

Traffic Treatment - Permanent Road Closure - Park Road, Alexandria

File No: X014206

Summary

This report recommends Council approve the permanent road closure of Park Road, Alexandria, to vehicular traffic between the points 48 metres and 138 metres north of Power Avenue.

Park Road, Alexandria is a local two-way street, which provides access to Alexandria Park Community School and Alexandria Park. Access to Park Road is from Power Avenue at its southern end and extends approximately 138 metres towards an existing cul-de-sac at its northern end at Buckland Street.

Park Road is approximately 12.8 metres wide and has 2.1 metre wide footpaths on both sides of the road. There is parallel kerbside parking on both sides of the street. The City is the relevant roads authority for this road.

The proposal involves a permanent road closure of a section of Park Road to allow for a temporary preschool facility and a play space for school children at Alexandria Park Community School while the original school playground is upgraded to provide for a new school building and multi-use sports facilities.

Following the completion of the upgrading works to the original school playground, this section of Park Road will become a new recreational space for school and community use, including a synthetic sports field which will be jointly managed by the City and the school. The joint use facility is the subject of a separate report to Council.

Despite the permanent road closure, access for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles will be maintained. The road closure will reduce traffic volumes in Park Road, thereby improving road safety and amenity for residents, school children and other vulnerable road users.

A turning area with "No Stopping" restrictions will be provided to allow vehicles to safely turn around in Park Road next to the closure.

Given that currently Park Road is a "No Through Road", with access only via Power Avenue, the diverted traffic resulting from the permanent road closure is not expected to have a significant impact on the surrounding road network.

The permanent road closure will result in a loss of 26 parking spaces on Park Road. However, to offset the loss of parking, new angle parking spaces will be provided on Power Avenue, resulting in no overall loss of parking spaces for the area.

The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) have approved a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the permanent road closure on 28 May 2018. The proposal was subsequently endorsed by the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (LPCTCC) on 21 June 2018.

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council approve the permanent road closure of Park Road, Alexandria between the points 48 metres and 138 metres north of Power Avenue.

Attachments

Attachment A. Location Plan

Attachment B. Concept Plan

Attachment C. Traffic Management Plan

Attachment D. Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee Endorsement
- 21 June 2018

Background

1. Park Road, Alexandria is a local two-way street which provides access to the Alexandria Park Community School and Alexandria Park.
2. Park Road is a "No Through Road" and access is from Power Avenue at its southern end and extends approximately 138 metres towards an existing cul-de-sac at its northern end at Buckland Street.
3. In November 2017, the NSW Department of Education (the Department) wrote to the City requesting consideration for the permanent closure of Park Road to allow for a temporary preschool facility and a play space for school children at Alexandria Park Community School while the original school playground is upgraded to provide for a new school building and multi-use sports facilities.
4. Construction of the temporary play space is expected to be completed by the end of September 2018.
5. Following the completion of the works to the original school playground, it is proposed to change the closed section of Park Road to a new recreational space for school and community use, including a synthetic sports field which will be jointly managed by the City and the school. The joint use facility is the subject of a separate report to Council.
6. The permanent road closure will maintain access for pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles. It will reduce traffic volumes in Park Road, thereby improving road safety and amenity for residents, school children and other vulnerable road users.
7. Given that currently Park Road is a "No Through Road", with access only via Power Avenue, any diverted traffic resulting from the permanent road closure is not expected to have a significant impact on the surrounding road network.
8. The permanent road closure will result in a loss of 26 parking spaces on Park Road. To offset the loss of parking, the existing unrestricted parking spaces (26 spaces) on the southern side of Power Avenue, will be changed to "60° Angle Parking, Rear to Kerb, Vehicles Under 6m Only". This will provide 52 new angle parking spaces in Power Avenue, resulting in no overall loss of parking spaces for the area in fact increasing parking by 26 additional angle parking spaces.
9. Statutory "No Stopping" restrictions will be installed in compliance with the NSW Road Rules 2014, and Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) Technical Directions.
10. The Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) have approved a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the permanent road closure on 28 May 2018.
11. The proposal was endorsed by the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (LPCTCC) on 21 June 2018.

