



Warragul Parking Study

Project overview



Baw Baw Shire Council is undertaking a thorough review of car parking in Warragul. The purpose of this study is not to determine if more car parks are needed, but how solutions can be made that are both practical and financially viable. Council will work closely with the community across all stages of the study to understand sentiments and desired outcomes. An initial community consultation period will be held from 27 February to 30 April 2020.

Background

Historically, car parking availability in Warragul's CBD has been considered an issue by traders, people working in the CBD and the broader community. A car parking study was undertaken in 2015 which identified a number of recommendations to assist in the short, medium and long term. This included investigating the feasibility of a multideck carpark.

DARMS Property (a property consultant firm) were then commissioned to provide a detailed assessment on the feasibility of a multideck carpark. The recommended 409 space multideck option was estimated to cost in the order of \$25 million and included retail and commercial space to assist in offsetting the cost.

Since the 2015 study and multideck feasibility report, a number of carparking changes have occurred in the Warragul CBD including the construction of a new carpark at the railway station providing 196 new carpark spaces which predominantly are all day/long term car parking spaces.

As a result of these changes, a review of the 2015 parking study was undertaken in 2018 by One Mile Grid (Traffic Consultants) and a number of recommendations were provided. These recommendations are of a similar nature to those included in the original 2015 parking study.

The 2018 study found that there are currently 2669 car park spaces in the Warragul CBD area with an average occupancy rate of 70% during the week and higher rates of 90% during peak times.

Both studies identified the need to provide additional parking capacity for the long term.

Key points

The requirement for additional parking is not being questioned but rather how it might be funded and what funding model would be preferred by the community given the cost involved.

Council understands that additional parking is required for the future to service the demands of parking in the CBD area. Estimations of the cost involved in providing additional parking by way of a multideck exceed Council's current financial capabilities. As such the community needs to be involved in determining a suitable financial model that is both affordable and sustainable.

We are committed to involving the community in determining a solution that is practical and financially viable.

Council would like to know the community's opinion about the recommendations it has been provided by external consultants. Council will also consider recommendations from the community on how to address this issue.

We will work with the community to understand what is considered an acceptable standard for parking availability for Warragul.

Council would like to further understand what the community considers a reasonable level of service for parking availability so that the implemented recommendations are practical and satisfy community expectations. For example, what is considered an acceptable walking time or distance from a carpark to a point of interest?

2018 Parking Study Recommendations

Recommendation

Cost estimate

1. Revision of existing car parking restrictions

Involves the revision of parking restrictions along Smith Street, Queen Street, Mason Street and Albert Street by changing most of the 2 hour parking spaces to 1 hour, and a few from 1 hour to 2 hour to improve parking turnover and availability. It also involves the extension of all parking restrictions on these streets to operate until 5:30pm on a Saturday from the current time of 12:00pm. This recommendation also involves the removal of all permit parking within the CBD area.

\$10,000

2. Implementation of a "cash in lieu" scheme for developments in the CBD

Relates to a planning initiative which will require all developments in the CBD to make a cash contribution to Council for every car space required by the development that cannot be provided on the development site.

\$30,000

3. Expand the current parking overlay

There is an existing overlay applied to developments in the CBD. This overlay requires businesses to provide a minimum number of parking spaces as part of their planning permits for developments in the CBD. This recommendation proposes the expansion of this overlay to cover a broader CBD area.

\$50,000

4. Implementation of a community bus service

Implementation of a community bus to transport workers and other CBD users from satellite carpark locations such as the train station or other locations into the CBD in attempts to free up parking spaces within the CBD.

Up to
\$120,000
annually

5. Improve walking and cycling networks on Gladstone Street and Mason Street

Construction of linking paths within sections of the CBD to improve pedestrian and cycling access within the CBD. Some of these links will involve the development of private land in consultation with the property owners.

\$50,000

6. Implementation of paid parking

Installation of parking meters in the CBD allowing Council to charge for parking.

\$100,000

7. Improvement of wayfinding signage

Implementation of car parking signage at strategic locations to improve the awareness of the public about the location of car parking areas in the CBD.

\$15,000

8. Construction of multideck carpark

This comprises the construction of a multideck carpark. Preliminary investigation shows that the most suitable location for this is No. 4 Barkley Street. It is expected that 409 additional carparks as well as commercial floor space for shops could be developed at this site.

\$25 million

9. Implementation of parking enforcement

Active enforcement of parking infringements within the Warragul CBD.

\$100,000

Have
your
say

An online or hard copy survey has been prepared to seek community feedback. The survey will be open from 27 February to 30 April 2020. To access the survey, please visit www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/WarragulParkingStudy or visit one of Council's Customer Service centres in Warragul and Drouin.