some respondents really liked the retention of the existing layout and the plan generally, while others really liked the retention of the existing layout but see little or no need for any changes within the Square other than repair and restoration.

Feature 1 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	315
Like	33
Neutral	10
Dislike	0
Strongly dislike	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>363</b>

Accordingly, the comments in the below tables have been broken into two parts – support for the retention of the existing layout of Victoria Square and support for the retention of the existing layout with minimal or no changes.

Respondents' views regarding particular features of the proposed changes are explored in further detail later in this report.

#### 5.2.1.1 Respondent comments

<b>Support for retention of the existing layout of Victoria Square</b>
Retains existing layout, sweet!
Relieved layout retained.
Thankyou for listening and keeping the existing layout etc. and just doing the maintenance, as I would expect.
Keeps lovely existing layout
In general (we) are in accord with most of the minimal changes proposed to the layout of Victoria Square and agrees with many of the additional features suggested in the Draft Restoration Plan.
In summary I wish the layout to remain the same, as far as possible, as to pre-earthquake.
In favour of retaining as much of the original layout as possible
I was open to the previous plan and didn't mind changing the layout of Vic Square, but just as happy to have it stay the same. Hope we haven't missed out on an opportunity to make it really great though!
The Plan as circulated retains the original award winning 1989 design. (We) strongly submit this is the correct approach. The Christchurch residents as evidenced by their continued strong opposition to any attempts to change or alter the current design is a ringing endorsement that Victoria Square is an outstanding work of Urban Design/ Landscape Architecture.



<b>Support for the retention of the existing layout with minimal or no changes</b>
Keep it as much as possible as it was and as it wasn't quake damaged it should be left alone till other CBD areas are fixed.
Leave the basic layout alone.
Leave it mainly green.
Just fix what is broke.
I don't see why this expensive and complex controversy about Victoria Square has ever taken place. It is, and always has been perfect as it is. Why not just leave it at that.
It works well the (way) it is now.
I loved Victoria Square and its relationship to the Town Hall and didn't feel there was any need to waste money redesigning it.
Absolute minimal changes to existing square.
A restoration and general tidy up is all that is necessary to Victoria Square. It was perfect pre-earthquakes.



## 5.2.2 Repair and restore the existing heritage structures, including the Bowker Fountain

Based on the below comments, and reflecting on the corresponding quantitative data from question 1, **the majority of respondents (96%) who rated this component of the draft Restoration Plan support the repair and restoration of heritage structures in Victoria Square.**

Most of the respondents who commented on this feature supported repairing and restoring the features but believed that little other change in the Square was necessary. Comments are also included below that support restoration of the riverbanks.

Feature 2 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	330
Like	26
Neutral	9
Dislike	1
Strongly dislike	3
Total	369

### 5.2.2.1 Respondent comments

Repair and restore the existing heritage structures
Repair and restore as necessary.
Repair the fountain but just tidy up the square in general.
(We) support the general underlying proposal of repair and restore as outlined in the Victoria Square Draft Restoration Plan ("Plan").
Even now it's an enchanting place to walk through, but does need a little repairing and tender loving.
I'd like the Square to be as similar to what it has been as possible, so support only those aspects that upgrade/repair what is needed, with minimal change to other aspects.
Upgrades and repairs are needed.
Prefer to see Victoria Square remain as it is with some logical improvements and repairs.

Restoration of the river banks
The river edge needs sorting out. Get rid of all the grasses that are growing along the waters edge.
Fix the ... river bank
Make sure the river banks are easily accessible
Leave mostly as is, don't plant flaxes or native plan, that the roots would grow in the river
What we need it the river bank to be tidied up. The embankment is in such a mess. You have grasses that are overgrown and blocking the river flow in some areas. Weeds growing in among the blocks even cabbage trees are growing in the river. It would be nice if we can have clean line along the river bank instead of grasses



### 5.2.3 Upgrade ramps, paths and steps to meet modern accessibility standards

Of the 361 respondents who rated this aspect of the draft Restoration Plan, **89% (325) liked or really liked the proposed upgrade of ramps, paths and steps** to meet modern accessibility standards, indicating there is overall support for the modification.

This question did not attract many comments. Respondents' views about paths, that are unrelated to accessibility standards, are analysed later in this report.

Feature 3 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	252
Like	73
Neutral	28
Dislike	3
Strongly dislike	5
Total	361

#### 5.2.3.1 Respondent comments

(We) are pleased to see that Barrier Free Trust is part of the consultation panel and supports design features that will make Victoria Square more accessible. In reference to (4), (we) recommend that access remains by the river in order for people to access the water, and carefully consideration should be given to the historical importance to the old ramp.

I feel that Victoria Square as it is at present is worthy of its winning design and that any 'enhancements' should be just that, i.e. upgrade where deemed absolutely necessary and certainly to improve access for the disabled but not to drastically mess around with the current layout.

Safe, family-friendly (read strollers, kids moving around), wheelchair-accessible walkways are the priority.



