

Item 4.14 - Traffic - 27/11/20



N O R T H S Y D N E Y C O U N C I L

To the General Manager

Attach: 1. Plan

SUBJECT: (4.14) Vernon Street, Cammeray - Trailer Parking Restrictions -Survey Results

AUTHOR: Report of Traffic & Transport Engineer, Nathan Wu

DESCRIPTION/SUBJECT MATTER:

At the 531st North Sydney Local Traffic Committee meeting on 20 March 2020 the issue of trailer parking in Vernon Street was discussed. Subsequently, Council resolved to survey to residents of Vernon Street for a trial of 'No Parking Motor Vehicles Excepted'

A survey regarding the trailer parking trial in Vernon Street was sent out on the 29 September 2020 to 16 residents and property owners. The survey was also available online. Residents were given until 27 October 2020 to respond. A total of 5 responses were received. This represents a response rate of 31% which is above the average response rate of 10 to 12% for parking surveys.

The answers received from the residents and property owners are summarised in the report.

This report also takes into consideration Council's Trailer Parking Policy which was adopted on 27 July 2020.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the existing parking arrangement in Vernon Street, Cammeray remains unchanged.
- 2. THAT** Council Rangers continue to patrol and enforce boat trailers parking in Vernon Street, Cammeray.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

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

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

Signs & Lines Priority: 2

Precinct and Ward: Bay, Tunks

Impact on Bicycles: Nil

Impact on Pedestrians: Nil

Impact on Parking: Parking impacts are outlined in the report.

DETAIL

At the 531st North Sydney Local Traffic Committee meeting on 20 March 2020 the issue of trailer parking in Vernon Street was discussed. Subsequently, Council resolved to adopt the following recommendations:

- 1. THAT** Council acknowledge the correspondence from Ms Purtell, a resident of Cammeray, concerning the danger of parked boats and trailers on Vernon Street, Cammeray and note that a policy is being prepared as well as a report that be presented to a Council meeting. Council will trial the 'No Parking Motor Vehicles Excepted' signs in Vernon Street as suggested.*
- 2. THAT** Council undertake a survey to residents of Vernon Street for a trial of 'No Parking Motor Vehicles Excepted' and that it be reported back to Council as soon as possible.*

A survey regarding the trailer parking trial in Vernon Street was sent out on the 29 September 2020 to 16 residents and property owners. The survey was also available online. Residents were given until 27 October 2020 to respond. A total of 5 responses were received. This represents a response rate of 31% which is above the average response rate of 10 to 12% for parking surveys.

Survey Results

The answers received from the survey are summarised in the following table.

Question: I support the trial of 'No Parking Motor Vehicles Excepted' signs in Vernon Street

Resident Street Address	Yes	%	No	%	Total	%
Rowlison St	0	0	1	100%	1	2%
Stratford Street	1	100%	0	0	1	25%
Vernon Street	2	100%	0	0	2	50%
Total	3	75%	1	25%	4	100%

*Duplicated submissions were removed from the table.

Comments received

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

Support the proposal

- I support the restriction be applied along the entire length of Vernon St on both sides of the road. I believe it should also be extended to Stratford St and Cowdroy St where I think the trailers will find a new home when Vernon is no longer available.
- Tunks Park is used all weekends for sports, family gatherings. Also during the week for sport training at local parking for residents living on Vernon Street. Also for all tradesman parking on Vernon for building houses in this area. (the poor mothers & fathers with children crossing Brothers Road and Vernon St. Some one will be killed not enough parking in area). Boats are parking in Vernon Street in dangerous position on corners stopping view for oncoming traffic parked also over 5 months or longer.

Oppose the proposal

- "While sympathetic to the issue, I do not support the current proposal as articulated.

The proposal would prevent residents from parking their own trailer near their home. So while it would deal with the problem created by "out of area" boat and trailer owners it would do so at significant cost to residents that own boats and trailers.

A simple improvement would be to introduce a "resident permit" that would allow residents to obtain a permit from council permitting them to park their own trailer in the area. In this way the "No Parking Motor Vehicles and Permit Holders Excepted" zone could be extended to more of the surrounding areas without impact to residents.

If residents are not to be excluded from the prohibition then the area adjacent to Judith Amber Reserve, where there are no houses and thus reduced parking pressure, should be excluded from the proposed zones."

"Further to my previous comments, the solution being considered doesn't properly deal with the fundamental problem. Instead it will apply a temporary topical solution to a symptom and lead, over time, to reduced community amenity.

First we need to recognise that some North Sydney residents have, and should be able to have, trailers parked on the street. Until the council formally considers a "no trailer" policy and undertakes the associated community consultation, the right of residents to park their trailers on the street must be retained.

