

6.1. MM01: Embracing Our Jacarandas

For several years now Council has provided additional infrastructure in Kirribilli to support the crowds visiting during the Jacaranda season. We have also considered a range of possible traffic management measures and a Jacaranda festival but the costs involved have been prohibitive.

I have visited McDougall Street in Kirribilli on several occasions over the past month and been delighted to meet people who have travelled across Sydney to enjoy the Jacarandas in full bloom. After a difficult year of bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, people welcomed the beauty of the flowers and the joy and hope they represent.

I believe it is time Council whole-heartedly embraced the Jacaranda bloom and looked at ways we could extend it across the whole Kirribilli area. While I am sure McDougall Street will remain the centrepiece of the suburb and the best Jacaranda street in Sydney, the extension of the Jacaranda footprint would bring many benefits to the area.

I don't want to pre-empt the outcome of the Kirribilli Village upgrade consultation but I am brimming with ideas to leverage the attraction of the Jacarandas including painting a Jacaranda mural somewhere (perhaps on the wall along Ennis Road), closing the road for limited periods during the month so that people can take photos from the centre of the road without worrying about traffic, planting more Jacarandas throughout the suburb and encouraging our local businesses to sell Jacaranda-themed drinks, food, gifts and souvenirs. We could even explore the concept of a Jacaranda walk, supported by an App. I'm sure we can achieve some of these ideas at a lower cost than previous proposals.

I therefore recommend:

1. THAT a report be presented to Council early in 2021 with options for increasing the Jacaranda footprint in the Kirribilli area, low cost ways to improve crowd management and recommendations for encouraging local businesses to support the Jacaranda season.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON
MAYOR**