



To the General Manager

Attach 1. Parking Restriction Recommendations
2. Map

SUBJECT: (4.4) Area 30 - Bent Street and Lower Bent Street - Parking Survey Results

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DESCRIPTION/SUBJECT MATTER:

A parking survey for Bent Street and Lower Bent Street in Parking Area 30 was sent out on the 31 August 2020 to 540 residents and property owners, and to Neutral Precinct. The survey was also sent to Cammeraygal Montessori School. The survey was also available online. Residents were given until the 27 September 2020 to respond. There were 143 visitors to the survey webpage and a total of 81 responses were received. This represents a response rate of 15%, which is above the average response rate of 10 to 12% for parking surveys.

The answers received from the residents for the Area 30 Bent Street and Lower Bent Street survey are summarised in the report. Recommended changes to the parking restrictions in the Bent Street and Lower Bent Street are also attached.

Overall, the majority of respondents did not support changes to the parking restrictions in Bent Street and Lower Bent Street. There was a small cluster of support for additional parking restrictions outside 12-18 Bent Street and changes to these spaces have been recommended accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** Council change 2 spaces of unrestricted parking in front of 18-20 Bent Street to “2 Hour Parking 8.30am-6pm Mon-Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30”.
- 2. THAT** Council notify the affected residents and all submitters for the Area 30 survey of the adopted changes and outcomes of the survey prior to installation.
- 3. THAT** the new parking restrictions for Area 30 are evaluated with a report to the Traffic Committee after three months of installation, including any community feedback.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

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

Relates to ECM No:

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

Signs & Lines Priority: 2

Precinct and Ward: Neutral, Victoria

Impact on Bicycles: Nil

Impact on Pedestrians: Nil

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

DETAIL

It is Council's understanding that residents of Bent Street and Lower Bent Street, and their visitors are experiencing difficulties in obtaining parking close to their property due to increased demand, particularly from commuters and visitors to the area.

Bent Street has a mix of restricted and unrestricted parking spaces, with around 19% of parking spaces restricted. Bent Street has an average parking occupancy of 90%.

Lower Bent Street has a mix of restricted and unrestricted parking spaces, with around 44% of parking spaces restricted. Lower Bent Street has an average parking occupancy of 86%.

Additional parking restrictions were therefore considered for Bent Street and Lower Bent Street with the aim to increase turnover and reduce occupancy. The survey asked respondents to indicate their preference for either 2 Hour Meter Parking; 4 Hour Meter Parking; 2 Hour Parking; retain existing restrictions or another arrangement.

A parking survey for Bent Street and Lower Bent Street in Parking Area 30 was sent out on the 31 August 2020 to 540 residents and property owners, and to Neutral Precinct. The survey was also sent to Cammeraygal Montessori School. The survey was also available online. Residents were given until the 27 September 2020 to respond.

There were 143 visitors to the survey webpage and a total of 81 responses were received. This represents a response rate of 15%, which is above the average response rate of 10 to 12% for parking surveys.

Survey Results

Overall, 68% of respondents and 65% of respondents in Bent Street supported retaining existing parking restrictions. Only 28% of Bent Street respondents supported additional parking restrictions in Bent Street. A cluster of residents between 12-20 Bent Street support additional parking restrictions.

Overall, 69% of respondents and 81% of Lower Bent Street respondents supported retaining the existing parking restrictions. Only 14% of Lower Bent Street respondents supported additional parking restrictions in Lower Bent Street.

The answers received for Area 30 Bent Street and Lower Bent Street parking survey are summarised in Tables 1-4 below.