## 5.2.4 Install artworks and elements that reflect the culture and history of Ngāi Tahu people and their relationship with Queen Victoria and the Treaty of Waitangi

This aspect of the draft restoration plan attracted mixed views from respondents and some impassioned comments. If we break the results into three distinct levels of support – like, neutrality and dislike as below – overall 2/3 of respondents like this element and only 15% dislike it. However, it is important to note that this feature, when compared to other features, attracted the second highest degree of dislikes.

**Really like and like: 242 (66%)**

Neutral: 64 (17%)

**Dislike and strongly dislike: 58 (15%)**

Feature 4 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	178
Like	64
Neutral	64
Dislike	35
Strongly dislike	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>364</b>

As per respondent comments below, it is clear that while there is support for installing artworks and elements that reflect the culture and history of Ngāi Tahu, there is concern that not enough detail regarding these artworks and elements has been provided to the community. It also appears that there is a gap in the community's understanding of the links between the Ngāi Tahu people and Victoria Square.

The comment tables below have been broken down into three categories – support for artworks; support for artworks in principle; and no support for artworks.

### 5.2.4.1 Respondent comments

Support for artworks
Like the idea of Maori motif paving, could also have some Maori wording around Queen Victoria. Using the low walls for cultural elements - same idea as Wellington waterfront.
Existing integrity of square retained but improvements/updates/art works included.
I like the idea of bringing cultural history back to Victoria Square (artworks with Ngāi Tahu etc.)
I understand why people want Vic to stay the same - so much has changed! But I also like it's a chance to update and modify especially the ART!!
Restoring the area and including the true multi culture of the area can only enhance it further enabling it to be the place where people continue to come together and relax.
More recognition of the past contribution to Market Square. Not just the settlers but of the local iwi who provided food, guides and transport to them.
I strongly like Ngāi Tahu's focus on 'care for the people', a universal, inclusive message. Including Ngāi Tahu history is important (I have no Maori heritage), adding in possible weaving pattern to some paving areas is good idea and using the vertical faces of the low walls is also a good idea to add in some cultural elements.
Happy with how it was originally but important to restore balance with culture of Ngāi Tahu.
I especially like the cultural aspects relating to the Ngāi Tahu people
I like the idea of bringing cultural history back to Victoria Square (artworks with Ngāi Tahu etc.)





<b>Support for artworks in principle</b>
(We) understand that some of the tiles are damaged and other may be near the end of their working life. It is our understanding that there is a proposal that the tiles be replaced with ones that have motifs designed by Tangata Whenua artists. (We) submit that such tiles must fit within the parameters of the existing original design brief i.e. size and colour. There are two artworks to be located at 6 on the Plan. (We) submit that Victoria Square already has two fountains (Bowker and the Town Hall), the Pou, two statues, an open bridge, a flag mast, the heritage Horse ramp as well as an Edwardian Telephone box and any addition will be unnecessary and lead to overcrowding.
Artwork should reflect Ngāi Tahu connection with the Canterbury Settlement, NOT the Treaty of Waitangi.
Artworks & any cultural elements should not be too big & intrusive.
Art works must blend in with the historical nature of the statues - not garish colours or too large.
What form would the art be? Hopefully too imposing.
Glad Ngāi Tahu artworks are being installed. Should also include pre- Ngāi Tahu Maori, not just the last wave.
What we do not have a clear picture of is what the 'artworks and elements that reflect Ngāi Tahu will be.
(We) are of the opinion that the plan needs to address the lack of specific information and intent for incorporating Ngāi Tahu heritage elements in order to give a clear indication of the form, scale and the materials to be incorporated without which public consultation is side-lined. (We) ask that consideration be given to the opportunity for the proposed structures to be previewed for public consultation in relation to their siting and inter-relationship with the present features. Otherwise it will be perceived that there is requirement to judge the 'artistic' form or be critical of other aspects, which may seem culturally offensive to the local iwi.
Add 'sound art' as in the art programme a while ago - was it called 'Sound Scope'?
Not all artwork appeals to everyone.
The plan shows 5 sites for artworks. It is not clear whether these are alternative sites or represents the proposed number. I think 5 artworks risks being overkill.
There was already a Pou in Victoria Square and while a stronger Maori presence is in order, additional elements need to be of a high design standard and in keeping with the overall design of the Square
'Cultural' additions are OK so long as they don't overpower the current character of the Square.
Retain integrity of all existing design elements of Victoria Square. Restrained use of Ngāi Tahu references.
Keep modern artwork away as not in keeping with the Square and they are usually overpriced simplistic items with no enduring quality (the Chalice comes to mind) Stonework detail a good idea.
Acknowledge Ngāi Tahu people but don't let this take over the area, acknowledge all cultures in Christchurch.

<b>No support for artworks</b>
Artwork is not necessary.
Just leave it alone and don't clutter it with politically correct "artworks" selected by bureaucrats.
No need for additional artworks.
I don't think the Square should be a place for artworks. Let's just keep it as the green and tranquil space it already is, without cluttering it up with extraneous stuff. You can't just plonk artworks in any space - art deserves it's own spaces and shouldn't be plonked in as afterthoughts into spaces which are already established for their own purposes. This undermines the art.
Plenty of "art works" etc elsewhere; one should be free to choose what art to look at and when.



