

5.4. Waters Road, Neutral Bay - Raised Pedestrian Crossing

AUTHOR: Nathan Wu, Traffic & Transport Engineer

ENDORSED BY: Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Waters Road Pedestrian Crossing Plan amended plan [5.4.1 - 1 page]

PURPOSE:

Upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on Waters Road at Grosvenor Street, Neutral Bay.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Council has received Federal Government Stimulus Road Safety Program (School Zone Infrastructure) funding, to upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on Waters Road at Grosvenor Street, Neutral Bay.

The proposal is to raise the pedestrian crossing to footpath level and install kerb extensions on both sides of the pedestrian crossing to increase visibility of approaching drivers, slow down traffic and reduce the crossing distance. The proposal will result in the loss of one parking space on the eastern side Waters Road as shown on the attached plan to comply with TfNSW statutory No Stopping requirement.

Due to the objections received during the community consultation on the loss of parking and through discussion with TfNSW, Council has been advised that TfNSW is in principal support to retain the parking space on the eastern side of the crossing on the departure side. Therefore, there will be no loss of parking.

Community consultation took place from 7 February 2022 until 13 March 2022. The outcomes of the community consultation are attached.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost for this project is estimated to be \$120,000 which is funded by Federal Government Stimulus Road Safety Program (School Zone Infrastructure) funding 2021/2022

RECOMMENDATION:

1.THAT Council proceeds with the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing Waters Road at Grosvenor Street, Neutral Bay to a raised pedestrian crossing as per the attached plan as part of the 2021/22 Federal Government Stimulus Road Safety Program (School Zone Infrastructure).

2.THAT the parking space on the eastern side of Waters Road on the departure of the proposed pedestrian crossing be retained. Therefore, there will be no loss of parking.

3.THAT the affected residents and businesses be notified prior to the implementation of the proposal.

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

3. Our Future Planning

3.4 North Sydney is distinctive with a sense of place and quality design

5. Our Civic Leadership

5.3 Community is informed and consulted

BACKGROUND

As part of the 2021/22 Federal Government Stimulus Road Safety Program (School Zone Infrastructure) it is proposed to upgrade the existing pedestrian crossing on Waters Road at Grosvenor Street, Neutral Bay to a raised pedestrian crossing with kerb extensions.

The project was identified through the 2020 Pedestrian Crossing Audit reported to the Traffic Committee meeting on 20 March 2020 where it was recommended and Council subsequently resolved, inter alia:

“THAT each of the existing flush pedestrian crossings in the priority list attached to this report be added to the LATM Action Plans to upgrade to raised pedestrian crossings and three crossings per year be funded from the annual Traffic Facilities Program for upgrade.”

Community consultation took place from 7 February 2022 until 13 March 2022. The outcomes of the community consultation are attached.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement has occurred in accordance with Council’s Community Engagement Protocol. The detail of this report provides the outcomes from the engagement for Council to consider prior to adoption.

Relates to ECM No: 8488682

Standard or Guideline Used: AS1742.10

Signs & Lines Priority: N/A

Precinct and Ward: Brightmore, Tunks

Impact on Bicycles: Nil

Impact on Pedestrians: The proposal improves pedestrian safety

Impact on Parking: It is proposed to retain all existing parking spaces

DETAIL

Community consultation took place from 7 February 2022 until 13 March 2022. A total of 977 survey letters were distributed to the affected properties in Waters Road and surrounding area and Brightmore Precinct Committee. Businesses in the vicinity of the pedestrian crossing were also notified via letterbox drops. The survey was available online through Council's 'Have Your Say' webpage. A total of 20 responses were received.

The result of this survey is summarized in the table below:

I support the proposal to upgrade the pedestrian crossing in Waters Road:	Response				Total
	Yes		No		
Residential Street Address	Qty	%	Qty	%	
Military Road	3	75%	1	25%	4
Waters Road	9	60%	6	40%	15
Guthrie Avenue	-	-	1	100%	1
Total	12	60%	8	40%	20

Comments received

Respondents were asked to provide general comments/feedback as desired. Comments have been grouped by emerging themes.

