

## 5.2. Footpath widening and raised pedestrian crossing - Russell Street at Smoothey Park, Wollstonecraft

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<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	1. Amended Proposal - Russell Street at Smoothey Park, Wollstonecraft [5.2.1 - 1 page]
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### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek committee endorsement for the widening of a footpath and installation of a raised pedestrian crossing across Russell Street, east of Smoothey Park, in Wollstonecraft.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- To address community safety concerns, Council has adopted the action items in Council’s Local Area Traffic Management Plans, including Item T.44 to improve pedestrian crossing facilities across Russell Street at Smoothy Park.
- In response to concerns raised, Council undertook community consultation to widen the existing footpath by up to 1.2m additional width and replace the pedestrian refuge island with a raised pedestrian crossing to improve pedestrian safety, accessibility, and reduce vehicle speeds.
- The original plan also included the proposed removal of northbound and southbound speed cushions on Russell Street. The amended proposal consists of the retention of the southbound speed cushions and the provision of zig-zag line-marking on Russell Street to address community feedback.

### RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the Committee endorse the raised pedestrian crossing on Russell Street between points 129m and 135m, south of River Road, Wollstonecraft.
- 2. THAT** the Committee endorse the footpath widening of 1.2m on the eastern side and 3.2m on the western sides of Russell Street, between points 111m and 144m south of River Road.
- 3. THAT** the Committee endorse the reallocation of kerb space from “No Parking” to “No Stopping”:

- a. On the eastern side of Russell Street between points 111m and 120m south of River Road.
  - b. On the western side of Russell Street between points 122m and 132m south of River Road.
- 4. THAT** the Committee endorse the zig-zig line-marking on Russell Street between points 47m and 96m south of River Road.

## **Background**

In 2019, North Sydney Council approved the Local Area Traffic management (LATM) Action Plan for Area 1. The plan includes an action to install a traffic calming scheme in response to speeding and pedestrian safety concerns along Russell Street, Wollstonecraft. Subsequently, Council installed speed cushions to help reduce speeds as part of the Traffic Program 2018/19.

The amended proposal seeks to further improve pedestrian accessibility while continuing to address concerns about speeding and pedestrian safety. The proposal involves upgrading the existing pedestrian refuge island to a raised pedestrian crossing, and footpath widening on the eastern side of Russell Street. No on-street parking would be removed.

## **Report**

In response to concerns about speeding and pedestrian safety along Russell Street at Smoothey Park, Council undertook community consultation on a proposal to widen the footpath on the eastern side of Russell Street and install a raised pedestrian crossing.

The crossing point will be designed in accordance with Transport for New South Wales' (TfNSWs') Stopping and Parking Restrictions at Intersections and Crossings (TDT 2002/12c). As a result, two sections currently marked as "No Parking" on Russell Street will be converted to "No Stopping" to meet TfNSW requirements, ensuring motorists have clear visibility of pedestrians in and around the crossing. The extended "No Stopping" restriction will not impact the length of the existing on-street parking zones.

Under NSW Road Rules, a driver approaching a pedestrian crossing must drive at an appropriate speed which allows them to slow down and stop as necessary before the crossing. Further, a driver must give way to any pedestrian on a pedestrian crossing.

Following community consultation, Council received majority support for the proposal. However, several submissions raised concerns about the removal of the southbound speed cushions due to insufficient sight distance for oncoming vehicles when exiting the nearby driveway. As a result, the proposal was amended to retain of southbound (only) speed cushions only. In addition, the amended proposal includes zig-zag line-marking on the southbound approach to the pedestrian crossing to alert drivers of the upcoming crossing so they can prepare to stop for pedestrians.

The amended proposal addresses community concerns related to driver behaviour while enhancing pedestrian accessibility and safety.

## **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.

## Public Consultation

Community consultation of the original proposal took place 6 August - 16 September 2024. 54 letters were delivered to properties located within 50 metres of the extent of the proposal. Further, an online survey was available through Council's "Have Your Say" webpage.

The original proposal consisted of footpath widening, a raised pedestrian crossing, and the removal of southbound and northbound speed cushions on Russell Street at Smoothery Park.

Nine responses were received, including four responses from outside the survey area.