<p>The huge majority of us, as has constantly been shown want it left as is - that means no additions in the way of "artworks and elements..." Such additions will change what we have and what we want retained. As we keep saying "leave it alone".</p>
<p>I see no reason for new artwork to be installed. It is the simplicity of how it currently is that we wish to retain.</p>
<p>No need to put in ... art works reflecting the culture of Nga Tahu. We just want Victoria square left the way it is.</p>
<p>Any additional art works should be placed so as not to give a cluttered feel.</p>
<p>We want Victoria Square to be as it was at the time of the earthquake, and do not need to be acknowledging Ngāi Tahu or any imagined acknowledgement of the Treaty of Waitangi, which has absolutely nothing to do with Victoria Square! That was the whole problem with the earlier plan – a revisionist exercise in political correctness.</p>
<p>Too much emphasis on Ngāi Tahu. The Avon was also very important to our European forefathers.</p>
<p>However, although this area was used by Maori, they have riverbank access and land close by that I believe they should use to represent their history in ways they choose.</p>
<p>Retain the existing character does not mean adding historic Nga-tahu clobber.</p>
<p>It is appropriate that 'cultural' aspects of the city's heritage are acknowledged along the Avon but they don't have to be located in Victoria Square.</p>



## 5.2.5 Remove the path and prune vegetation to discourage anti-social and unsafe behaviour

Generally respondents supported this aspect of the draft Restoration Plan, **with 68% of those who rated it either liking or really liking the idea of removing the path and pruning vegetation.** However, there was **an element of dislike with 51 (or 14%) of respondents either disliking or strongly disliking it.** This feature attracted the third highest level of dissatisfaction among respondents.

The majority of the comments provided below about removing the path and pruning vegetation were from respondents who were not in favour of this element of the draft Restoration Plan, predominantly because of removal of vegetation.

Feature 5 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	173
Like	76
Neutral	62
Dislike	32
Strongly dislike	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>362</b>

### 5.2.5.1 Respondent comments

The idea of upgrading safety features is excellent.
Please retain the magnificent large trees and don't butcher them in some perceived pruning attempt.
I never new that there was a problem with safety at Victoria square that we have to remove a path and prune vegetation to discourage anti-social and unsafe behaviour. Is this just an excuse to get around changing parts of the square?
It does not need to have the paths removed and have the vegetation pruned to discourage anti-social and unsafe behaviour, I never new that the square was that unsafe, or is just another excuse to bring in changes to the square under stealth.
The diagram shows trees being pruned to truck height so there is visibility across the square. This means that it will be all low hedge height. The beauty of the square is its mature trees contrasting with the floral beds.
Don't remove path.
Don't make any changes accept for restoration and required safety improvements.
Better lighting should discourage antisocial behaviour.
Don't take away the loveliness of ground vegetation.



**5.2.6 Upgrade existing hard surfaces and low walls with stone that is in keeping with Victoria Square's character – extending the life of the asset (site wide).**

The majority of respondents (**84%**) either liked or really liked this aspect of the draft Restoration Plan with only 16 respondents (or less than 5%) expressing their dislike or strong dislike. Perhaps because of this support, very few comments related to this aspect of the draft Restoration Plan and they are listed below.

Feature 6 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	207
Like	103
Neutral	41
Dislike	10
Strongly dislike	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>367</b>

**5.2.6.1 Respondent comments**

Adding in possible weaving pattern to some paving areas is good idea and using the vertical faces of the low walls is also a good idea to add in some cultural elements.
If low walls are to be replaced, subtle etching of grasses such as has been done on the overbridges of the Southern Motorway would be welcome.
Stonework detail a good idea.
Upgrades and repairs are needed.
Upgrade where deemed absolutely necessary and certainly to improve access for the disabled but not to drastically mess around with the current layout
Upgrades can be done at a later date when the city is in a better financial position.
I'd like the Square to be as similar to what it has been as possible, so support only those aspects that upgrade/repair what is needed, with minimal change to other aspects.



### 5.2.7 Improve underground drainage on lawn areas so the grass is drier for sitting on.

The majority of the 367 respondents that rated this element of the draft Restoration Plan **85% either liked or really liked improving underground drainage on lawn areas.**

The few people who commented on this feature of the plan were those who did not support installing additional drainage or only wanted this done if the contours of Victoria Square remained the same.

Feature 7 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	204
Like	108
Neutral	37
Dislike	14
Strongly dislike	4
Total	367

#### 5.2.7.1 Respondent comments

Don't touch the hill. I can see no reason to assume this needs to be drained. If it does be very, very cautious to "put it back the way it was".
I don't think we need more drainage under the lawns, and I'm worried it will be expensive and make a mess. Save money and don't do this. People only sit on the grass in summer.
Why drainage? This land drains well naturally.
Am concerned that improved underground drainage might spoil the lawn contours and necessitate removal of healthy trees.
What's the point! Grass is dry in summer.
But don't change contours/levels of grassed areas.
Fix the structures, riverbank, drainage and the cobblestone areas.
Fix the drainage problems, as well as the grassed areas.
I have never seen puddles on grass areas.



### 5.2.8 Install new seating that encourages social interaction

Of the 362 respondents who rated this element of the draft Restoration Plan, 85% either liked or really liked the inclusion of additional seating to encourage social interaction. Only 14 respondents (less than 4%) either disliked or strongly disliked this element.