Support the proposal

- Supported to improve pedestrian safety and amenity. Please also consider options to improve safety at the intersection of Grosvenor Lane and Waters Rd. Vehicles regularly disobey the stop sign and shared zone environment, increasing hazards for pedestrians walking along Waters Rd and crossing Grosvenor Lane. There is poor sightline looking to Grosvenor Lane from Waters Rd (particularly when approaching from the south) and vehicles often come through exceeding the speed limit and disobeying the stop sign.
- As a legally blind person with impaired vision, I find being a pedestrian in Neutral Bay generally and in the area of the crossing on Waters Road between Grosvenor Lane and Grosvenor Street in particular a very scary experience. I use the relevant crossing nearly every day and take particular care when crossing. I also use a white cane which tends to slow drivers down and respect my use of the crossing. However, anything which will increase safety on the crossing is very desirable. Waters Road is a short cut for many drivers who seem keen to escape the immediate shopping precinct as quickly as possible. There are lots of school children who use that crossing regularly and, like many people, they walk automatically onto the crossing without looking to the right then the left. Similarly, many older citizens use the

crossing and most don't have the reflexes to avoid cars driven without proper care on the crossing. In fact, the crossing is a very busy one in constant use throughout the day. I do feel that there will be a tragedy on that crossing one day. For the reasons set out above, I strongly support the proposed to raise the crossing in the manner set in the letter from Nathan Wu.

- The more you can do the slow traffic the better.
- Whilst this improvement is carried out the plantings on the two (2) corners of Grosvenor Street and Waters Road require re-assessment and limited to a height of no more than 50cms as they impede motorists vision of any on-coming traffic and are a danger to all drivers.
- My wife and I moved into Bouganvillea Retirement Village five months ago. Its main entrance is 25 metres from the pedestrian crossing. We use the crossing everyday as do many Bouganvillea residents. Many residents, including my wife, walk very slowly and with the aid of a wheelchair, walker or stick. Several times we have been startled by an approaching car breaking suddenly as we were using the crossing. I think some motorists do not realize that it is a pedestrian crossing. I think the proposal is an excellent one and could well save a life or lives.
- Traffic is increasing greatly on Waters Rd - partly due to the questionable closure of Young Street - Waters Road crossing is used by an adjacent large school pupils and a large retirement village residents facing the street. Not to mention many other local residents accessing the supermarket.
- Excellent plan
- Thank you for advising Council's success in gaining funding from the Federal Government Stimulus Commitment to Road Safety Program (School Zone Infrastructure) to improve the existing marked foot pedestrian crossing on Water's Road between Grosvenor Street and Grosvenor Lane. We support the proposed pedestrian crossing upgrade, and we look forward to the safety improvements of the existing pedestrian crossing. Yours sincerely, Daniel Grant, Head of Property Services.

- We write to you as Strata Managing Agents for the above Strata Plan. We refer to correspondence dated 14 February 2022 regarding the “Proposed Raised Pedestrian Crossing”.

While the Owners Corporation is supportive of this proposal however, there is a potential issue regarding vehicles overhanging the driveway thereby impeding vehicles entering or exiting the driveway of the “Bougainvillea Village” complex. The following has been advised to our office in relation to this matter from the Building Maintenance Manager:

“I've dealt with many issues over the past 10 years of vehicles parking across the driveway with the current set up, mainly on the left side as you exit. Vehicles overhang

into the no parking signage area, impeding those exiting the village driveway. If the proposal by council proceeds as outlined, I'm concerned (through experience) that the reduction in the 2 car spacing on the right to a roughly 1.5 length parking space will create problems with cars also overhanging the driveway on that side too. Drivers seem to feel if a small part of their car is within the allowed parking area, but the majority is over the driveway, that's fine for them. It, however, creates a real issue for our drivers vision, especially the bus when I'm trying to get out or reverse in.”

We look forward to further communications from Council in regards to this matter in due course.

Oppose the proposal

- Parking in this area is at a premium and the loss of a parking space to allow for a raised pedestrian crossing where the existing crossing is functioning perfectly seems unnecessary.
- The existing crossing on Waters Road works. I believe raising of the road to upgrade the crossing is unnecessary. The loss of parking in an area where this is at a premium doesn't seem to warrant the upgrade. I believe the money would be better spent enhancing the sidewalk planting on the street.
- Improvement of the crossing is long overdue, and while I clicked "no" I do approve in principle with the following caveats:
 - (i) the completely unnecessary removal of a car parking space is unacceptable in a precinct with grossly inadequate street parking. It will damage the already struggling small businesses who rely on passing trade. This part of the proposal demonstrates the lazy thinking and absence of problem-solving skills in the team responsible.
 - (ii) everyone in the precinct agrees that the most obvious improvement would be solar powered flashing lights on the pedestrian crossing. The council's clumsy mistake of closing Young Street has forced traffic into Waters Road, which exhibits frustration by speeding down towards Grosvenor Street to make up for lost time. The council has been warned previously that a fatality is imminent whether from the numerous elderly or school children pedestrians. This crossing upgrade appears to be the council's "PR insurance policy" for when that death occurs.
 - (iii) no provision has been made in the plan for protecting elderly pedestrians from the increasingly aggressive cyclists who break NSW laws by riding on the footpaths and on crossings at high speed. The council has been repeatedly advised of this

