

Item 27.**Traffic Treatment - Kerb extensions and Landscaped Blisters - Chelsea Street, Redfern**

TRIM Container No.: 2022/075907

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the following in Chelsea Street, Redfern:

- (A) A single kerb extension on the northern side of Chelsea Street, west of Stanley Street within the existing No Stopping zone;
- (B) Four 1.65 metre wide landscape kerb side islands with tree planting on Chelsea Street, between Stanley Street and Vaughan Place;

Voting Members for this Item

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

Advice

Advice will be updated after the meeting.

Background

Greening Sydney Strategy

The Greening Sydney Strategy was adopted in July 2021 and sets a vision for a greener Sydney that will help improve our health and wellbeing, reduce urban heat impacts, and bring nature into the city. The strategy is made up of six key directions and twenty key actions.

Streets account for 23 per cent of the total LGA. The planting of trees within the road pavement area is an opportunity to increase tree canopy within the street network above that provided by typical planting within the verge providing a range of benefits including; traffic calming by narrowing roadway down and reducing speed, opportunity to install trees clear of overhead services, opportunity for passive irrigation and integrated stormwater management and the maximised shading of large areas of hardstand by locating trees within the roadway.

In July 2020 a petition was received by the City requesting the review of the existing tree planting on Chelsea Street due to the poor performing footpath planting. The petition was signed by 36 residents on Chelsea Street.

This proposal is for 'tree planting within parking lanes'. The City has recognised that to meet the greening and canopy targets set out in the Greening Sydney Strategy some replacement of on-street parking will be required. This will be recommended where there are other infrastructure constraints such as narrow footpaths or overhead powerlines which impact on the ability for quality tree planting to be established through traditional footpath planting. The need to balance the provision of parking for the community and the provision of canopy for health and wellbeing and manage the impacts of climate change is recognised.

In-road planting was an appropriate design solution due to the constrained width of the existing footpath and the height restraints of the overhead powerlines. The installation of a single kerb extension, four landscaped blisters, and the replacement footpath planting will increase the canopy cover for the street by 50 per cent. The total projected canopy cover will be approximately 40 percent when the trees mature.

Comments

The carriageway of Chelsea Street Redfern is approximately 9.6m wide, kerb to kerb.

The proposal to install a single kerb extension and four landscape blisters and along Chelsea Street between Bourke Street and Vaughan Place will provide traffic calming measures to reduce speed and provide opportunities for tree planting.

The existing 5.4m traffic lanes will be maintained.

The installation of a single kerb extension and four landscape blisters will result in a total loss of three parking spaces. However the City will be able to provide an additional five trees as part of this project to improve amenity in the street.

Consultation

Public consultation was held in November and December 2020. This included a letter box drop to 198 properties with details of the proposed works and link to Sydney Your Say (SYS) website with further details. Residents were invited to either fill out an online survey or email/post a submission. There were 40 SYS submissions and one written submission - 21 submissions supported the overall objective of in-road tree planting with seven of these submissions recommending an alternate layout, 19 submissions opposed the proposal.

Following review of the submissions the overall layout was amended to address concerns related to parking loss, species selection, existing tree removal/replacement. The layout was modified to reduce the total number of new trees (from nine) to five and as a result reduce the overall parking loss (from up to six) to three spaces. This amended proposal, in combination with replacement of some poor condition footpath, will allow us to increase our canopy cover whilst balancing the needs of the community for on-street parking. The updated plan has been circulated to those who made submissions and displayed on the Sydney Your Say website during April 2022.

Financial

Funds are available in the current capital works budget.

HELEN ROGERS, PROJECT MANAGER - TREE MANAGEMENT