Most of the respondents who commented on seating in Question 2 were those who were not in favour of additional seating being installed or wanted seating included with conditions. However, in contrast, respondents advocated for more seating in Question 3.

Feature 8 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	196
Like	112
Neutral	40
Dislike	8
Strongly dislike	6
Total	362

#### 5.2.8.1 Respondent comments

Really like the additional seating
The social interaction aspects/community space are good.
I really like the curved seating, both socially and artistically, but agree that additional recessed and suitable seating to cater for disabled people and small people is also good.
No seating between path and river area opposite current Courthouse buildings. Any other seating (eg near punt/waka stop or along Armagh St.) to be lightweight looking and very carefully designed (alternatively just the traditional steel and slatted, green seat style-no concrete floor under!).
New seating, if additional, could clutter and change the original design
Please don't get carried away with "seating to encourage social interaction" people can sort that. Park benches are unobtrusive and suit Victoria Sq. extra seating again means less grass more paving.
Will there also be seating for quiet contemplation?
There is already enough seating plus grass areas.



### 5.2.9 Widen the riverside path to allow cyclists and pedestrians to safely share it

Cycle access was the most commonly mentioned aspect of the draft Restoration Plan. Of the 364 respondents who rated this element, **247 (67%) either liked or really liked widening the riverside path to allow cyclists and pedestrians to share the space.** However, of all the features, **this feature attracted the highest number of dislikes and strong dislikes with 74 (20%) of respondents expressing their opposition to the shared path.** These respondents backed their rating up with passionate commentary. Comments mostly related to concerns around pedestrian safety.

Feature 9 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	196
Like	51
Neutral	43
Dislike	29
Strongly dislike	45
Total	364

Additionally, this element of the design attracted comments regarding paths generally particularly with reference to ensuring they remain curved, including the new path from Colombo St to the Bowker Fountain.

The below comment tables are broken into three categories – cater for cycling with conditions; do not cater for cycling; and general commentary regarding paths in Victoria Square.

#### 5.2.9.1 Respondent comments

Cater for cycling with conditions
Widen pathways - keep cyclists to one side so they don't presume people with hearing disabilities can hear them coming behind.
Separate pedestrians and cyclists using the path for safety, say cyclists keep left and pedestrians use right.
We support the inclusion of wide pathways that cyclists and pedestrians can use. We recommend that the cycle parking infrastructure is upgraded to accommodate more cyclists.
These are important as the Avon River is meant to be a key walking/cycling corridor all the way from the hospital to Fitzgerald Ave, according to other CERA documents. So I think you need to do a really good job to make this easier, especially for cyclists, both at the entrances/exits and through the park. However, thinking only about Victoria Square many people like the quiet nature and will not be pleased to have more cycle traffic through. The only sensible way to deal with this is by planning to have the paths wide enough and remove pinch points so that conflict is reduced. I don't think the current draft plan has really thought enough about this. Telling the bikes to go somewhere else is NOT the answer.
With regard to the shared cycle-walkway, being cyclists we appreciate this addition but want it made clear to cyclists via signs that it is a slow zone with pedestrian priority.
Should be clear marking for cyclists if sharing & cultural elements pathway with pedestrians.
I am a cyclist (and pedestrian and motorist) and very much in favour of incentives to make Christchurch a cycle-friendly city, but putting cyclists and pedestrians on the same paths through Vic Square is not a good idea. My solution: Accept that the along-the-river cycle way is interrupted by Victoria Square on one side and the Town Hall on the other. Prohibit cycles within the Square. Establish a defined cycle path from the Armagh St bridge 1. along the west side of the river to link with Victoria St 2. east along the south edge of Victoria Square and then north along the east edge of the Square to reconnect with the river cycle way running eastward.
Not sure it is necessary to widen the path to allow for cycle access - it doesn't really lead anywhere so cyclists will be riding slowly or walking their bikes and can therefore share a normal width pathway.



