

5.3. Princes Street, McMahons Point - Parking Survey Results

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Princes Street - Proposed Parking Changes [5.3.1 - 1 page]

PURPOSE:

To report the outcomes of the recent community engagement regarding parking restrictions in Princes Street, McMahons Point.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

A parking survey for Princes Street, McMahons Point (Parking Area 7) was sent out on the 6 October 2021 to 94 residents, businesses, and to Union and Lavender Bay Precinct Committees. Residents were given until 7 November 2021 to respond. A total of 15 responses were received. This represents a response rate of 16%, which is above the average response rate of 10 to 12%.

The answers received from the residents for the Princes Street Parking Area 7 survey are summarised in the attached report. Recommended changes to the parking restrictions in the Princes Street are also detailed in the report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of the signage changes can be covered from Council's signage budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the existing two spaces of "*½ Hour Parking 8.30am-10pm Mon-Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 7*" spaces on the northern side of Princes Street between Princes Place and Blues Point Road, to "**1 Hour Parking 8.30am-10pm Mon-Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 7**" (Zone 534).
2. **THAT** the existing three spaces of "*½ Hour Parking 8.30am-10pm Mon-Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 7*" on the southern side of Princes Street, between Princes Place and Blues Point Road, be converted to "**1 Hour Parking 8.30am-10pm Mon-Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 7**" (Zone 535)
3. **THAT** Council notifies the residents, businesses, and all submitters before installing the parking restriction changes in Princes Street.
4. **THAT** the new parking restrictions in Princes Street be reviewed six (6) months after the date of installation

LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

2. Our Built Infrastructure

2.4 Improved traffic and parking management

BACKGROUND

Council received representations from local businesses in McMahons Point to increase parking time limits in Princes Street to enable customers to park for longer to assist businesses impacted by COVID-19.

At the Traffic Committee meeting on 30 April 2021, the Traffic Committee made the following recommendation and Council subsequently resolved:

8. THAT in principle support be given to increasing the parking time limits in Princes Street, McMahons Point from 30 minutes to 1 hour. (4.2)

9. THAT Council promptly conduct a survey of the intention to change the parking restrictions in Princes Street, McMahons Point. (4.2)

Due to extensive stay at home COVID-19 public health orders imposed between June-October 2021, the survey was delayed until October 2021 as public health orders were easing.

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: 8525760

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

Signs & Lines Priority: 2

Precinct and Ward: Union, Cammeraygal

Impact on Bicycles: Nil

Impact on Pedestrians: Nil

Impact on Parking: Some changes to parking restrictions in Princes Street are recommended as outlined in the report.

DETAIL

A parking survey for Princes Street, McMahons Point (Parking Area 7) was sent out on the 6 October 2021 to 94 residents, businesses, and to Union and Lavender Bay Precinct Committees. Residents were given until 7 November 2021 to respond. A total of 15 responses were received.

Survey Results & Submissions

Council received 14 formal survey responses and 1 (one) verbal response from a local café owner.

The survey responses are summarised below.

Q1. In PRINCES STREET between Queens Avenue and Blues Point Road, I am in favour of (choose one):
Note: All restrictions will have "Permit Holders Excepted Area 7"

Respondent Type & Street Address	Replace the existing "1/2 HOUR Parking" with "1 HOUR Parking"		Retain existing "1/2 HOUR Parking"		Other		Grand Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Resident, Business owner/operator Blues Point Road	2 2*	100% 100%					2 2	13% 13%
Resident	6	46%	6	46%	1	8%	13	87%
Princes Street	2	22%	6	67%	1**	11%	9	60%
Queens Avenue	1	100%					1	7%
East Crescent Street	1	100%					1	7%
French Street	2	100%					2	13%
Grand Total	8	53%	6	40%	1	7%	15	100%

* includes one verbal response from café owner

** suggest 2 Hour limit / 7 days a week

The survey responses for Question 1 are also plotted in Figure 1 overpage.

