

5.6. Pacific Highway, St Leonards - Parking changes - Survey results

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ENDORSED BY: Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services

ATTACHMENTS:

PURPOSE:

To outline feedback received from community consultation in relation to parking changes in Pacific Highway, St Leonards.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the North Sydney Traffic Committee meeting held on 2 September 2022 the request for parking changes in Pacific Highway between Albany Street and Oxley Street, St Leonards was considered.

Mr Crisdell, the owner of Forty Winks addressed the Committee advising that since the completion of developments around his business over the last 6 to 7 years, he noticed their foot traffic has declined by 70% to a point where they have considered closing. Mr Crisdell stated that around 70% of his business happens on the weekend and due to the occupied unrestricted parking spaces on Pacific Highway, his clients are unable to find parking to visit his business. Mr Crisdell requested if Council could convert the existing parking restriction to 7 days, so on-street parking is available to visitors to businesses on weekend.

At the 2 September 2022 Traffic Committee meeting it was resolved to recommend:

***THAT** Council undertake consultation with the affected residents and business owners to extend the existing parking restriction in Pacific Highway between Albany Street and Oxley Street to weekends. (Approximately 10 spaces).*

Community consultation took place from 12 September until 28 September 2022. The outcomes of the community consultation are provided in this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of additional signs will be funded from Traffic Operation budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the first three (3) parking spaces immediately after the Bus Zone in Pacific Highway between Albany Street and Oxley Street, be converted from "1P Meter 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8:30am-12:30pm Sat" to "1P Meter 10am-6pm Mon-Sun".

2. THAT the affected residents and business owners be notified of changes prior to implementation.

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

2. Our Built Infrastructure

2.1 Infrastructure and assets meet community needs

2.4 Improved traffic and parking management

BACKGROUND

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CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Consultation has been undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

Relates to ECM No: 9038002

Standard or Guideline Used: AS2890.5; AS1742.11; NSC Resident Parking Permit Policy

Signs & Lines Priority: 2

Precinct and Ward: Holtermann, Wollstonecraft/Tunks, Wollstonecraft

Impact on Bicycles: Nil

Impact on Pedestrians: Nil

Impact on Parking: Change to

DETAIL

The owner of Forty Winks located raised concerns over the current parking restrictions on Pacific Highway which provide unrestricted parking on weekends after 12pm on Saturdays.

It was claimed that Since 2016, the area has seen massive change with thousands of new apartments being built causing a 70% decline in foot traffic into the store since 2017.

A total of 307 letters were distributed by mail/letter box drop to the affected residents and business owners on 12 September 2022. The survey was also available online. Residents were given until the 28 September 2022 to respond. A total of 20 responses were received. This represents a response rate of 6.5%, which is below the average response rate of 10 to 12%.

The result of community consultation revealed majority of community are against the changes to the current parking restrictions.

To assist the businesses and provide a balance of available on-street parking spaces, it is recommended:

1. **THAT** the first three (3) parking spaces immediately after the Bus Zone in Pacific Highway between Albany Street and Oxley Street, be converted from "1P Meter 10am-6pm Mon-Fri, 8:30am-12:30pm Sat" to "1P Meter 10am-6pm Mon-Sun".
2. **THAT** the affected residents and business owners be notified of changes prior to implementation.

Feedback Summary

Support

The parking is detrimental to support the businesses along this strip and with the already impacted retail business trade we need to provide as many opportunities to the tenants as possible for their customers.

Objection

- Very inconvenient to business to park at this location if this parking is changed.
- Awful idea, and not at all community minded
- Residents are already suffering from the effects of metro building works. This proposal is grossly inappropriate.
- it is not fair to tighten restrictions and take additional parking fees especially considering increasing cost of living and inflation!
- This Forty Winks business has opening hours by 5pm only, so why the proposal goes until 6pm? Feels like the council uses the opportunity to collect more revenue in parking fees/fines. Please keep this part of street as it is, for the council rate paying residents to enjoy. Thanks.
- I'm a resident of nearby residential units. This change will mean that friends and family will not be able to park to visit over the weekend.
- We have no visitor parking in our building and street parking is already limited. Weekends are a time we'd like to have family/friends over but it's going to become even more challenging to do so with even less parking available
- The public would prefer that this is not done as Sunday is a day where people can come and enjoy the cafes here and if forty winks think that they can limit this for their customer base, this is ludicrous and selfish of them to do so
- Do not support this idea and it is wrong
- I really do not like this change at all as I feel that Sundays are days that would allow for free parking.
- there are other restaurants etc that rely on people being able to park for free on Sunday afternoon. Parking in and around Crows Nest is expensive and limited.
- This is just another con approach by local council to enable revenue and screw the working class residents of Crows Nest. There is already significant issues with NS Council not being able or willing to do anything about illegal parking in the area, this is just a revenue tactic.
- Limited free street parking in St Leonards. Removing 10 more spaces from Saturday afternoon & Sunday will be very inconvenient for residents in the area.
- Other users require longer time periods eg restaurant visits and basketball games at Norths generally take 1.5 hours. The shorter period over weekends would materially impact the ability of younger age children to access weekend games. Suggest two hour zones so businesses get the turnover of all day parkers, restaurants are not adversely affected, and children get reasonable supported access to sports health facilities.
- When Residents there invest their property there, the existing policy is a benefit for us. That is one of the reasons we chose to be a buyer there.