<b>Do not cater for cycling</b>
There should be no cycle way through the square. To keep it as a peaceful haven, the paths ought to be for walkers and those in strollers, and wheelchairs.
I dislike any move to cater to cycle access. This park should be for pedestrians and not cyclists or skateboard hoons. These should not be encouraged in any way.
I really don't believe cycle access through Victoria Square is a priority. Safe, family-friendly (read strollers, kids moving around), wheelchair-accessible walkways are the priority. I commute for work each day by bike plus bike for leisure around the city and don't feel Victoria Square is a particularly suitable space to cut through on a bike - the surrounding roads provide sufficient access and through routes.
As a senior who frequently walks in the area, the concept of improved walkway/cycleways is a little troubling. I agree with provision for cyclists but there is an increasing tendency citywide for cyclists to "take over" pedestrian areas and show little or no regard for pedestrian safety. Anything that can be done to overcome this problem should be addressed.
I would not like to see this Square used by skate boarders and cyclists. There are already many areas being planned and implemented for cycle ways.
I don't think that cyclists need to be cycling through the Square. Please keep it only for walking and relaxing. I am so sick of cyclists whizzing past me as I am enjoying the pleasure of walking in a Park.
I worry about shared pedestrian/cycleways. I do not like, as a pedestrian, having a cyclist come swiftly from behind me. Their approach is virtually silent and I always feel that I could have stepped into their path and been hurt without any knowledge that the cyclist was about to overtake me.
I am anxious the shared cycle/pedestrian paths will turn in to a raceway for cyclists.
The fashionable shared pedestrian and cycleways are a bad idea. They present a danger, particularly to young children and their parents, the elderly and physically disabled people who are pedestrians. Many of these people avoid using shared paths because their safety relies on voluntary courtesy and consideration, especially on the part of cyclists. In my long experience of shared paths in Christchurch (eg Hansen's Park) that does not happen.
I have concerns about widening the paths for cyclists. Having been injured by a cyclist while on a shared path I am not too keen on them. I do not favour widening the paths in Victoria Square. It would be better to divert cyclists along the bank on the court side of the river.
To allow cyclists to use Victoria Square south east of the Avon will be disastrous. Victoria Square is, at all times, a place for pedestrians including families with young children. To have the path (7) on the S.E bank of the Avon designated as a through way for cyclists may end in disaster with a small child or, perhaps, elderly person walking being hit and severely injured by the cyclist.
Concerned about cyclists in Victoria Square - they tend to disturb walkers when coming from behind. Dual paths need to be well designed and speeds kept down.
Please keep cycles out of the Square and allow free walking only. The Cycle way does not appear to go anywhere as it finishes at the Victoria Street bridge on the true left of the river. There are roads for the cyclists keep Victoria Square for families.
I definitely don't want a cycle path through the square. Cyclists can use the roads.
Cyclist - no need to cycle on pedestrian walkways - Armagh and Colombo will not inconvenience road users. Cycling will endanger families' pleasure and leisure. No skateboards!!!
(We) contend that Victoria Square is primarily a passive pedestrian zone, void of any kind of vehicular traffic and that by imposing cycle ways within the square compromises this values aspect. The combining of pedestrians and cyclists on the same path is fraught with potential hazard because the rate of mobility of each is totally at odds.





<b>General commentary regarding paths in Victoria Square</b>
Hope the curved paths stay in place too, even when widened.
I am concerned about the widening of paths, it is not a highway it is an intimate space. People don't actually mind standing aside for others occasionally and like to feel they are mingling. The wider the paths the less area devoted to grass, that is what we love grass, trees and intimate curved paths.
Leave the winding paths.
I advocate that the paths, especially the riverside path on the Victoria Square side of the river, be for pedestrian use only.
The paths that are in the square do not need to be widened.
Only widen riverside path if necessary
I love the square as it is and don't think it needs wider paths etc.
The other obviously related matter I have concerns about is the proposed widening of the current pedestrian pathway/s, resulting in an increase of the existing hard surfacing with a consequent reduction of soft green space. I believe, from a visual, as well as practical perspective, the current proportion of green space to hard spaces, is well balanced, and any significant change to more hard surfacing, has the danger of compromising the very qualities that make this iconic space so special.
No straightened paths.
Do not widen paths - trees will be affected, will ruin the existing plan. Take out the path at 10, have enough paths.
And all the paths in the park should retain their existing curved routes. Why would anyone even think of putting a straight path in?
We strongly oppose the new path as outlined in the Plan connecting the Bowker to Colombo Street. (from 2 to 6 on the Plan) This significant change has for some reason not been prominently signalled in the documentation. We cannot see why the path needs to be changed. We submit the existing path be repaired and retained. Changing the direction of the path between the tight gap between the existing trees risks damaging the trees root system. The existing path leads to the section of land in Colombo Street originally slated for the Arts Precinct as released by CCDU for commercial development. With the close proximity of the planned Convention Centre it is not unreasonable that a hotel might be built. The retention of the existing path will mean anybody seeking to enter Victoria Square from this area will use the path and curtail desire tracks in the grass.
A new straight path is proposed from the fountain heading northwest to Colombo St. That is not needed and looks out of place with the other paths all being curved.
Perhaps curve the path from the fountain to Colombo St.
The restoration plan now seems to incorporate a straight, diagonal path from Colombo to the Bowker Fountain. I'm not sure why - but it should, at least, be curved if it is really needed.
Please retain the existing curved path from Colombo St to the Bowker Fountain: the new straight-angled path doesn't fit!



### 5.2.10 Improve lighting to modern standards so it is safer at night, while still retaining the current character (site wide).

Of the 366 respondents who rated this feature of the draft Restoration Plan, **90% (333) either liked or really liked the concept of improving lighting** to modern standards so it is safer at night, while still retaining the existing character of Victoria Square.

The general theme of feedback about lighting was that respondents preferred any new lighting to be subtle and in keeping with the existing character of Victoria Square.