Table 1 Bent Street Parking responses

1. In BENT STREET between Yeo Street & Alfred Street North, I am in favour of (choose one):

Respondent Street Address	a) Replace the existing 2 Hour Parking, 1/2 Hour Parking and some of the unrestricted parking with "2 Hour METER Parking" *		b) Replace the existing 2 Hour Parking, 1/2 Hour Parking and some of the unrestricted parking with "4 Hour METER Parking" *		c) Replace some of the existing unrestricted parking with "2 Hour Parking" *		d) Retain existing parking restrictions		Other		Grand Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bent Street	2	4%			13	24%	36	65%	4	7%	55	68%
Eaton Street					1	100%					1	1%
Lower Bent Street					5	24%	16	76%			21	26%
Merlin Street					1	50%	1	50%			2	2%
Winter Avenue							1	100%			1	1%
Wyagdon Street							1	100%			1	1%
Grand Total	2	2%	0	0%	20	25%	55	68%	4	5%	81	100%

Table 2 Lower Bent Street Parking responses

2. In LOWER BENT STREET between Winter Avenue & Alfred Street North, I am in favour of (choose one):

Respondent Street Address	a) Replace the existing 2 Hour Parking and some of the unrestricted parking with "2 Hour METER Parking" *		b) Replace the existing 2 Hour Parking and some of the unrestricted parking with "4 Hour METER Parking" *		c) Replace some of the existing unrestricted parking with "2 Hour Parking" *		d) Retain existing parking restrictions		Other		Grand Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bent Street	2	4%		0%	14	25%	35	64%	4	7%	55	68%
Eaton Street					1	100%					1	1%
Lower Bent Street					3	14%	17	81%	1	5%	21	26%
Merlin Street							2	100%			2	2%
Winter Avenue							1	100%			1	1%
Wyagdon Street							1	100%			1	1%
Grand Total	2	2%	0	0%	18	22%	56	69%	1	1%	81	100%

Table 3 Restriction operating times

3. The current parking restrictions usually expire at 6.00pm. I would like them to be extended to (choose one):

Respondent Street Address	6pm		8pm		Midnight		No Answer		Grand Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bent Street	49	89%	4	7%	1	2%	1	2%	55	68%
Eaton Street			1	100%					1	1%
Lower Bent Street	17	81%	1	5%			3	14%	21	26%
Merlin Street	2	100%							2	2%
Winter Avenue	1	100%							1	1%
Wyagdon Street	1	100%							1	1%
Grand Total	70	86%	6	7%	1	1%	4	5%	81	100%

Table 4 Restriction operating days

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

Respondent Street Address	Monday to Friday ONLY		Monday to Saturday		Monday to Sunday		No Answer		Grand Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Bent Street	50	91%	2	4%	2	4%	1	2%	55	68%
Eaton Street			1	100%					1	1%
Lower Bent Street	19	90%					2	10%	21	26%
Merlin Street	1	50%			1	50%			2	2%
Winter Avenue	1	100%							1	1%
Wyagdon Street	1	100%							1	1%
Grand Total	72	89%	3	4%	3	4%	3	4%	81	100%

Overall 86% of respondents support retaining the 6pm expiry time for the parking restrictions and 89% support restrictions on Monday to Friday only. Therefore no changes are proposed to the operating times and days for the existing parking restrictions.

Precinct Comments

At the time of writing Council has not received comments from Neutral Precinct in relation to the survey.

Comments Received

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

Retain Existing Parking Arrangements

- Keep parking as current
- The only time there isn't free space in the unrestricted zone is during work hours because people park there to catch the bus to the city. If you want to fix this non-existent parking issue, then build a park and ride car park near the bus station. Restricting parking will increase traffic, this is proven, if anyone is complaining about not finding a park now then they will be complaining about the increased traffic if things are changed.
- Don't do anything to bent street.
- I do not experience a problem in our area with parking. We are able to use the one residential parking permit we have generally without problem, unless there are road works. On occasions when we need to park an additional car on the street, the unrestricted and time-restricted spots are adequate. I definitely believe metered parking would be detrimental to our local community needs, creating an unnecessary cost burden for residents or their visitors needing temporary parking but ineligible for a residential permit.

It is worth noting that the pedestrian crossing 'island' created by the Council a couple years ago for crossing Bent Street to Winter Avenue is generally unused, as pedestrians still cross further up the road. This island took 1-2 car spots at the time, which could potentially be recaptured for the purposes stated here.

