

## **8.9. Streets as Shared Spaces Grant Funding - Round 2 - East Crescent Street Park**

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**ENDORSED BY:** Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services

**ATTACHMENTS:** Nil

### **PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to update Council on the Round 2 – “Streets as Shared Spaces” Program – Grant Application that Council has received funding for.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

On 2 May 2022, the Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport announced that North Sydney Council had been successful with its funding application for Round 2 of the “Street as Shared Spaces” Program. Council had applied for funding for the creation of a small pocket park at East Crescent Street, McMahons Point which has been identified as one of the priority projects in the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan, which was adopted by Council in April 2021.

The Funding that Council has received is for a “Trial Pocket Park” in this location, with the view to making it a permanent pocket park.

Council has been previously successful with the Round 1 “Streets as Shared Spaces” program – receiving over \$1million in funding from that program for the trial closure of Burton Street, Kirribilli as a public plaza, the Miller Street “Pop up” Space located opposite the Victoria Station Metro site on Miller Street and a “Street Play” Pilot Program which encompassed the temporary closure of streets to vehicles to allow ‘opening to people’ to use the road space as community space. Council ran that program from October – December 2020, which involved the temporary closure of seven (7) streets across the LGA for “Street Play” activities.

Council at its 27 June 2022 Meeting resolved

- 1. THAT this matter be deferred to allow the conduct of a site visit and further report be provided to Council*

A site visit was undertaken on Saturday 23 July at 12pm.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This report identifies that Council has been successful with its Grant Funding Application through the NSW State Governments “*Streets as Shared Spaces*” Program” – Round 2. Council must contribute \$250,000 towards the creation of the pocket park which will be matched dollar for dollar by the *Streets and Shared Spaces* – Round 2 program. Councils funding contribution is currently funded in the McMahons Point Master Plan budget for 2021-22 and the funds will be required to be rolled over to the 2022-23 Financial Year as the project will be undertaken over two financial years.

If Council resolves not to proceed with the project then Council will need to contact the NSW State Governments “*Streets as Shared Spaces*” Program” to confirm if the \$250,000 in grant funding that it has received for the project can be re-allocated to another project – which was identified in Councils grant application but not funded or confirm if the money will be required to be handed back.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. THAT** Council notes this report on the Round 2 “*Street as Shared Spaces*” Program funding that has been received by Council for the creation of a “*Trial Pocket Park*” in East Crescent Street – McMahons Point.
- 2. THAT** Council notes that Community Consultation, a Traffic Study and Human Movement (Human Analytics Study) will be undertaken as part of the trial pocket park and reported back to Council in 9 months’ time.

## LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

1. Our Living Environment
  - 1.3 Quality urban greenspaces
  - 1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs
2. Our Built Infrastructure
  - 2.1 Infrastructure and assets meet community needs
  - 2.2 Vibrant centres, public domain, villages and streetscapes
  - 2.4 Improved traffic and parking management
3. Our Future Planning
  - 3.1 Prosperous and vibrant economy
  - 3.4 North Sydney is distinctive with a sense of place and quality design
4. Our Social Vitality
  - 4.1 North Sydney is connected, inclusive, healthy and safe

## BACKGROUND

North Sydney Council applied for and received grant funding through the “*Streets as Shared Spaces*” Program – Round 2 after it had successfully been through an Expression of Interest Process (EOI) in December 2021. The EOI that Councils Engineering and Property Services Department prepared was reviewed and shortlisted by an independent assessment panel of NSW Government representatives from the department, Transport for NSW and the Office of Local Government.

Council’s EOI application was assessed against the following key criteria set out by the “*Streets and Shared Spaces*” Program.

- How will the project improve walkable access and connection for people in the high street and surrounding area?
- How will the project improve people's ability to play and participate?
- How will the project improve people's ability to stay comfortably?
- How will the project improve how people connect with each other?
- What is the significance of the location to the community

After the successful assessment of the EOI, Council was requested to submit a formal grant application on 11 February 2022. The application was reviewed by the same panel against the Assessment Criteria outlined previously.

Council in its original EOI and subsequent application requested funding for a second project, “King George Street Entry (civil works, planting)” which was also identified as a priority project in the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan. \$250,000 was requested for this project.

The “King George Street Entry (civil works, planting)” project was not funded by the Streets and Shared Spaces Program – Round 2.

Council identified in its funding application that the construction of a trial "Pocket Park" at the intersection of East Crescent Street and Blues Point Road as part of the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Master Plan would achieve the following key Public Domain objectives:

- A more vibrant streetscape,
- More opportunities for outdoor seating and dining.
- Improved pedestrian connectivity.
- More passive public Open Space in the densely built-up village of McMahons Point.

### **Temporary to Permanent Design Elements**

The temporary pocket park design will incorporate features that can be easily turned into permanent features if the community supports the project and Council resolves to make the pocket park a permanent installation.

