

Item 28.**Traffic Treatment - Landscaped Median Strip - Dibbs Street, Centennial Park**

TRIM Container No.: 2023/674385

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the installation of 2 metre wide landscaped median strips in Dibbs Street, Centennial Park east of Roberston Road between the following points:

- 20.4 metres and 40.4 metres
- 77 metres and 100 metres

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 Sydney	[Insert]	[Insert]

Advice

Advice will be updated after the meeting.

Background

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 directions and 20 key actions.

Streets account for 23 per cent of the total local government area (LGA). The target for streets as a collective land use area is 39 per cent green cover with a minimum of 34 per cent canopy cover. To achieve the overall LGA targets a variety of measures are defined in Action 1 of the Greening Sydney Strategy. The City has committed to develop policies, programs, and projects to increase the number and type of street gardens, increase the number and type of inroad plantings, plant more street trees and ensure the largest tree species appropriate for the space is planted.

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. Planting in the roadway provides a range of benefits including traffic calming by narrowing roadway down and reducing speed, opportunity to install trees clear of overhead services, and the maximised shading of large areas of hardstand. As part of this strategy, the proposal to install two raised landscaped median strips in Dibbs Street, Centennial Park will provide space for planting of trees and general landscaping.

Comments

Dibbs Street, Centennial Park between Martin Road and Robertson Road, is a 12.8-metre-wide road with one traffic lane and one parking lane in each direction. The street provides local access to properties in Centennial Park. The street also provides access for buses for pick up and drop off at Centennial Parklands on Robertson Road.

The proposal to install two landscaped median strips will provide opportunity for increased tree planting and landscaping and will also provide an additional traffic calming measure in the street. The proposed landscaped median strips will be 2 metres wide and be 20 metres and 23 metres in length respectively. The median strips will retain a 3.2 metre wide travel lane in each direction and therefore not affect traffic flow or kerb side parking. Access to the driveways and laneways will be maintained.

The proposed treatment will provide space to plant six trees which will increase shade and cool the street, improve the amenity in the street and contribute to the overall canopy cover of the area to meet the City's adopted greening targets.

Consultation

The City consulted local residents and businesses for a period of 30 days (from 4 September to 3 October 2023). This included a letterbox drop to 75 properties and an online webpage Sydney Your Say (SYS) requesting feedback on the proposal. Additionally, the City Staff organised an on-site meeting with the residents (attended by 8 residents) during the consultation period.

A total of 14 submissions were received; with eight responses in support of the proposal, five responses were opposed to the proposal and one partially supporting the proposal.

The responses supporting the proposal noted that the proposal would help reduce traffic speed, improve safety, increase native trees and local amenity.

The responses opposing the proposal noted that the proposal may have an impact on parking, limiting the ability to access Dibbs Street by emergency vehicles, impact on buses using Dibbs Street to access Robertson Road, request for planting to be completed elsewhere. They were also concerned about the potential risk to cyclists and pedestrians on Martin Road.

To respond to the feedback received during the consultation a second notification letter has been issued to residents, and those who submitted feedback. This letter has provided responses to the concerns raised related to the installation of the median strips on the street.

Median strips are part of a suite of traffic treatments used within the LGA on local roads to provide greening and traffic calming. The minimum travel lane width of 3.2m is a requirement for these types of traffic treatment projects to ensure that there is no impact to access for vehicles including emergency vehicles, and access into and out of all driveways has been modelled using swept path analysis and will be maintained. The proposed median strip will allow for buses to continue to use Dibbs Street to access parking on Robertson Road. The proposal will not have any impact on on-street parking.

No amendments are proposed based on feedback received.

Financial

Funds are available in the current capital works budget.

HELEN ROGERS, PROJECT MANAGER - TREE MANAGEMENT