- One issue is that people are now WFH due to COVID (myself included). But the main issue has been the increase in the number of Tradies in the area due to developments around the local area and in Nth Sydney. My car does not fit in the garage and according to the website I am not eligible for parking so I need things to remain as-is. If the parking rules change I would be forced to move house and possibly relocate my Son into another school. This is not an option for me
- As a resident, I find the proposal for restricted parking to be a negative change. Timed or metered parking places restrictions on my family and any visitors I may have. To be penalised as a resident by being asked to pay for permits and ask visitors to pay to visit my premises seems unfair and benefits only a few. I strongly oppose this change.

As commuter parking is an issue in North Sydney that causes commuters to park on residential streets, I would rather see the problem solved instead of pushing these commuters to park on the next residential streets over, which is what they will likely do. This moves the problem, it does not resolve it.

I would happily be involved in any projects that look to solve commuting issues in the area. But I do not support changes that impact residents negatively.

- I don't want my family and friends to have to pay for parking to visit me. The current system works fine. There is always a spot available.
- 'Your failure to provide better alternatives to commuters cannot be corrected by another of your failures, namely taking away parking spots from residents. Your proposal is nothing but a disgrace to our local community and is incorrect on several accounts:
 - Commuters use the daily spots, residents use the afternoon and night spots. There are never shortages of spots for residents
 - Residents' guests and trade workers, working on residents' houses, use these always available spots. Taking it away would disadvantage residents
 - If some local residents are not eligible for permits then taking these spots away would disadvantage local residents without benefiting anyone
 - Your proposal to charge for parking spots serves no benefits to anyone whatsoever, but yourself by collecting fees. We are already paying enough rates and you have already made most on the North Sydney council area parking zones, or put simply, enough is enough

Overall, I strongly oppose making our street parking more restricted as it would greatly disadvantage us, the residents

- I'm completely against changing the current restrictions as a long term resident here this is entirely a money grab from the council which already makes parking in the area extremely expensive and difficult. This will not improve parking and just cost all us residents more. I will fight fully against this proposal.
- This is disgraceful that you are considering this change in this covid world. Many of us are dealing with reduced incomes or lost jobs and you now want to charge us for parking. This is the ultimate money grab and just adds to the growing piles of bills just to park in my street. A complete lack of understanding the community needs.
- I'm completely against this proposal. I have lived here for over 10 years and I have not noticed any significant change in traffic demands. This seems like a greedy council is wanting more money. Whilst I'm completely against I would prefer time restriction only during the week day vs metered. There is only demand for parks during the working week. I'll be very disappointed if these changes are made
- There is no issue with resident parking on Lower Bent Street.
- Changing the restrictions will add unnecessary new bureaucracy and hassle to the people using the spaces.
- There has been no new development resulting in a significant increase in dwelling occupancy on Bent St in many years, therefore it is reasonably safe to assume that parking demand has not increased as suggested.
- The current parking restrictions are entirely adequate.
- As an owner, it is a bonus to be able to offer an on-going free street for tenants. I don't think a meter system should be in place given it is already the case on the north side of Military road.
- I am quite satisfied with existing parking restrictions
- I am a resident on Bent Street. Please don't change the parking
- I live on the street and use the on-street parking. I would like them to stay as is
- I am disgusted that our council would suggest making these changes at such a time. COVID-19 has impacted so much of 2020 financially, physically, mentally, and now you want to try and take more money out of people's pockets.
- You should be ashamed of yourselves!

- I am an owner at 28-34 Bent street, we have multiple cars and have noticed the reduced availability of parking spots however have still always been able to get one. It is mainly 'working hours' from around 7am - 5pm that you experience this. All other times and weekends its never a problem.
- I believe adding meters or other restrictions will just push the problem down the street.

Currently I do not and never had any issue, except for people who take up parking spaces for boats and other trailers.