Q2. The current parking restrictions expire at 10pm. I would like them to be extended to (choose one):

Respondent Type & Street Address	6pm		8pm		Midnight		Retain existing (10pm)		Grand Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Resident, Business owner/operator Blues Point Road	1 1	100% 100%							1 1	7% 7%
Resident	2	15%	1	8%	2	15%	8	62%	13	93%
Princes Street	1	11%			2	22%	6	67%	9	64%

Queens Avenue	1	100%				1	7%	
East Crescent Street			1	100%		1	7%	
French Street					2	100%	2	14%
Grand Total	3	21%	1	7%	2	14%	14	100%



Figure 1 Plot of survey response to Question 1 – preference for restriction time limit

Q3. The current parking restrictions operate Monday to Friday. I would like them to operate (choose one):

Respondent Type & Street Address	Monday to Sunday		Retain existing (Monday to Friday)		Grand Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Resident, Business owner/operator			1	100%	1	7%
Blues Point Road			1	100%	1	7%
Resident	6	46%	7	54%	13	93%
Princes Street	4	44%	5	56%	9	64%
Queens Avenue			1	100%	1	7%
East Crescent Street			1	100%	1	7%
French Street	2	100%			2	14%
Grand Total	6	43%	8	57%	14	100%

Precinct Comments

Union Precinct noted the following comments in the minutes of their meeting on 3 November 2021.

Precinct members noted that it is already difficult for residents to park, with the limited off-street parking and it was felt Princes Street was being singled out. There are other nearby streets with 30 minute parking so perhaps they could be considered too.

At the time of writing no comments were received from Lavender Bay Precinct Committee.

Comments Received

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

Retain existing restrictions

- Princes Street is the first right turn at the village and bears more than it's fair share of the business parking burden. Loosening the current restrictions would only increase the burden.
- There should be no change in parking arrangements because:
 - It is difficult for residents to park already, as - there are the same number of houses/units (33 = 25 houses + 8 units) and car spaces in Princes St between Princes Pl and Queens Ave; two parking permits are allowed per residence; and there is limited off-street parking.
 - Covid impacts on businesses (cited as reason) will last months but changes to parking will be permanent.
 - There are other streets nearby with 30 minute parking.
 - Princes St is being singled out and a wider review of parking arrangements in the area would provide a more equitable and democratic result.
- It is currently near impossible to obtain a parking spot in my own street after 6pm with the current parking restrictions in place. With increased limits it would make it virtually impossible to find a park. As a person of pension age and a parking permit holder it is currently an effort to find a park in Area 7 and get from my vehicle to the front gate of my home.
Also it would be advantageous if any parking restrictions, current or introduced, be enforced by council on a regular basis.
- Parking is at a premium in this street and residents pay council for their parking so restrictions should be policed.

Support longer time limits

- i am a resident and a business owner in McMahons Pt and i would like my family and my customers to not have to worry about the time limits when they come to visit me or my business

Support longer time limits / weekend restrictions / more enforcement

- There is currently no time restrictions to park on weekends. This is the peak time. Any weekday restrictions pale into the weekend free for all. Make it a 2 hour limit 7 days per week and actually enforce it. Especially on weekends.
Weekends are far busier than weekdays.
Restrictions only matter if they are enforced.
The Resident Parking Permit scheme is a joke but council does what council wants.

Discussion

Overall, 60% of respondents support increasing the time limit in Princes Street from ½ Hour Parking with the majority (53%) supporting 1 Hour Parking. However, of the 9 respondents from Princes Street, only 3 (33%) support increasing the time limit to either 1 Hour or 2 Hour parking, and 67% of Princes Street respondents support retaining the existing ½ Hour Parking. Of the 6 respondents from surrounding streets (including one business fronting Princes Street), 100% support increasing the time limit.

57% of respondents overall and 67% of Princes Street respondents support retaining the 10pm restriction expiry; and 57% of respondents overall and 56% of Princes Street respondents support retaining restrictions Mon-Fri with unrestricted parking on weekends.

There is a small cluster of respondents at the eastern-most end of Princes Street who support increased time limits.

