



MINUTE OF THE MAYOR

Dated: 25 November, 2019

RE: Jacaranda Season

Over the past few years we have seen a significant increase in the number of people going to McDougall Street, Kirribilli to see the jacarandas in bloom. I have made an effort to drive or walk through the area at least once a day so that I could gauge the impact of the visitors on our community.

Many residents have told me they enjoy the vibrancy that comes with so many visitors and they take great pleasure in people watching. However, others feel invaded as people enter their properties to put rubbish in their bins or climb on their property to get the best angle for a photo. A number of residents have also told me they are worn down by the constant honking of horns as cars try to move pedestrians off the road.

I don't know whether taking selfies with jacarandas is a temporary phenomenon or here to stay. Councils do not have to manage every aspect of people's lives - as I told one resident, this isn't Council's event, it is put on by mother nature!

On the other hand, the visitors are an imposition and there may be things we could do to make the experience enjoyable for everyone. This year Council provided wayfinding signs, variable message signs, some extra public toilets and cleaned the park toilets and bins twice daily. All this comes at a cost. If we are to provide additional services, Council needs to adopt a position and ensure that funding is included in the Operational Plan for 2020/21.

I am proposing that Council staff prepare a report outlining options for 2020. These should include traffic management, the provision of additional amenities or services, multilingual communications, and possibly even a full day festival. The report should provide cost estimates for all options so that Council can choose what, if any, support we wish to provide next year.

I therefore recommend:

- 1. THAT** Council staff prepare a report on options for managing the impact of visitors in McDougall Street;
- 2. THAT** the options include traffic management, the provision of additional amenities or services, multilingual communications and the feasibility of holding a full day festival; and
- 3. THAT** an estimate of cost for each option be provided.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**