- There are a number of trailers that just sit in car spaces for months on end. That is the problem.
- I live in Bent Street since years and I think it works perfect.
- Lived in lower bent St for 2yrs, never had a problem getting a park at anytime of the day. Also throughout the day there is almost no one parked there.
- I do not think parking on our street is a problem at all, I find it hard to believe anyone has complained about this. Sydney has far too many parking restrictions and ridiculous fees, stop trying to get more money out of people at a time when we are heading into a recession with a life threatening pandemic to worry about. It is shameful.
- Leave the 2 hour parking as is. I would also like the half hour parking outside 22-24 Bent Street to remain as is
- There are no issues finding parking in the specified area and I strongly object to council making any changes to the current parking restrictions.
- Changing parking restrictions will not help residents it will just give the council more money.
- Whatever you do don't install parking meters. They change our nice town vibe. I'm really disappointed this is Even being considered I chose to live because of the parking available. North sydney council is making every single street restricted parking and therefore impossible for people to visitor without costing a fortune in parking tickets
- This plan will significantly disadvantage residents in apartment buildings in Lower Bent street.
- this is not a good plan

Oppose Restrictions

- Make even more roads in Neutral Bay unrestricted parking.
As a renter who is not eligible for parking permits for different reasons, it is infuriating that you want to block me from parking in the area I live in, but you also want to prevent my friends and family from visiting me as they would have to *pay* for parking when visiting me.
Do NOT make any more roads restricted parking, you are doing a great disservice to local residents.

Oppose Meters

- We oppose the introduction of parking meters as they would change the character of the street.

- There are enough parking limitations on these streets already, we do not want to introduce metered parking at all!
- should not be metered
we should be able to have family and friends visit without having to cost whether it be metered or visitor permits
- There is too much paid parking in Sydney in general and in my opinion its extremely greedy of councils to do this.

Support Restrictions

- Please consider the 4 Free Bays at the west end of Eaton Street. This will also take pressure of Bent Street.
- People simply dump their cars in these bays for weeks. Please consider these to be 2P restricted bays. Thank you.
- The main problem for residents in the area is the inability to have friends, family or tradespeople visit during the week due to lack of unrestricted parking. This problem is mostly due to commuters, North Sydney workers and school students who are of driving age.
- We live at 12 bent Street. It is a 3 bedroom house and we have no on-site parking. Our neighbours, number 14, 16 and 18, do not have on-site parking either. It is critically important to us that we have a parking space near our house

We are surrounded by older style units which may not have adequate visitor parking. We are also close to Watson bus stop (Watson st/Military road) and North Sydney train station. Visitors take up parking spaces during the weekend and commuters take up parking spaces during the week. Parking can be an issue 7 days a week.

There are days when we have to park quite far up Bent Street towards military road, which is very problematic for weekend grocery shopping with a young toddler to carry.

We would appreciate the council introducing metered parking, particularly around places like our residences where houses have no on-site parking and we absolutely need to rely on street parking to park our cars.

- The issue for this survey is to facilitate resident's visitors to be able to park their cars close by to where they are visiting but currently are not able to do so because of commuters parking their vehicles in unrestricted parking areas. Currently the only unrestricted parking areas close to where i live are the top section of Bent St, some areas towards the bottom of Bent St and Little Bent St and during the day are full of commuters vehicles. I believe my suggesting should free up parking spaces for visitors and I don't feel residents should have to pay for exemptions for their visitors. Exceptions should be available free at least for rate payers.
- One thing for council to note is that there are some residents in the area who own multiple cars, so it would be important that there is a limit of permits per household (i.e. one parking permit per person per household). There is one resident in the area who owns three cars and routinely parks a fourth in the area and moves them all around which restricts parking for residents, Wenona students and and those who park on Bent St and walk to North Sydney.