dangerous problem but refuses to act. Be assured that those notifications will all come to light at the coronial enquiry when the inevitable happens. It's very frustrating for residents when the council presents changes as a fait accompli without the slightest intention of making any alterations, since the anonymous and unaccountable people behind the changes face no consequences for their mistakes. It's like a form of street theatre in which the players pretend to be open minded, receptive and flexible, but they're just following the script. And here we go again.

Please stop treating rate-paying residents like we are idiots. We are not, and we will be there to hold the council and its individual employees accountable.

- Between Redlands school, Bougainvillea retirement village, Woolworths and residents around Waters Road, road traffic is slow in the area. The pedestrian crossing needs to be level (not raised, no hump) for people with walking sticks, or pushing their walkers, shopping trolleys or prams.
- Seems unnecessary and will mean an already difficult area for residents (!!) to park in will be worse by one spot. Can you open up more parking in waters road to residents with permits? Also I just means motorist will slow down then accelerate which means more noise. Spend the money on something else and not on unnecessary projects.
- The needs of pedestrians need to be balanced with the needs of motorists
- Any proposal that results in the loss of even 1 parking space in this area, which has very little parking even now...is no good..
- The loss of even one parking space is not good (unless Council builds a parking station in close vicinity). Visibility of crossing won't make much difference to drivers. There are too many proposed signs. One/two signs at entrance to Waters Road from Military Road - 40kms only. Timing is bad - new proposed building on corner of Waters Rd/Grosvenor Street will make a mess of the crossing - will be mayhem!

Council response: Almost all the objections received were concerned about the loss of parking as a result of the proposal. Through discussion with TfNSW, Council has been advised that TfNSW is in principal support to retain the parking space on the eastern side of the crossing on the departure side. Therefore, there will be no loss of parking.

Precinct Comments:

"The site adjacent to this crossing (12-14 WATERS ROAD / 55-57 GROSVENOR STREET, NEUTRAL BAY) was the subject of DA 92/21 (Demolition of existing buildings and construction of a 6 storey mixed use building with basement parking consisting of retail; commercial and 44 apartments with parking for 107 cars). The original DA was modified, and is now Planning Proposal 2/22 (see Brightmore minutes of 19 January 2022 Item 6, extract below).

A notice from Council re the Planning Proposal has recently been put up on the building. The Planning Proposal is "seeking to amend North Sydney LEP 2013 by increasing the maximum building height control from 16m to 26m (6 storeys), and increasing the minimum non-residential FSR from 0.5:1 to 1.2:1".

It was noted that this site was subject to a DA lodged 9 April 2021 for a 6 storey building. Revised plans for a 5 storey building were subsequently lodged and approved on 27 October 2021 with deferred commencement conditions. Approval of deferred commencement conditions was given on 22 December 2021.

The Planning Proposal seeks a spot rezoning of the property to allow an additional storey of residential development.

I am pretty sure that any money spent on a new pedestrian crossing here will be a total waste of money, as the whole site will be re-configured for vehicle access if/when the new development goes ahead.

What that final design will be who knows?

Note that this is already being marketed. The development is called "Pienza".

Could you please make sure all the relevant departments involved. know the site is the subject of a Planning Proposal and to take that into consideration before any decisions are made."

Council response: The Planning Proposal (PP) has been received/lodged but not yet assessed by Council staff nor proceeded to DPIE Gateway determination etc i.e. rezoning not yet approved. The pedestrian crossing is grant funded and will be constructed by end of June 2022. The PP may not proceed. The proposed pedestrian crossing is located on a 'pedestrian desire line', the location where logical to cross the road. Proposed development would be prohibited from putting a driveway where the pedestrian crossing has been constructed i.e. need to work around the existing road infrastructure/amend plans in response to the constructed pedestrian crossing.