The problem being addressed is caused by "out of area" users of the Tunks Park boat ramp who leave their boats and/or trailers in the area. Banning these trailers from one street will simply move them, and the resident trailers over to the next street. The residents of the next street will complain, and the trailers will be banned from that street too and the trailers, resident's included, will move on again. The cycle will repeat until the "out of area" trailers are eventually deterred through inconvenience and only the resident trailers will remain -- dislocated from their owners and making their use, and care, increasingly inconvenient.

Asking the residents of Vernon street if they like the proposal will yield favourable result equal to the inverse proportion of trailer owners, and will thus be overwhelmingly positive. If the residents of The Boulevard, Rowllison Parade, Pine Street East, Alan Street etc were included then we'd see a different outcome once those residents consider the consequences of increased numbers of trailers arriving in their street.

The only real solution is to introduce broader trailer parking restrictions across North Sydney with an exemption for residents. Anything else will reduce resident amenity by effectively removing the right of residents to own trailers (and to care for them)."

Trailer Parking Policy

In response to the increasing demand for trailer parking restrictions and following community consultation, Council has adopted a Trailer Parking Policy on 27 July 2020.

The Policy includes a number of criteria that should be satisfied before Council proceeds further, including minimum number of trailers parked, minimum occupancy and proportion of requests from adjacent residents.

For Vernon Street, the minimum criteria are as follows:

1. **4.9.6.1** *In any 60-day period, Council receives requests (or a petition) for trailer parking restrictions to be installed in a section of a street and the requests are from at least 30% of the households adjoining the same section of the street, or where the number of adjoining households is less than 10, 30% of households overlapping a 50 metre buffer of the section of the street, and;*

Note: A total of 13 adjoining households were consulted including 7 households in Vernon Street, 4 households in Strafford Street and 2 in Rowilson Parade. All 3 respondents supporting the trailer parking restrictions are within the 50m buffer of the proposed restriction zone. This represents a 23% household percentage which does not meet this criterion.

2. **4.9.6.2** *A minimum of two site observations by Council staff, at between 28 and-60 day intervals, confirm on each occasion there are two (2) or more trailers (of any type) parked; or trailers occupy 10% or more of the unrestricted parking in the street, whichever is greater, and;*

Note: A number of site inspections were undertaken by Council Staff. The most recent observation on 13/11/20 revealed that there was only one trailer parked in Vernon Street. There are approximately 30 unrestricted parking spaces in Vernon Street. The trailer represents a 3% of the total unrestricted parking in Vernon Street. Therefore, this criterion is not met.

3. **4.9.6.3** *The average occupancy of the unrestricted parking and any existing "No Parking Motor Vehicle Excepted" spaces in the street (or part thereof) is **85% or greater** and;*

Note: the occupancy of the restricted parking was recorded at 30% which does not meet this criterion.

4. **4.9.6.4** *Where there is a combination of restricted and unrestricted parking in the street (or part thereof), the average parking occupancy is **between 65% to 85%**.*

Note: Not applicable. There is currently no restricted parking in Vernon Street.

5. *Where criteria 4.9.6.1 to 4.9.6.3 are met, but the average parking occupancy for the street (or part thereof) is **85% or greater** and no resident parking consultation has been undertaken in that street in the 24 months prior to criteria 4.9.6.1 being met, Council will undertake community consultation in the street, or Resident Parking Area that includes the street, with regard to the community preference for options including (a) timed parking restrictions with exemptions for resident parking permit holders, and (b) “No Parking Motor Vehicles Excepted”*

Note: Not applicable. Criteria 4.9.6.1 to 4.9.6.3 are not met.

In addition, the trailer that was last observed parked in Vernon Street (upper section near 16 Rowlison Parade) was not considered to cause a hazardous sight obstruction to pedestrians and/or vehicles.

Discussion

In March 2020, there were 3 boat trailers and 1 box trailer observed parked in Vernon Street based on photos provided by the resident.

Ranger’s monthly inspections of boat trailers have encountered a maximum of 2 boat trailers parked in Vernon St during the course of the year. However, there are other regular trailers ie. Box, vehicle carrier etc in the street as they do not have to be moved at least every 28 days in unrestricted parking like boat trailers.

Ranger’s report revealed that a boat trailer was parked in Vernon Street and processed as unattended on 06/10/20. (overstayed 28-day timeframe it could remain parked without moving). Following receipt of letter and intention to impound notice trailer has since been moved. Rangers checked location on 09/11/20 and it was not present.