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

12. Sustainable Sydney 2030 is a vision for the sustainable development of the City to 2030 and beyond. It includes 10 strategic directions to guide the future of the City, as well as 10 targets against which to measure progress. This report is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 2 provides a road map for the City to become A Leading Environmental Performer.
 - (b) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling - The proposal will improve safety and accessibility for students of Alexandria Park Community School, pedestrians and cyclists along the closed section of Park Road.
 - (c) Direction 5 - A Lively and Engaging City Centre - it is proposed that in the future, the closed section of Park Road will become a new recreational space creating more open space for both school and community use.
 - (d) Direction 6 - Vibrant Local Communities and Economies - The road closure will enable the Department of Education and Council to install a FIFA community standard synthetic sports field which increase opportunities for sport and physical activity.
 - (e) Direction 9 - Sustainable Development, Renewal and Design - The road closure supports the shared use of the school playground as a sports field and open space for community use, maximising the use of available open space for shared use.

Organisational Impact

13. The City will issue a licence to the Department of Education to use the closed road as a temporary preschool facility and playground for students while the playground at Alexandria Park Community School is redeveloped.
14. Following the completion of the redevelopment, there is a proposal for the City to jointly fund the synthetic sports field, as well as fund the landscaping of the road closure and park upgrade works which are planned in the capital works program (upgrade of playground and tennis courts, new outdoor fitness station). This is the subject of a separate Council Report.

Risks

15. There will be a Deed of Agreement between the City and the Department of Education governing the use of the recreational space after completion of the multi-purpose sports facilities. The Deed will outline responsibilities for capital funding, maintenance, hours of access, sharing of hire fees and hire agreements following the completion of the multi-use sports facilities. The Deed will also cover tenure and is subject to a separate report to Council.

Social / Cultural / Community

16. The road closure will provide enough space to build a standard size synthetic sports field which will be available for community use out of school hours and during school holidays. The remainder of the road closure will be landscaped to complement Alexandria Park and provide pedestrian and cycle access from Buckland Street to Power Avenue.

Environmental

17. The conversion of the road way to synthetic sports field and landscaping will improve the local amenity and the appearance of the park and school.

Budget Implications

18. All costs associated with the closure of the road and temporary use as school play space will be borne by the NSW Department of Education. The proposed synthetic sports field will be a shared cost between the Department of Education and Council for which funds (City's share) have been allocated in the capital works program. This will be the subject of a separate council report .

Relevant Legislation

19. RMS is responsible for the control of traffic on all NSW roads and has delegated to Council certain functions to regulate traffic on local roads.
20. This report seeks approval to formalise the permanent road closure of Park Road, Alexandria to vehicular traffic between the points 48 metres and 138 metres, north of Power Avenue in accordance with Section 116 of the Roads Act 1993.
21. RMS have delegated authority to Council to approve certain traffic controls, including permanent road closures and turn bans, under Part 8, Division 2, of the Roads Act 1993. This delegation is subject to a number of conditions and limitations, including the need to obtain the advice of the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (LPCTCC) and receive Traffic Management Plan (TMP) approval from RMS, both of which have been obtained and are attached to this report.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

22. The Department of Education require the Park Road closure in place by 1 October 2018 to allow for a temporary preschool facility and play space for school children at Alexandria Park Community School while the original school playground is upgraded to provide for new school building and multi-use sports facilities.
23. The proposed synthetic sports field is proposed to be built at the end of the project in 2021.

Options

24. Council could consider not approving the road closure, however this would result in a smaller synthetic sports field which does not meet standard competition size requirements. This is not recommended and could also reduce the capacity of the City to negotiate shared use opportunities for the field, as well as reduce the opportunity to convert the roadway into usable green open space for use by the community.

Public Consultation

25. In compliance with Section 116 of the Roads Act 1993, in April 2018 the City consulted with local residents and businesses for a period of 28 days and advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald, Central Magazine, City News and the City's "Sydney Your Say".
26. A total of 1,250 properties were contacted via letterbox drop requesting feedback on the proposed road closure. Eleven submissions supporting the proposal and two submissions opposing the proposal were received.
27. One of the submissions opposing the proposal noted that the proposed road closure would lead to an increase in traffic congestion and competition for parking on Buckland Street. The other submission opposing the proposal, requested the City consider angle parking in Loveridge and Brennan Streets instead of Power Avenue. The submission also stated that the proposed road closure would lead to an increase in traffic congestion in Power Avenue.
28. Angle parking is proposed on Power Avenue, instead of surrounding streets, as it would provide the closest and most convenient access to Alexandria Park for visitors to the Park.
29. The proposed road closure is not expected to generate additional traffic on Power Avenue or reassign traffic to surrounding roads.

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