Other

- I agree that there is a problem with the pedestrian crossing on Waters Road as described in your letter. It takes some patience to cross the road but I do not think a raised crossing is that way to solve this. I live next door to Bougainvillea Retirement Village and meet many residents along the street. Some are out for exercise others heading for Woolworths and other shops. I think many of these people may have great difficulty negotiating a slope to the raised crossing with their walking frames, wheel chairs or just walking sticks.

Mornings and afternoons there are a large number of school children crossing at this point too. Some are of course in Secondary School but there are still a significant number of Primary age children too.

I do not know the answer to the problem of impatient or inattentive drivers but I have major concerns about the proposal. I am elderly too but at this stage quite mobile but I do have concerns for not only my neighbours but the many other older people who need and use this crossing.

- I want to thank the North Sydney Council for ensuring that new pedestrian crossings installed around North Sydney now have signage that meets the Australian Standards. Also, at raised crossings, the footpath is level with the crossing as per TfNSW Technical Directions, allowing the elderly and parents with prams to cross safely, especially when it rains. Oslo in Norway has reduced its

pedestrian fatalities to zero by implementing simple standards which involves clear zones around crossings and intersections. Crossing signage is always placed well away from the kerb not be impacted by the trucks trying to deliver goods to local shops and building sites.

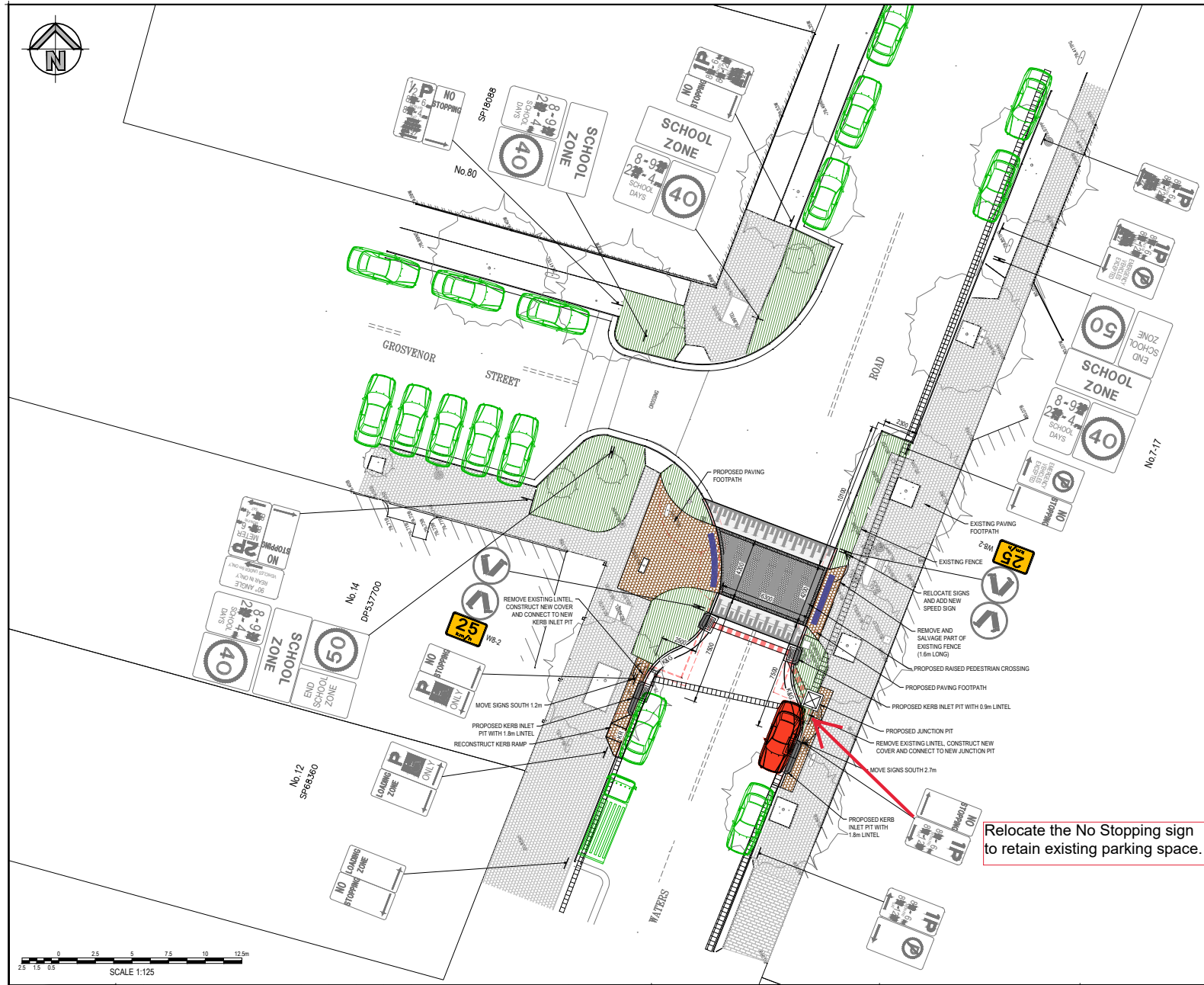
Could the council please consider the following:

