

Item 32.**Other Authorities - Traffic Treatment - Temporary Road Closure - George Street, The Rocks**

TRIM Container No.: 2020/382662

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the extension of the temporary road closure of the northbound lane of George Street, The Rocks, between Argyle and Globe Streets, until 30 April 2021.

Voting Members for this Item

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

Advice

Advice will be updated after the meeting.

Background

George Street, The Rocks, between Argyle and Globe Streets, was presented to the LPCTCC and the CSTTC and approved on a month to month basis from 8 July 2020 in support for businesses and tenants during the COVID-19 response.

On 17 July 2020, Place Management NSW submitted a request to the LPCTCC for out of session approval to extend this northbound closure until 3 August 2020. The City of Sydney, NSW Police, Transport NSW and the Representative for the Member for Sydney advised no objection to the continuation of this arrangement on a month to month basis.

This proposal is for the:

- Closed northbound carriageway closure of George St, The Rocks between Globe Street and Argyle Street until 30 April 2021.
- Parking, loading zone and mail zone changes on the western side of George Street between Argyle St and Globe St until 30 April 2021.

NOTES:

PMNSW will following consultation with Port Authority NSW and TfNSW, agree to remove the George St closure if the Overseas Passenger Terminal cruise vessel operations is returning and other traffic management alternatives cannot be negotiated, scaled back or successfully resolved with TfNSW, Police and Port Authority.

Comments

The proposed is a temporary carriageway closure in the retail centre of The Rocks to provide greater opportunity for social distancing, activation and active public space in a period when small business operators in the area are experiencing significant financial impact due to the COVID pandemic. This provides opportunities for existing small business operators, including stallholders in the Rocks Markets to expand their offering and pursue pop-up retail opportunities through NSW Government assets and contributing to broader NSW economic recovery efforts in our local centres post COVID-19.

The proposal has not had a significant impact on the surrounding road network for the period of operation since July 2020. Since the activation of Light Rail in Circular Quay commenced, traffic volumes along this section of George St have reduced due to access restrictions to Alfred and Pitt St. The major use of this section of road during the pandemic is for southbound access from Hickson Rd for public and several key stakeholders. The proposed closure does not significantly impact this transport route for these stakeholders.

This may impact and cause minor delays for vehicles looking to travel southbound on George St through the area that would be diverted at Essex St to travel via Cumberland St instead. The proposal will benefit a much larger number of pedestrians, businesses, and visitors in terms of improved pedestrian connectivity and movement around The Rocks precinct, supporting social and community wellbeing.

Consultation

Place Management NSW notified adjacent properties, business and stakeholder of the temporary works. Enquiries and feedback directed to the Director, Partnerships, Activation and Customer Experience at Place Management NSW.

PMNSW continue to work closely and consult with NSW Police, TfNSW, CSTTC, City of Sydney, tenants and Port Authority NSW on this project.

Financial

All costs associated with the parking spaces, signs, VMS, traffic controllers, road barriers and road marking changes will be borne by PMNSW.

**JASON CRAIG, SENIOR MANAGER, SECURITY OPERATIONS, PLACE MANAGEMENT
NSW**