Feature 10 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	234
Like	99
Neutral	21
Dislike	8
Strongly dislike	4
Total	366

#### 5.2.10.1 Respondent comments

Subtle lighting - not harsh and glary.
Lighting similar to tram (electric poles, character style lighting) to blend in.
Upgrading lighting - please don't use harsh cold LED lighting - warm white is best. Please consider atmosphere and warmth when installing lighting, rather than bare utility.
I've always liked the soft lighting, for instance, which gave it a magical feel at night. I live close by, walked through there often and always felt safe.
Modern lighting is important - we hope that the style used will reduce light bleed to the night sky.
Lighting should remain as close as possible to original award-winning design.
Put in lighting, and have police patrol the area for night-time problems.
I would like to see the existing lighting restored as its industrial design ties in with the brutalist New Zealand aesthetic of the Town Hall and relates to a simpler time when New Zealand was beginning to come of age from being antipodean outpost, to a country that was embracing it's national identity and becoming a world player.
The current lighting is good at night – I've checked!
I am happy for a lighting upgrade but do NOT make it too bright, we don't want a supermarket car park feel. Also, there is a conflict between the historical nature of the current luminaires (round 1970s things) and modern thinking about light pollution. Those lamps throw light upwards which is bad for light pollution. What you need is new luminaires that somehow echo the look of the old round ones, but do not throw any light upwards.
Please don't install LED lights because they disturb the birds natural sleep patterns.
Please keep the sphere lights as they link to the town hall.
We understand the existing lights are no longer manufactured and may have to be replaced. We understand that there is a current light that can be secured that closely resembles the original lights including the spherical globes albeit with modern lighting technology. We strongly submit that these lights or something very similar be used if the current lights have to be replaced.
Heritage lighting should stay for Town Hall relationship.



### 5.2.11 Install a new punt (waka) stop and amphitheatre opposite the Town Hall

Respondents generally supported the new punt stop and amphitheatre opposite the Town Hall with **79% of respondents either liking or really liking this feature of the draft Restoration Plan.**

Because this element of the plan included both a new punt stop and amphitheatre, the comment table below has been broken into two sections. As can be seen in the comments, there was some confusion about the intent and design of the proposed amphitheatre.

Feature 11 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	174
Like	113
Neutral	46
Dislike	13
Strongly dislike	16
Total	362

#### 5.2.11.1 Respondent comments

<b>Punt stop</b>
Really like the punt stop.
Love the idea of punting starting in this area again.
The new punt stop is a great idea, particularly for tourists.
New punt stop – yes.
I do like the punt stop.
The Punt stop will be good.
Happy for punt stop.
I also presume the new punt stop is additional to the one near Worcester St Bridge.
Will a punt stop and amphitheatre have conflict with use?
No need to put in new punt.
Please do not put a punt stop in. I strongly oppose public assets being used by commercial operators.
No new punt stop (commercialism).

<b>Amphitheatre</b>
We like the idea of a new amphitheatre opposite the Town Hall but got no sense from the diagrams & information in the booklet what this would be like or its likely use.
Why another amphitheatre that will either flood or block views when there is to be one by floral clock??
Not sure about the amphitheatre (10) near the town hall, was it used that much. Possibly better as an even surface.
The relationship between the Town Hall should not be disrupted by placing an amphitheatre opposite the town Hall, or a punt/waka stop in that position. Return to the original amphitheatre location with the floral clock.
No new amphitheatre. Keep the green Victoria Square as close as possible to original setting.
Why the amphitheatre at 8 when there is a big one at 10.
Need to redevelop square for a larger, central paved area to allow markets and events more space - ramping up areas around it to create amphitheatre.
10 amphitheatre - I would like to see paved, not grass as shown in the illustration.
additional amphitheatre - no!
I like the amphitheatre idea. The best place will depend on the orientation of town hall entrances etc.
Not sure about an amphitheatre at 8 - what do you mean? It should be nice grassy bank.



### 5.2.12 Prioritise safe pedestrian movement to and from Victoria Square by installing signalised pedestrian crossings at Armagh and Colombo streets – connecting with the new Te Papa Ōtākaro/Avon River Precinct promenade

Of the 364 respondents who chose to rate this feature, **85% (311) either liked or really liked the idea of installing signalised pedestrian crossings on Armagh and Colombo Street**. Only 9 respondents disliked or strongly disliked this feature. Few comments were made about its inclusion in the draft Restoration Plan.

Feature 12 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	226
Like	85
Neutral	44
Dislike	5
Strongly dislike	4
Total	364

#### 5.2.12.1 Respondent comments

The inclusion of a signalised pedestrian crossing is strongly supported, as this will improve pedestrian safety.

Lights to cross are good, but no need to change path routes in Park. Anyone who wants 'direct' route will not go that way.

The pedestrian access across Colombo Street will inconvenience traffic flow. This has not been needed prior to the earthquakes and pedestrians have used existing crossings for many years.



**5.2.13 Re-establish the former amphitheatre beside the Floral Clock, upgrading so it integrates with the Town Hall's new proposed forecourt**

Overall respondents supported re-establishing the former amphitheatre near the Floral Clock. Of the 365 respondents who rated this element, **92% (338) either liked or really liked this idea**. Just seven respondents either disliked or strongly disliked the re-establishment of the amphitheatre. This element of the draft Restoration Plan concept did not attract many comments.