1. Make sure the TSGI is perpendicular to the direction of travel of a sight-impaired person.
 2. Make sure no tall plants are planted within the clear zone (see picture of crossing Broughton)
 3. Install signs well away from the edge of the road.
 4. All signs to be fluorescent green-yellow.
 5. Make sure that arrows of all parking signs are to the new Australian Standards (Belgian arrow)
 6. Use recycled concrete, like Boral Envirocrete to reduce councils carbon footprint
- New raised crossing at Broughton St, plants have grown so high that vehicles approaching cannot see the two women about to cross from the left. (picture taken at the height of drivers line of sight)
- Norway would never have plants or other objects within the clear zone, and this is why they have reduced their fatalities of pedestrians to zero.
- At the same crossing, the new pedestrian sign has been hit and knocked over by a truck that may be trying to make a delivery to the Woolworths and trying to avoid the keep left signs at either end of the crossing.

Council response: Noted.

Conclusion

Considering majority of the respondents support the proposal and the concerns raised by the respondents regarding the parking loss has been addressed, it is recommended that Council proceeds with the upgrade of the existing pedestrian crossing Waters Road at Grosvenor Street, Neutral Bay to a raised pedestrian crossing as per the attached plan.



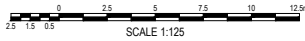
Relocate the No Stopping sign to retain existing parking space.

LEGEND Attachment 5.4.1

- EXISTING STORMWATER PIPE
- PROPOSED STORMWATER PIPE
- PROPOSED KERB & GUTTER
- PROPOSED KERB RAMP
- KERB & GUTTER & FOOTPATH TO BE REMOVED
- KERB & GUTTER TO BE RETAINED
- PROPOSED PAVING TACTILES
- GARDEN AREA
- PROPOSED PAVING FOR CROSSING
- PROPOSED PAVING FOR FOOTPATH
- EXISTING PAVING
- PROPOSED JUNCTION PIT
- PROPOSED KERB INLET PIT (SINGLE)
- EXISTING PARKING SPACE
- LOSS OF PARKING SPACE
- PROPOSED SIGN

EXISTING SIGNS

- END SCHOOL ZONE
- SCHOOL ZONE
- 8-9 SCHOOL DAYS
- NO STOPPING
- NO STOPPING
- LOADING ZONE
- P ONLY
- 90° ANGLE
- EMERGENCY VEHICLES EXCEPTED
- IP
- 2P



SURVEY INFORMATION
 HORIZONTAL SYSTEM: MGA 2020
 MARK ADOPTED:
 E 333 900.000
 N 6 900 000.000
 VERTICAL SYSTEM: AHD 71
 MARK ADOPTED:
 62.76 94

AMENDMENT	DATE	DESIGNED	CHECKED	DATE

Client: NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL
 Project: C-SIDE SURVEYORS
 Scale: 2:01
 Site Name: 819 Pacific Highway Gosford NSW 2252
 Telephone: +61 3 9477 8400
 Facsimile: +61 3 9477 8337
 Email: info@henryjthymas.com.au
 Web: www.henryjthymas.com.au

Project: PEDESTRIAN CROSSING DESIGN
 WATERS RD, NEUTRAL BAY
 Title: GENERAL ARRANGEMENT (OPTION 1)

Drawn	Designed	Date
D.Tran	D.Tran	Nov 2021
Checked	Approved	Scale
L.Tan	L.Harrigan	1:125
Drawn Number	Revision	

21Q92_SK_C130_01
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