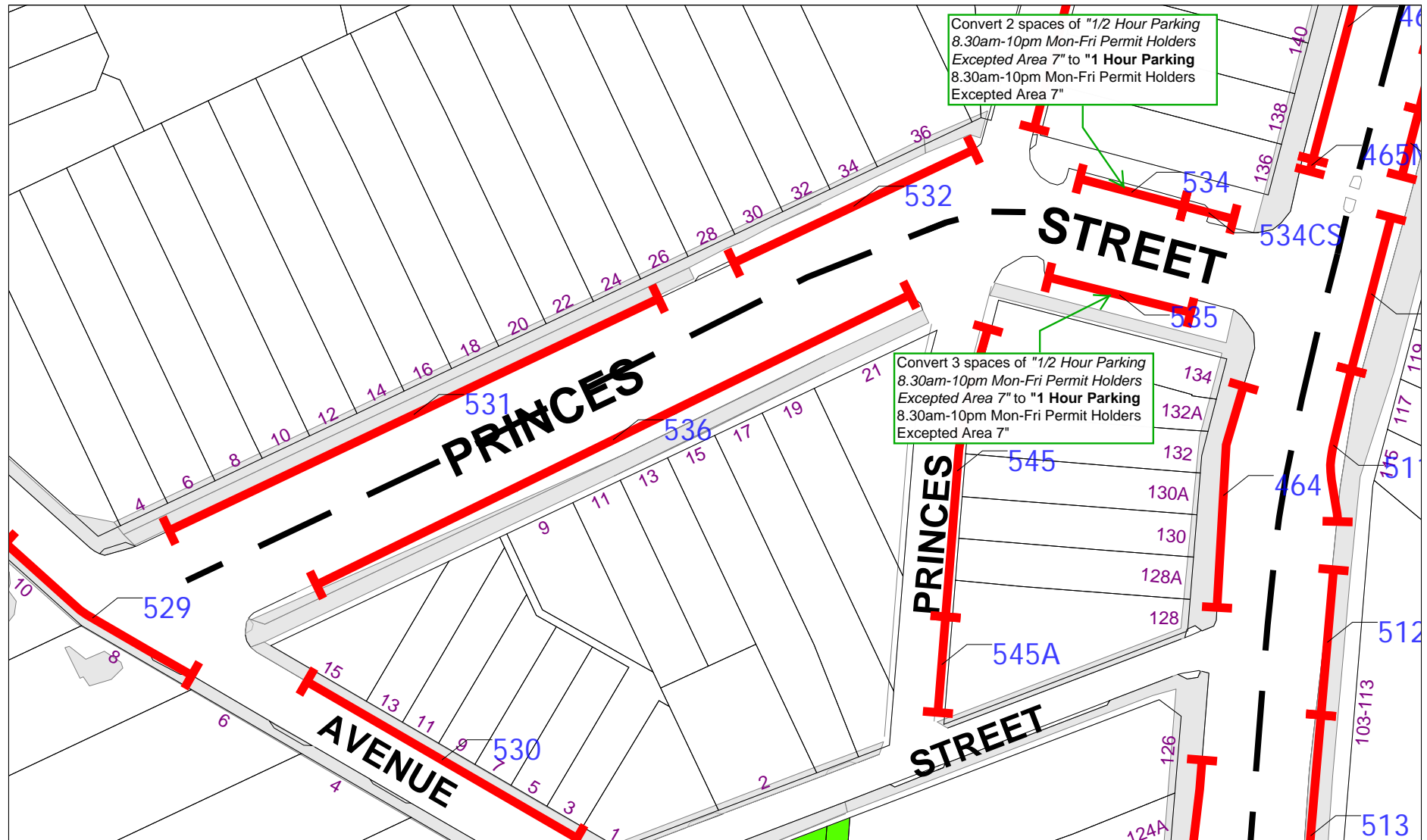
Resident Parking Permits & Occupancy

There are currently 32 parking spaces in Princes Street which are all designated “1/2 Hour Parking 8.30am-10pm Mon-Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 7”. There are 31 Area 7 resident parking permits issued to properties in Princes Street and a further 23 Area 7 resident parking permits issued to properties within a 50m radius of Princes Street.

Council generally aims for a maximum average occupancy of 80-90% to ensure the most efficient use of the limited parking resource while ensuring that residents and visitors can find a parking space when they arrive. Parking behaviours were impacted during COVID-19 stay-at-home orders and as people return to workplaces during the pandemic, there is a heavier reliance on motor vehicles. Prior to the impacts of COVID-19 (pre-2020), Princes Street had an average occupancy of approximately 74%. More recent observations in 2021 and 2022 indicate an average occupancy of approximately 85%.

Given the mixed feedback from the impacted community, desire for increased time limits from local businesses and the observed parking occupancies in Princes Street, it may be reasonable to convert a small number of parking spaces closest to local business, i.e. the 5 (five) ½ Hour Parking spaces on both sides of Princes Street between Princes Place and Blues Point Road, to 1 Hour Parking.

Princes Street, McMahons Point - Proposed Parking Changes



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 Traffic Committee: 544 4/2/22