Feature 13 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	265
Like	73
Neutral	20
Dislike	2
Strongly dislike	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>

**5.2.13.1 Respondent comments**

The original paved octagonal forecourt better linked the Floral Clock and the Town Hall forecourt while providing a further gathering opportunity.
Keep Floral Clock.
My vote is to upgrade and re-establish the existing amphitheatre.
Not sure about the amphitheatre (10) near the town hall, was it used that much. Possibly better as an even surface.
10 amphitheatre - I would like to see paved, not grass as shown in the illustration.
Return to the original amphitheatre location with the floral clock.



### 5.2.14 Retain the diagonal walkway through to Victoria Street

The diagonal walkway through to Victoria Street received a great deal of support with 345 (94%) of respondents either liking for really liking the concept. Only nine respondents disliked or strongly disliked retaining this walkway. This element of the draft Restoration Plan did not attract a lot of comment.

Feature 14 Snapshot	
Response	No. of Responses
Really like	272
Like	73
Neutral	10
Dislike	5
Strongly dislike	4
Total	364

#### 5.2.14.1 Respondent comments

I love the idea of a pedestrian connection to Victoria St - I can see this would be well used and combined with modern lighting the busyness of people moving between the Victoria St area and the more central city will create a vibrant, safe space.
Great that the diagonal walkway through to Victoria St is retained.
Maintain strong diagonal - statues in line, easy sightline.
The current design has never felt inviting to me and the important diagonal to Victoria Street is clumsy and needs better flow.
Diagonal walkway has become a cycle 'racetrack'.
Also would reduce the emphatic visual impact of the strong diagonal walkway link from the Hamish Hay Bridge and would better reflect a visual and physical link between the eastern and western features on each side of the river.



## 5.3 What additional features would you like included in the proposed plan?

### 5.3.1 Overview

This question received about 162 responses, of which 26 stated “nothing” or “nil”. Other respondent answers to this question were broad and varied and did not necessarily relate to additional features. In fact, many of the responses to this question reinstated what had already been expressed in Question 2. Accordingly, general trends and themes have been identified to assist in interpreting the data.

### 5.3.2 Key themes

#### 5.3.2.1 *‘We like what is there now’*

The general tone of the responses was that the public liked what was there before and is there now, and want the restoration process to maintain that both in physicality and in spirit.

Comments included:

- “Keeping the park as it was, except for repair, new seats, lights, accessibility. Don’t try and make it something it’s not. The permanence of the place was one of its most notable attributes. Random art doesn’t have to pop up here. There are lots of places in the new city. We shouldn’t try and normalise and standardise every place into homogeneity. Keep the real character of all the places that have not been taken away from us, build new character in new places.”
- “No additional features are required as they would detract from what it is now and what the people have clearly said that they want retained. Anything additional will start to make it look cluttered and “trying too hard...”
- “Anything that retains the existing green and leafy design. Plenty of flowering annuals.”

#### 5.3.2.2 *‘Cyclists and pedestrians are not a good mix’*

As in Question 2, cycling in Victoria Square was mentioned numerous times, particularly in relation to the perceived impact on pedestrians. Suggestions were made about realigning the cycleway so that it borders the square rather than travelling through it.

However, there was also some small sentiment that improved cycle facilities would encourage more people to cycle, particularly into the city.

Comments included:

- “Maintain pedestrian focus. It does not need to be thoroughfare for cycles. But a destination for and access for pedestrians.”
- “Don’t let cyclists travel through the square - while some will do so leisurely others will speed through and create unnecessary risks for pedestrians. Cyclists can easily keep to the boundaries of the square via Armagh and Colombo streets and re-join the river path afterwards.”
- “... eliminate cycle ‘raceway’ installed post-quake...”
- “Plenty of bike stands to encourage cyclists to bike into the city.”



### **5.3.2.3 'Public amenities – more and where they're needed'**

A substantial number of respondents raised the need for additional public toilets. Additional drinking fountains, seating and, to a lesser extent, rubbish bins, were also submitted as further requirements.

Comments included:

- "Public toilets are pretty important. We used to use the Town Hall toilets but it will be some time before they become available again, so something handy for people picnicking, or walking through would be really good, with disabled access and baby changing facilities."
- "Public toilets near the Armagh Street entrance."
- "Need toilets in vicinity. Maybe on Convention Centre site until that is built."
- "Seating for relaxation in different areas is important."

### **5.3.2.4 'Respect history and cultural heritage'**

A substantial number of respondents felt that the significance of the area's history, specifically Maori heritage should be a strong feature.

Comments included:

- "More information/art on the historical use of the site by the Maori people, prior to colonisation."
- "Somewhere between the horse watering ramp and Hamish Hay bridge back to path 7 I would like to see a connection to early Maori Waka landings and their market."
- "More info on display ie history of heritage features e.g. fountain/phone box, statue of Queen Victoria etc. in more coordinated way."
- "The more visible presence of Ngāi Tahu is welcomed and should be welcomed as the city acknowledges the heritage of the area."

### **5.3.2.5 'Give us green space, not clutter'**

There were several comments that the restoration of the square should retain its open, green character and some concern that additional elements, specifically proposed artworks, could create too much clutter.