The results indicate 89% support from the survey area for the original proposal. Results of the survey are shown in the table below:

I support the proposed footpath widening and raised pedestrian crossing on Russell Street, Wollstonecraft.	Response				Total
	No		Yes		
	Qty	%	Qty	%	
Within Survey Area	1	20%	4	80%	5
Outside Survey Area	0	0%	4	100%	4
Within + Outside Survey Area	1	11%	8	89%	9

## Comments Received

Council consolidates community feedback into major themes as opposed to including every individual submission. Responses to the submissions are also outlined in the table below and considers the amended proposal.

Theme	Submission	Response
Driver Behaviour	<p>I have seen too many times cars traveling both ways cross onto the other side of the road to bypass the existing speed cushions. This behaviour is so dangerous for the pedestrians attempting to cross the road.</p> <p>I believe the proposed raised pedestrian crossing will make this street significantly safer both for pedestrians and also cars that round the corner in front of the bowls clubs and may be surprised by another vehicle speeding head-on towards them on the wrong side of the street.</p>	<p>The raised pedestrian crossing, and the retention of existing southbound speed cushions will help reduce speeds as vehicles travel around the bend on Russell Street.</p> <p>Based on NSW Road Rules, drivers must not cross double unbroken lines unless it is to enter or leave the road by the shortest route. Hence, drivers crossing onto the other side of the road to bypass the speed cushion would be a breach of NSW Road Rules.</p>

<p>Pedestrian Safety</p>	<p>We need to do more to protect pedestrians and vulnerable road users from cars. Anything that forces cars to slow down is welcome. I would suggest that the existing speed bumps also be retained, to maximize the traffic calming effect.</p> <p>This proposal of a raised pedestrian crossing will provide a safe area for the school students, as well as slow the traffic down contributing to a safe crossing. The Widening of the footpath will support the students having a safe place to walk and wait when crossing. The current area is unsafe as the students cannot fit on the path and at times are standing/walking in the gutters.</p> <p>The proposal would be of great benefits to residents and increase safety.</p> <p>It would be much safer for pedestrians and would slow traffic coming from River Road.</p>	<p>The amended proposal will enhance pedestrian accessibility by creating a safer environment for pedestrians travelling to and from Smoothery Park and along Russell Street.</p> <p>Existing southbound speed cushions will be retained as part of the amended proposal to address community concerns about pedestrian safety and driveway access. Further, zig-zag line marking will be provided to increase visibility and warn drivers approaching the pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>These measures will help reduce traffic speed, fostering a safer environment for pedestrians.</p>
<p>Active Transport</p>	<p>Need to encourage walking and cycling and disincentivise car use.</p>	<p>The proposed footpath widening and raised pedestrian crossing helps support active transport in the area.</p>
<p>Driveway Access</p>	<p>Vehicles exiting our garage risk collisions with cars on Russell St, due to limited visibility near the curve by the Wollstonecraft Bowling Club. The existing speed cushions help to slow traffic, so its removal is a concern.</p> <p>We support the proposed No Parking and No Stopping changes, especially converting part of the No Parking zone to No Stopping, as parked vehicles often block visibility for exiting drivers.</p>	<p>The amended proposal includes the retention of existing southbound speed cushions to address vehicle egress concerns from the driveway of 1-5 Russell Street, Wollstonecraft.</p> <p>Proposed conversion of “No Parking” to “No Stopping” has been undertaken to comply with current technical directions for pedestrian crossings. This change will help increase visibility to pedestrians in and around the crossing and to oncoming traffic for vehicles exiting</p>

		the driveway of 1-5 Russell Street, Wollstonecraft.
Stormwater and Flooding	Our concern about the proposed development is that if a raised sidewalk is built on the western side of Russell Street in a way that is proposed in the plans that have been provided then this may impede this flow of water during a flood, effectively plugging off this very important safety valve for the street. If this were to occur, the next lowest point for the water to go would be over our driveway and into our basement, greatly adding to the amount of water we are already experiencing via the storm water back charging.	Noted. Stormwater and flooding concerns will be considered as part of detailed design to ensure additional flooding impacts to surrounding properties will not occur as a result of the amended proposal.

### **Conclusion**

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the proposed raised pedestrian crossing, undertaking of footpath widening, and implementation of changes to associated parking restrictions and line-marking on Russell Street.

### **Financial/Resource Implications**

The proposal is fully grant-funded by the TfNSW Active Transport Program.



# Amended Proposal

