

Item 5

Matters for Tabling

5.1 Disclosures of Interest

Disclosure of Interest returns that have been lodged in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Conduct will be tabled.

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Disclosures of Interest returns be received and noted.

5.2 Petitions

(a) Thomson Street and Forbes Street Darlinghurst 2010 Residents Petition – “No” to Council’s Proposed Parking Change

Councillor Scott gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 21 August 2023, she will table and speak to a petition (with 55 signatures) with the following terms:

Current – eastern side of Thomson St “1P 8am – 12 midnight Permit Holders Excepted Area 17.”

Proposed Changes to Parking in Thomson St (North of Liverpool St) - eastern side of Thomson St “No Parking 6am – 6pm Thu and Public Holidays & 1P 8am – 12 Midnight Mon-Wed, Fri-Sun 6pm-12 Midnight Thurs Permit Holders Excepted Area 17.”

Petition Summary

As residents of Thomson Street and Forbes Street, we strongly oppose this poorly considered and impractical proposal to change the parking in Thomson St (North) in order to accommodate Cleanaway’s standard 2.5 metre wide garbage truck and we appeal to City of Sydney Council (CoS) to withdraw this proposed change.

City of Sydney Inaccuracies

In preparing this petition we have discovered a number of inaccuracies and inconsistencies that have been used by the CoS to support their argument for removing parking spaces in Thomson Street (North) to accommodate Cleanaway. Inaccuracies such as:

- CoS informed residents that Cleanaway’s smaller garbage trucks would not be suitable for accessing Thomson Street. On a resident contacting Cleanaway to ask for the dimensions of their garbage trucks we were advised that Cleanaway has only one standard garbage truck and this is approximately 9.25 metres long and 2.6 metres wide (including mirrors). Cleanaway confirmed that they don’t operate smaller garbage trucks as they are not commercially viable. If this is the case, why were smaller Cleanaway trucks being used (July 2023) to collect garbage from the narrow streets of Surry Hills, see Appendix G.

- CoS advised the residents of Thomson Street (North) that Cleanaway's 9.25 metre long x 2.5 metre wide standard garbage truck travels the length of Thomson Street (South) #42 - #80 to collect waste. On asking the residents of Thomson Street (South), Cleanaway's 2.5 metre wide garbage trucks do not access this street as it is too narrow for the trucks to traverse.
- CoS states Galara Street, Rosebery (See Appendix B) has "similar restrictions applied to good effect". Galara Street, Rosebery is a new apartment development, very different to Thomson Street (North). Galara Street should not be used by CoS as a comparison or benchmark for "similar restrictions".
- CoS stated that they have to provide a safe working environment for not only its employees but also its contractors. This statement by CoS is contradictory given the wording in the tendering process - Cleanaway is responsible for their employees, not CoS.
- CoS mentions that "the maximum distance for movement of bins is 10 metres". What CoS did not state was that the 10 metres is taken from The City of Sydney's Guidelines for Waste Management in New Developments (the Guidelines), only. This Guideline does not apply to a 100 metre long strip of 20 heritage terrace houses built in the mid to late 19th century!
- CoS, in another statement, contradicted their "10 metre" guideline stating "no more than 20 metres" for the running of garbage.
- CoS mentions that "the maximum distance for movement of bins is 10 metres" as per the New Development Guidelines. What CoS did not qualify was that the maximum manual handling distance between the storage and the collection point is: "10 metres for bins including 120L, 240L, 660L and 1,100L Mobile Garbage Bins (MGBs)". Bins in Thomson Street are small, varying from 50L, 80L to 120L, maximum.
- CoS's "proposed parking changes" letter implies that "missed waste collection services" were due to access problems associated with Thomson Street. When contacted, CoS Officers stated that the actual reason was that Cleanaway was short of trucks and / or drivers, not because of street access problems. (See The Sun Herald of 23rd July 2023, Page 14 article titled "Anger grows over rubbish dispute").

Tendering Process

- The tendering process (Reference Point 12.) is obligated to identify and address garbage collection in the narrower streets of its LGA. Smaller garbage trucks or the use of runners have historically been and continue to be accepted work practices.

Precedent

- Thomson Street parking has been the same for decades. Given CoS proposed parking change it appears that CoS is looking after the interest of Cleanaway over the interests of residents in Darlinghurst and the wider community.

- Thomson and Forbes Street houses and streetscape were built in the 19th century and are not classified as a “new development” as defined in the CoS’s Guidelines for Waste Management in New Developments, August 2018. Galara Street Rosebery, referenced by the Council as a precedent for this type of parking restriction, is not comparable to Thomson Street, where only one of the 20 houses has access to any off street parking. Galara Street’s apartments have access to on-site parking and waste is collected in a very different way.

Resident Impact

- It is not reasonable or feasible for families with young children to leave their home before 6am on a weekday morning to try and move their car to a neighbouring street, especially as there may not be any suitable vacant parking space available.
- Apart from residents needing to access their homes, Thomson and Forbes Streets are located in a “go-to” destination that attracts many people from outside this area to enable access to cultural / commercial / educational / benevolent / café / restaurant enterprises. This places additional demands on parking in what is already a challenging area for local residents to park.
- To propose a “No Parking 6am – 6pm Thursday” on the eastern side of Thomson Street (North) will exacerbate an already existing and ever-increasing challenge for residents needing to park near their homes in Darlinghurst.

This is Cleanaway and the CoS’s problem to solve. The residents should not become the collateral damage for poor decision making and lack of due diligence by CoS. The residents of Thomson Street and Forbes Street say “NO” to CoS’s proposed parking change!

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Petition be received and noted.

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