For example, a number of the large planter pots from the Young Street Trial Plaza in Neutral Bay will be used in this “Trial” Pocket Park. The mature plants (trees and shrubs) from these pots can be planted permanently in the park if it’s to become a permanent public space in the future. The lighting and streetscape furniture elements can also be incorporated into the permanent design as can the paving.

### **Streets Alive Program**

During the detailed documentation phase Tract Consultants (The Project’s Landscape Architects engaged by Council) were approached by local residents expressing their interest to be part of a “*Streets Alive*” group to maintain the pocket park when completed.

Councils “*Streets Alive*” Coordinator has agreed to establish a program for the ‘Pocket Park’ as it will further promote community interaction with the park providing community-based gardening opportunities for those members of the community who don't have a garden of their own. It is anticipated that this level of local “*grassroots*” community involvement will encourage participation in gardening as a recreational activity and create a sense of local ownership of the ‘Pocket Park’ once completed. Tract Consultants have also undertaken consultation with the interested “*Streets Alive*” members for the selection of shrub and tree species which will be incorporated into the final design.

Council at its 27 June 2022 Meeting resolved

192. RESOLVED:

1. THAT this matter be deferred to allow the conduct of a site visit and further report be provided to Council

A site visit was undertaken on Saturday 23 July at 12pm.

## CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community consultation on the creation of a pocket park in this location was undertaken in July 2020 – refer to the detail section of this report. Council will again consult with the community during the trial pocket park period. Council will also undertake a Traffic Study and Human Movement (Human Analytics Study) to compare data before, during and after the trial period.

## DETAIL

Council, at its meeting on 23 July 2020, endorsed the public exhibition of the Draft Masterplan for McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Public Domain Upgrade for 60 days. Community consultation was undertaken between September and November 2020 in line with the Community Engagement Strategy developed for this project.

Council received a total of 115 submissions, comprising 35 written submissions and 80 online submissions. The majority (58%) of submissions received by Council supported the proposal as exhibited.

This was reported up to Council at its meeting on 26 April 2021. The weblinks are below.

[https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council\\_Meetings/Meetings/Council\\_Meetings/Council\\_Reports\\_26\\_Apr\\_2021](https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Meetings/Council_Meetings/Council_Reports_26_Apr_2021)

[Council 3743 26 April 2021 - 10.5. Masterplan for the Public Domain upgrade of McMahons Point Blues Point Road Village Centre Post Community Consultation%20\(2\).pdf](#)

Note: The final Master Plan that Council resolved on at the 26 April, 2021 meeting was different from the initial Master Plan exhibited in September to November 2020. Changes were made to the Master Plan that Council resolved on to reduce impacts on parking as a result of the feedback received from the community.

Council at the 26 April Meeting resolved:

1. *THAT Council note the submissions received.*
2. *THAT the final McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre Public Domain Upgrade Masterplan, including the amendments made as a result of the feedback received during the community consultation period, be adopted.*

One of the key projects in the adopted Master Plan for the McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre is the creation of a small “Pocket Park” at the intersection of East Crescent

Street and Blues Point Road. The consultants who prepared the Master Plan on behalf of Council (TRACT) suggested that a small pocket park in this location would bring benefit to the community through introducing some key pedestrian and traffic calming initiatives. These included the following:

- Continuous footpath treatment across East Crescent Street at Blues Point Road.
- Retaining the one-way ingress into East Crescent Street.
- Construction of new permanent and temporary soft landscaping elements, including trees, shrubs, ground covers and turf.
- New lighting, paving and streetscape furniture elements
- Improved crossing point from Blues Point Hotel
- Potential “Public Art” sculpture to be determined in conjunction with the community.
- Overhead wires and cable relocated underground – subject to funding.

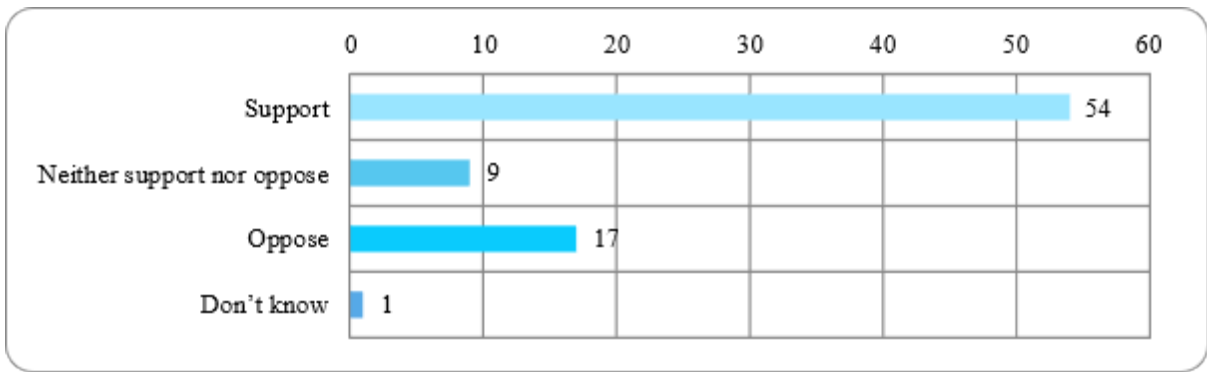
**Note:** The creation of the East Crescent Street Pocket Park will remove only two parallel parking spaces from each side of the street. These spaces are proposed to be relocated to the western side of Blues Point Road between Mil Mil Street and Princes Street.