Comments included:

- "...You will have to be very careful with any artworks that you intend placing within the existing confines - are they actually necessary? Place them temporarily to see what reaction is made and if not welcomed at least it will be inexpensive to relocate them."
- "Our one concern is that the additional art works scattered around the place do have some flow & connection to each other; positioning of these done wrongly could lead to a cluttered feel and so detract from the calming nature of the Square presently."
- "Retain trees and lawns and existing statues which already provide spaces and places to sit. The diagonal walkway reduces usefulness of the corner site (Kilmore/Cambridge)."
- "No more , please-- sounding too crowded already!"

### **5.3.2.6 'Light the square for security and amenity'**

Although not a leading theme, some respondents did raise the issue of ensuring any lighting used for security purposes also creates an ambience conducive with the character of the square.

Comments included:





- “Please do not flood the place with bright LED lights.”
- “I like the idea of soft lighting in the trees to highlight the branches and shapes.”
- “Make sure the lighting is of interest. Surely it doesn't cost much more to do something that will enhance the area as well as make it safer. Under-bridge lighting for atmosphere. Love that the Chinese Lantern Festival may be returning.”

#### **5.3.2.7 Other comments of note**

In addition to the key themes that emerged from the responses, some additional comments are listed below as they raise issues that may require further consideration.

- “Outdoor dining area on south side of Armagh St to make use of the beautiful outlook.”
- “I would like to see the Town Hall fountain given a priority restart as part of THIS program, not waiting for the Town Hall work to finish. It links the two areas visually and would be a great statement of intent about restoring the whole Town Hall.”
- “The Le Lievre monument opposite the Court building must be retained. It explains about the planting of the willow trees along the Avon River, which have been a feature of our garden city. Some have been cut down at that spot. They should be replaced.”
- “Café and or ice creme café or stalls in Victoria Park?”
- “More open space in the middle possibly shift fountain to NE corner to help with forming amphitheatre.”
- “Retain existing access to river.”
- “I am not sure if the circular amphitheatre will sit nicely within the overall opened up space extending toward Victoria St. Careful consideration is required to create the right impact and connection when using the space between Victoria Square and Victoria Street. Opportunity exists to create a botanical/park type atmosphere in this area that invites people in Victoria Street to enter and enjoy the whole Victoria precinct.”
- “I would like to see another hotel/restaurant/parking complex on the old Crowne Plaza site, which would complement the Town Hall just as the Crowne Plaza did - a treasured memory from childhood visits to Christchurch. If low walls are to be replaced, subtle etching of grasses such as has been done on the overbridges of the Southern Motorway would be welcome.



## 5.4 Feedback about the community participation process.

Although the community participation process was not mentioned in any of the survey questions, the subject attracted a lot of comment from respondents. As can be seen in the below table, the most recurrent themes were appreciation for listening to public requirements and expectations, and strong criticism for not doing this in the first place.

I think the public has been heard and this plan is a great reflection- well done.
I think this is great! I'm so pleased that the plans for Victoria Square were revisited. This process has allowed input, debate and has resulted in a much-improved design that I would think most people will support. Well done!
As can be seen in my answers, I believe the Victoria Square plan looks very good.
Great to see choices that take what is good and upgrade rather than radically change. THANK YOU!!!
All the proposed changes in the plan are perfect and retains the Victoria Square style and character whilst also improving the areas that needed improving as well as integrating it better with the rest of the city and other Anchor Projects such as the Avon River Precinct.
I truly appreciate your abandonment of markets and commercial activities from Victoria Square. Thank you!!! And thank God!!!!
Existing integrity of square retained but improvements/updates/art works included. Thank you!
Looking great! Well done!
It all looks really good. Thanks for asking.
Thank you for listening to us. Money can now be spent wisely.
This Draft Restoration Plan has restored my faith in the public consultation process.
Minimal change is perfect. Thank you for listening.
This area doesn't need big changes, so a big thumbs up for this revised plan - Thank you.
Very happy to see that the original plans were dropped and the character of the place will be retained.
I commend sincerely the Associate Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery and CERA staff for implementing The Community Participation Process, incorporating the Community Reference Group, in respect of the restoration of Victoria Square as part of Te Papa Otakaro/Avon River Precinct, thereby engendering public trust and confidence.
Great that you have taken note of the strong and passionate message delivered to you by those that care.
A good outcome to a very inept initial process. One hopes that a strong lesson has been learnt. The arrogance and disrespect for the residents of Christchurch has done a lot of harm.
Sense at last.
I want to Only say that at last you have listener to what the people want not what some misinformed design people in CCDU think!! Its a pity they and the Govt didn't start listen a lot earlier to the people about what they wanted as most thing in the CBD and the blue print are a disaster!
Not at all impressed by the kerfuffle needed to remedy the CCDU's first effort.
Good turnaround from CERA/Brownlee abomination.
Good job, finally.
I have tried to indicate, with my choices, that I am generally happy (but don't trust you) with "some" small tinkering of paths and Lights, however if the structure of the square is, in anyway impeded I'll chain myself to a bulldozer.
Thank goodness the people have been listened to for once.
The items that I am neutral on are ones where I do not trust that you will not be tempted to do something "yuck"!!!

**6.0 Appendix A – Draft Victoria Square Restoration Plan**

**6.1 This document is attached separately**

**7.0 Appendix B – Survey**

**7.1 This document is attached separately**

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