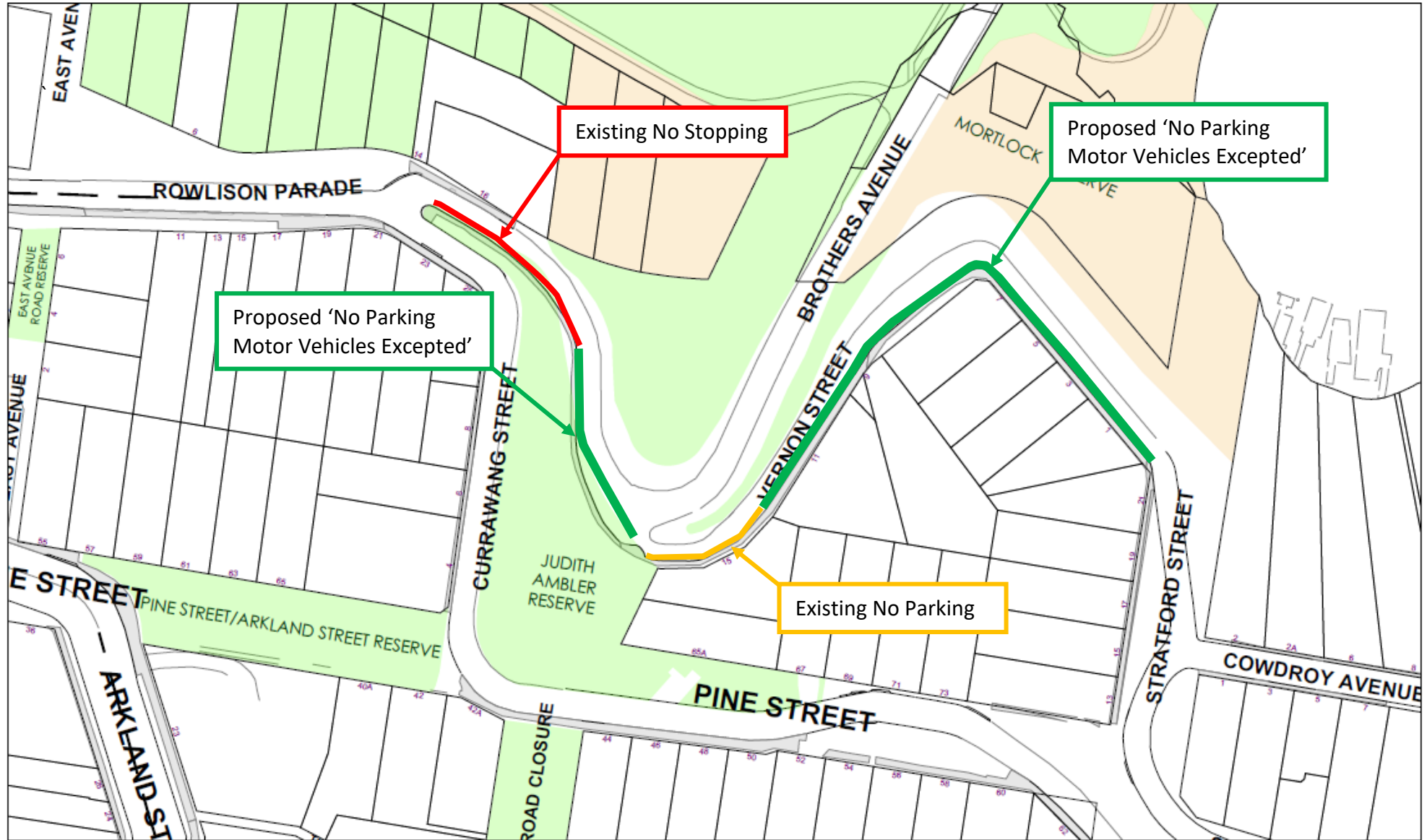
It appears that boat trailer parking in Vernon Street is able to be enforced under the new Impounding Act 1993.

Overall, 75% of respondents and 100% of respondents in Vernon Street support the proposed trailer parking restrictions in Vernon Street. Only one respondent from Rowlison Street opposes the proposal. The respondent owns a boat trailer and requests Council to provide exemption for residents to park their boat trailers in Vernon Street.

Under Council’s Resident Parking Policy trailers are not entitled to Resident Parking Permits. It is expected that all boat trailers should be parked off the street within the private properties.

Although majority of the respondents support the proposal, considering Vernon Street does not meet the criteria set out in Council’s Trailer Parking Policy for implementation of any trailer parking restrictions, it is recommended that the existing parking arrangement in Vernon Street remains unchanged.

PROPOSED PARKING ARRANGEMENT



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