

## 5.1. Jacaranda Season – McDougall Street, Kirribilli

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**ENDORSED BY:** John Van Hesden, Acting Director Engineering and Property Services

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

### **PURPOSE:**

This report has been prepared with regard to traffic and pedestrian management in McDougall Street, Kirribilli during the annual jacaranda blooming season.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Each year between September and November the jacarandas that line both sides of McDougall Street in Kirribilli come into flower for a period of approximately 6 weeks. This seasonal occurrence which generally peaks around mid-November has become a growing attraction for local North Sydney residents and tourists in recent years who wish to photograph themselves amongst the jacarandas which are flowering along the length of McDougall Street adjacent to Milson Park.

This report has been prepared seeking endorsement for temporary road closures to manage the crowd for the 2023 Jacaranda flowering season in McDougall Street, Kirribilli.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

The cost of closure identified for the six-week Jacaranda season in McDougal Street is approximately \$60,000 and will be funded between Traffic Operations, Local Area Traffic Management budget. The approximate budget breakdown is as follows:

- \$1,000 for Council owned VMS,
- \$1,000 for Temp directional Footpath,
- \$58,000 for Traffic Control crew.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** the Committee endorse the following temporary road closures in Kirribilli between the hours of 7am and 7pm on Saturdays and Sundays from a maximum of six consecutive weekends between 28 October and 14 January 2023:

- a. On McDougal Street, between Broughton Street and Willoughby Street; and
- b. On Hipwood Street, between McDougal Street and Bradley Avenue.

## **LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

1. Our Living Environment
  - 1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities
2. Our Built Infrastructure
  - 2.2 Vibrant public domains and villages
  - 2.4 Efficient traffic mobility and parking
4. Our Social Vitality
  - 4.2 A centre for creativity and learning

## **BACKGROUND**

Each year between October and November the Jacarandas that line both sides of McDougall Street in Kirribilli come into flower for a period of approximately 6 weeks. This seasonal occurrence which generally peaks around mid-November has become a growing attraction for local North Sydney residents and tourists in recent years who wish to photograph themselves amongst the jacarandas which form a spectacular flowering avenue for the length of McDougall Street adjacent to Milson Park.

Council managed the Jacaranda season in 2022 by closing McDougal Street from Willoughby Street to Clarke Street, (resident only access) for 6 weekends, daylight hours only, 7am to 7pm. During the closure of McDougal Street, traffic was diverted to Willoughby Street and Broughton Street/Clarke Road with resident's access into the closure area. Traffic Controllers were present at each end of McDougal Street to manage traffic in and out of the area.

For the 2023, Jacaranda season it is proposed to extend the closure to include a short section of Hipwood Street to resolve an issue with drivers accessing McDougall Street by travelling the wrong way on Hipwood Street.

To support the closure and associated crowd management the following actions will also be undertaken:

- Installation of five Variable Message Signs providing safety messaging stating "Slow Down" and "Watch out for Pedestrians".
- Temporary directional footpath signage by installation of pavement stickers stating "Take care, be Car Aware" as implemented during the Jacaranda season in 2022.
- Installation of Corflute signs stating "Take care, Be Car Aware" on poles and property fences.
- Installation of "Slow Down" bollard wraps on poles.

- Notifying affected properties in McDougall Street, Hipwood Street, Bradley Avenue, Broughton Avenue, Winslow Street and Winslow Lane and the local area Command.

## **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Councils Community Engagement Protocol.

**Relates to ECM No:**

**Standard or Guideline Used:** N/A

**Signs & Lines Priority:** N/A

**Precinct and Ward:** Bradfield / Victoria

**Impact on Bicycles:** N/A

**Impact on Pedestrians:** Pedestrians are likely blocking traffic on McDougall Street while taking photographs.

**Impact on Parking:** Five (5) on-street parking spaces are likely removed temporary, to accommodate for the five Variable Message Signs (VMS) stating “*Slow Down*” and “*Watch out for Pedestrians*”.