- As a resident for 6 years now, I walk out on to my balcony at 6am each morning. The spaces fill up with commuters who walk down to north Sydney station, and construction workers who commute to near by projects. I support 2 hr timed parking as long as unit holders can still access under the resident permits. There is no disabled access space that would also assist those in need. I also support as noted earlier spaces for motorbikes to ensure they are parked more efficiently in one zone (lower bent as its flat).

Trailer Parking

- I would like no parking at all for caravans, boats, trailers. These are often left on the no parking time restrictions side of the road for many months/years and this limits parking for locals.

Resident Parking Policy

- The resident permit is a) too expensive, b) too complicated to obtain when you drive a borrowed car and c) not applicable to motorbikes because they also need to be parked

Other

- Separately, and whilst not the issue, i have two other key points
 - 1) Bent St has a major issue with speeders and so a speedhump or two in bent st would be great to slow down rat racers/speeders/bicycle racing packs. The incline of Bent st is so steep that it invites hoons and people in cars to speed down.
 - 2) There is no pedestrian crossing from the bottom of bent st, to lower bent st (and then onto the park where the forsyth park entrance is). Dog walkers, children, adults all struggle with speeding cars and a pedestrian crossing would calm users down aggressive bicycle riders, motorbike riders, and vehicle users.
- please do something for speed cars on Bent street.

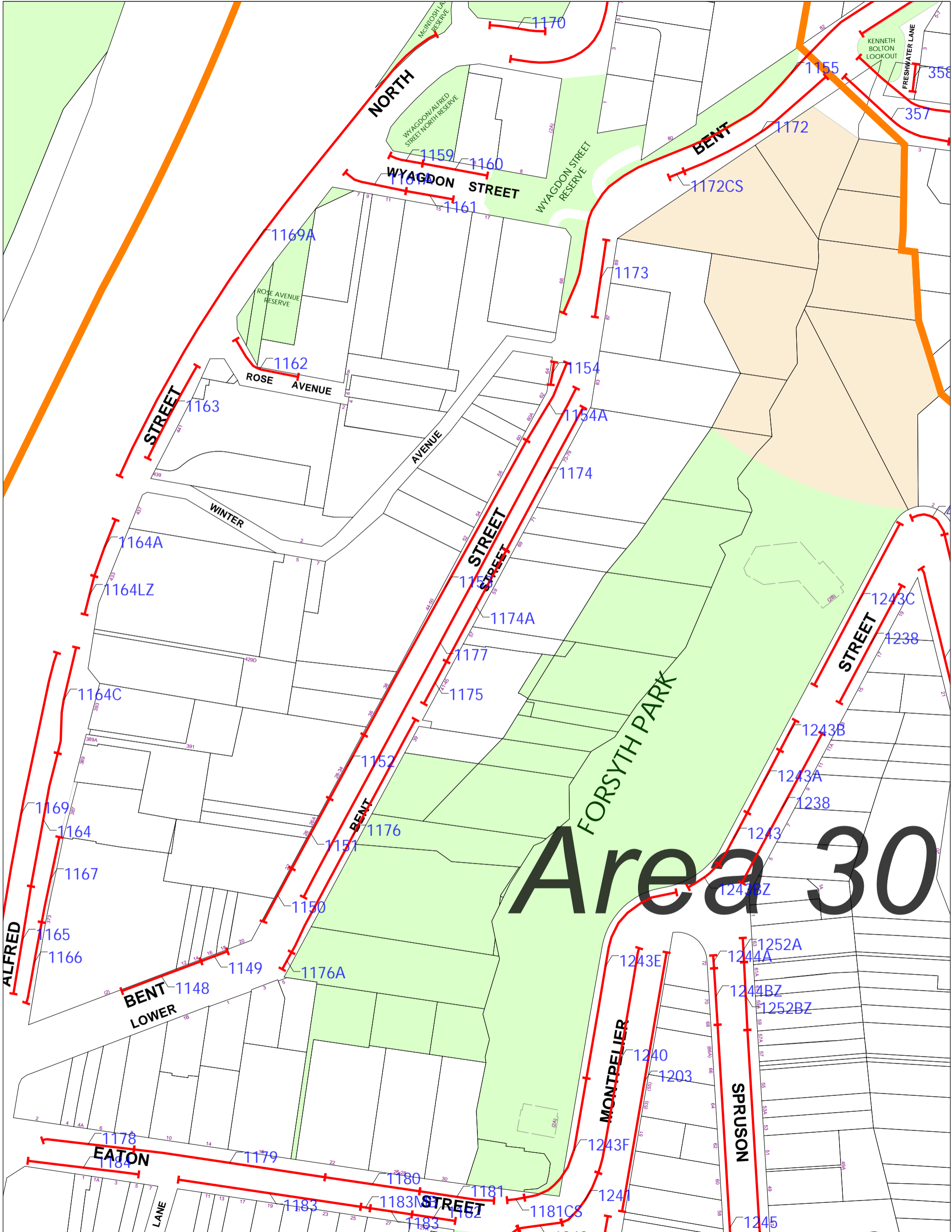
Restriction Recommendations - Area 30 Bent St & Lower Bent St

