

Traffic Treatment - Proposed Permanent Road Closure - Loftus Lane, Sydney

File No: 2020/074541

Summary

The report recommends that Council approve the permanent road closure of Loftus Lane, Sydney, between Custom House Lane and Loftus Lane (South), to vehicular traffic.

Loftus Lane is a two way local street within the AMP 'Quay Quarter' Precinct – bounded by Loftus and Young Streets, Custom House Lane and Loftus Lane (South).

Approval has been granted to redevelop the precinct (D/2015/930) including consideration to permanently close Loftus Lane, between Custom House Lane and Loftus Lane (South) (Condition 67).

The developer has applied to permanently close Loftus Lane to vehicular traffic to create a pedestrian only space that will activate the lane and provide pedestrian links through the precinct.

Additional improvements for the precinct include the introduction of shared zones in Custom House Lane and Loftus Lane (South).

Recommendation

It is resolved that Council approve the permanent road closure of Loftus Lane, Sydney, between Custom House Lane and Loftus Lane (South), to vehicular traffic.

Attachments

Attachment A. Concept Design Plan

Attachment B. Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (LPCTCC) Item and Minutes 16 April 2020

Background

1. Approval has been granted to redevelop the AMP 'Quay Quarter' Precinct (D/2015/930) including consideration to permanently close Loftus Lane, Sydney, between Custom House Lane and Loftus Lane (South) (Condition 67).
2. The developer has applied to permanently close Loftus Lane to vehicular traffic to create a pedestrian only space that will activate the lane and provide pedestrian links through the precinct.
3. Additional improvements for the precinct include the introduction of shared zones in Custom House Lane and Loftus Lane (South) (Attachment A).
4. On 16 December 2019, Transport for New South Wales approved a Traffic Management Plan to permanently close Loftus Lane, between Custom House Lane and Loftus Lane (South), to vehicular traffic.
5. In accordance to Section 116 of the Roads Act 1993, a public notice for the permanent closure of Loftus Lane was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 9 March 2020 for a period of 28 days. 216 letters were also sent out to local residents and businesses in the area.
6. At the end of the consultation period, no responses were received.
7. On 16 April 2020, the permanent road closure of Loftus Lane to vehicular traffic was endorsed by the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee (Attachment B).

Key Implications

Strategic Alignment - Sustainable Sydney 2030 Vision

8. 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 plan is aligned with the following strategic directions and objectives:
 - (a) Direction 4 - A City for Walking and Cycling - The proposals help develop a network of safe, linked pedestrian paths which gives greater priority to pedestrians.

Budget Implications

9. All costs associated with the permanent road closure of Loftus Lane will be borne by the developer.
10. Ongoing maintenance costs for the permanent road closure are not expected to exceed existing costs to maintain the current trafficable lane.

Relevant Legislation

11. Transport for New South Wales is responsible for the control of traffic on all NSW roads and has delegated to councils certain functions to regulate traffic on local roads.

12. The Transport for New South Wales delegation gives Council authority to approve road closures under Part 8, Division 2 of the Roads Act 1993.
13. This delegation can only be exercised by the elected Council and is subject to a number of conditions and limitations, including the need to obtain the advice of Council's Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee.

Critical Dates / Time Frames

14. Construction works are expected to commence in June and are anticipated to be completed in September 2020.

Public Consultation

15. In accordance with Section 116 of the Roads Act 1993, a public notice for the permanent closure of Loftus Lane was published in the Sydney Morning Herald on 9 March 2020 for a period of 28 days. 216 letters were also sent out to local residents and businesses in the area.
16. No responses were received during the consultation period. .

DAVID RIORDAN

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