As part of the community consultation that Council undertook – it specifically asked a question about whether the Community wanted a pocket park in this location. See extract below from the April 2021 Council report. The pocket Park received strong support from the Community (66.7%). The project also ranked highly in the prioritisation of projects from the Master Plan that the community wanted implemented – the project ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> – see extract below.

#### **Question 4 - (OPTIONAL) Do you support the proposed upgrade works at Zone 3 - East Crescent Street Pocket Park?**

The following graph shows the level of support for the proposed works in Zone 3 - East Crescent Street Pocket Park. The majority of respondents support the upgrade of Zone 3 – East Crescent Street – Pocket Park.

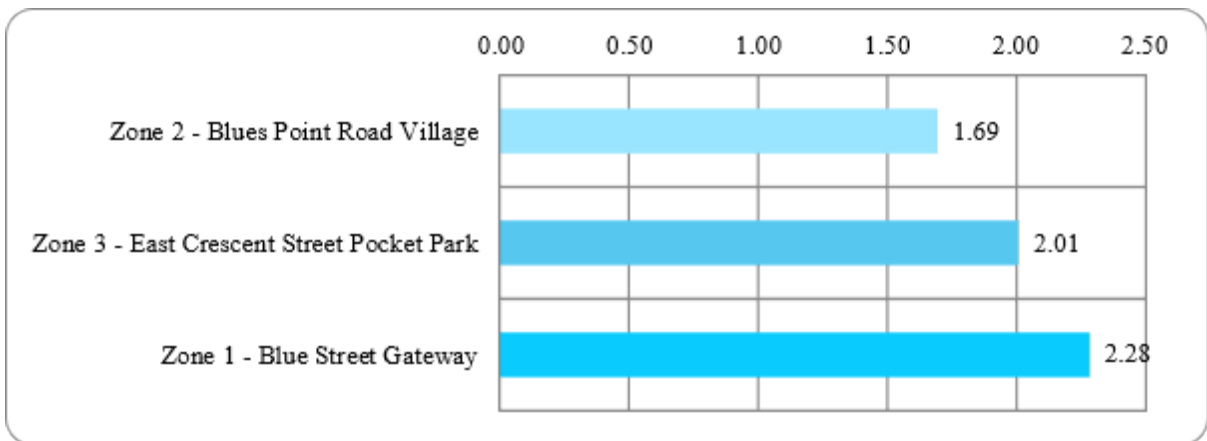
1. Yes - 66.7% (54 responses)
2. Neither support nor oppose - 11.1% (9 responses)
3. Oppose - 21% (17 responses)
4. Don't know - 1.2% (1 response)



**Figure 4 – Question 4 Survey Responses Graph**

**Question 5 - (OPTIONAL) To assist project prioritisation, please rank the following projects in order of preference where 1 is your favourite and 6 is your least favourite.**

The following graph shows the prioritisation preference results, with Zone 2 - Blues Point Road Village ranking 1<sup>st</sup> with a score of 1.69, followed by Zone 3 - East Crescent Street Pocket Park, – ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> with a score of 2.01 and finally Zone 1 - Blue Street Gateway ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> with a score of 2.28.



**Figure 5 - Question 5 Survey Responses Graph**



Artists Impression of the “East Crescent Street Pocket Park – taken from the Masterplan for McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre. Adopted by Council in April 2021.



Plan of the “East Crescent Street Pocket Park – taken from the Masterplan for McMahons Point - Blues Point Road Village Centre. Adopted by Council in April 2021.





Photo 1. The existing site – 21/06/22



Photo 2. The existing site – 21/06/22



Photo 3. The existing site – 21/06/22



Photo 4. The existing site – 21/06/22



Photo 5. The existing site – 21/06/22

### Project Program

Milestone	Start date	Completion Date
1. Development of detailed documentation for tender / construction purposes	01/06/2022	01/07/2022
Tender Process	04/07/2022	29/7/2022
Tender Award	29/7/2022	
Construction commences	08/08/2022	06/10/2022
Temporary 'Pocket Park' Completion and Trial Period Commencement. Trial completed by February 2023	06/10/2022	28/2/2023