ZONE_ID	AREA_ID	HNo.	Street Name	Side of Street	Current Restrictions	Total Spaces	Avg. Occupancy	Recommended Changes	Comments
1148	30	12	Bent Street	West	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30	5	70%	Retain Existing	Overall 68% of respondents support retaining existing parking restrictions in Bent Street. 65% of Bent Street respondents support the existing restrictions. Generally residents in this section of Bent Street support retaining existing restrictions.
1149	30	18	Bent Street	West	Unrestricted Parking	2	100%	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30	
1150	30	22	Bent Street	West	1/2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30	4	88%	Retain Existing	Overall 68% of respondents support retaining existing parking restrictions in Bent Street. 65% of Bent Street respondents support the existing restrictions. Generally the majority of residents in this section of Bent Street support 2P restrictions.
1151	30	26	Bent Street	West	Unrestricted Parking	5	90%	Retain Existing	
1152	30	28	Bent Street	West	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30	5	100%	Retain Existing	
1153	30	36	Bent Street	West	Unrestricted Parking	19	97%	Retain Existing	
1154	30	64	Bent Street	West	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30	1	100%	Retain Existing	
1154A	30	56	Bent Street	West	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30	6	75%	Retain Existing	
1172	30	89	Bent Street	East	Unrestricted Parking	14	100%	Retain Existing	
1173	30	89	Bent Street	East	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30	6	75%	Retain Existing	
1155A	30	66	Bent Street	West	Unrestricted Parking	23	80%	Retain Existing	
1172CS	30	89	Bent Street	East	Authorised Car Share Vehicles Excepted Area 100	1	50%	Retain Existing	
1177	30	71	Bent Street	East	Unrestricted Parking	32	97%	Retain Existing	
						123	90%		

Restriction Recommendations - Area 30 Bent St & Lower Bent St

ZONE_ID	AREA_ID	HNo.	Street Name	Side of Street	Current Restrictions	Total Spaces	Avg. Occupancy	Recommended Changes	Comments
1176	30	39	Lower Bent Street	East	Unrestricted Parking	19	97%	Retain Existing	Overall 69% of respondents support retaining existing parking restrictions in Lower Bent Street. 81% of Lower Bent Street respondents support the existing restrictions. Generally the majority of residents in these sections of Lower Bent Street support retaining existing restrictions.
1176A	30	5	Lower Bent Street	East	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted 30	2	50%	Retain Existing	
1174	30	79	Lower Bent Street	East	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Permit Holders Excepted Area 30	18	75%	Retain Existing	
1175	30	41	Lower Bent Street	East	2 Hour Parking 8.30am - 6pm Mon - Fri Authorised Residents Vehicles Excepted Area 30	4	88%	Retain Existing	
1174A	30	69	Lower Bent Street	East	Unrestricted Parking	7	93%	Retain Existing	
						50	86%		

Area 30 - Bent Street and Lower Bent Street - Parking Zones



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