

Item 32.**Traffic Treatment - Permanent Road Closure - Morehead Street at James Street, Redfern**

TRIM Container No.: 2020/093562

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the permanent road closure of Morehead Street, Redfern at James Street.

Voting Members for this Item

Voting Members	Support	Object
City of Sydney	[Insert]	[Insert]
Transport for NSW	[Insert]	[Insert]
NSW Police – South Sydney PAC	[Insert]	[Insert]
Representative for the Member for Newtown	[Insert]	[Insert]

Advice

Advice will be updated after the meeting.

Background

In August 2019, residents of Morehead Street, Redfern submitted a petition asking the City to consider greening and traffic calming in Morehead Street between Cooper and James Street.

Comments

A petition was tabled at Council's meeting on 19 August 2019, asking the City to consider greening and traffic calming in Morehead Street between Cooper and James Street.

Council resolved that the Chief Executive Officer request City staff to investigate suggested traffic measures and where possible, trial a 'Liveable Slow Street' proposal through a range of temporary design measures and signs to prevent through traffic from Morehead Street onto James Street.

In November 2019, the City sought support from Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) to trial a 'Liveable Slow Street' on Morehead Street. TfNSW did not support a trial however, supported a permanent road closure in Morehead Street at James Street.

On 16 July 2020, the Local Pedestrian, Cycling and Traffic Calming Committee deferred the proposed permanent closure of Morehead Street, at the request of South Sydney Police, who raised concerns that the road closure would attract anti-social activity into the street.

On 4 September 2020, a site meeting was held between the South Sydney Police City staff and the representatives of the residents of Morehead Street. The Police discussed their concerns with the residents and made them aware of the potential issues that might be caused by this proposed road closure. The residents acknowledged the concerns of the South Sydney Police however, they were still wanted the City to proceed with the road closure, as this will provided much needed space for the community.

A road closure in Morehead Street will improve safety by reducing the use of the street by non-local traffic; reduce traffic speeds, allowing additional landscaping, and extra space for pedestrian activity. The closure will also include the provision of kerbside traffic islands to provide an area to facilitate vehicles turning at the new closure.

The proposal will result in the loss of four car parking spaces in Morehead Street.

Consultation

In compliance with Section 116 of the Roads Act 1993, the City consulted with local residents and businesses for a period of 28 days and advertised the proposal in the Sydney Morning Herald. The City also sent out 236 letters via letterbox drop requesting feedback on the proposal. A total of 28 responses were received; with 21 responses in support of the proposal, five responses were opposed to the proposal and two responses did not relate specifically to the proposed road closure Morehead Street.

Submissions supporting the proposal noted that the proposal would improve pedestrian safety and improve the residential amenity in the street. Submissions opposing the proposal were concerned that there will be loss of on-street parking spaces, the routes available to access garages will be limited and people will be loitering in the landscaped area.

The proposed closure would occupy only the existing statutory "No Stopping" area near the corner of James Street. Four car spaces are required to be removed to facilitate vehicles turning around at the closure. Alternative routes are available via Walker and Young Streets to access garages in Little Young Street for the residents of Morehead Street.

Given the safety benefit and the demonstrated community support, it is recommended to proceed with the proposal.

Financial

Appropriate funding for the proposal will be secured once greater certainty on the construction timeline is reached.

HASSAN CHOUDHRY, A/SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER