

Item 29.**Traffic Treatment - Landscaped Median Strip - Mitchell Street, Centennial Park**

TRIM Container No.: 2023/714732

Recommendations

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

- 20.4 metres and 43.7 metres
- 80.3 metres and 99.3 metres
- 108.9 metres and 122.9 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 key 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 percent 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 implementation, the proposal to install three raised median strips in Mitchell Street, Centennial Park will provide space for planting of trees and general landscaping in the road.

Comments

Mitchell Street, between Lang Road and Cook Road is a 12.8-metre-wide road with one traffic lane and one parking lane in each direction. Centennial Lane runs perpendicular to Mitchell Street in a north-east, south-west direction and divides Mitchell Street into two parts.

The street provides local access to properties in Centennial Park. Five lots are directly adjacent to Mitchell Street, with only one property with a street address of Mitchell Street. The properties adjacent consist of detached residential houses and one apartment block with access from Mitchell Street.

The proposal to install 3 raised 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 raised median strips are 2 metres wide and will retain travel lanes of 3.2 metres in width so it will not affect traffic flow or kerb side parking. Access to the driveways will be maintained.

The proposed treatment will provide space to plant eight 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 resident and businesses for a period of 30 days (4 September to 3 October 2023). This included a letter box drop to 673 properties and an online webpage Sydney Your Say (SYS) requesting feedback on the proposal.

A total of 41 submissions were received; 15 submissions supported the proposal with 10 submissions expressing strong support with comments such as “8 trees are a great start can there be more” or and “Increase in tree canopy is fantastic, great work”. Twenty-six submissions did not support the proposal. One site meeting with a resident was conducted.

Issues raised by respondents who did not support the proposal included:

- Enough trees on the street (14)
- Potential parking loss associated with the project (13)
- Potential impact on garbage truck access to laneways (10)
- Noted there were no speed issues on the street (9)
- Potential heritage impact of the change to the street (7)
- Waste of money (7)
- Potential impacted to parked cars (7)
- Did not support the proposed tree species (6)
- Median too wide for street (6)
- Plant the trees elsewhere e.g. in the park (4)
- Proposed tree species too big (4)
- Concern about construction impacts (3)
- Enough trees elsewhere i.e. Centennial Park (3)
- Potential impact to sightlines (3)
- Concern about the ongoing maintenance required of the plantings and rubbish (2)
- Impact to solar access of properties with northern sun (2)
- Concern the City is creating a cycleway on the street with no room for cars (2)
- Don't need to shade the road (1)

Issues raised that are outside of the scope of this proposal include:

- Request to make the whole area 30km/hr (1)
- Recommendation to re-open Lang Road slip lane (9) with one submission noting that the current arrangement is pushing more traffic onto Mitchell Street.

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 standard 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 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. There will be some impact to parking during construction, with no impact to parking once the works have been completed.

Minor modification was made to the proposal to better accommodate the turning movements into and out of Centennial Lane.

Financial

Funds are available in the current capital works budget.

HELEN ROGERS, PROJECT MANAGER - TREE MANAGEMENT