

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: X090896.001 **DATE:** 20 June 2024

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

THROUGH: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 7.5 - Project Scope - Regent Street Reserve, Paddington

Alternative Recommendation

It is resolved that Council:

- (A) endorse the scope of improvements to Regent Street Reserve, Paddington as described in the subject report and shown in the Revised Concept Plan as Attachment B to the subject report, for progression to relevant approvals, preparation of construction documentation tender and construction;
- (B) ***note the matters raised at the Environment Committee will be further considered during the detailed design phase and that the final design will:***
 - (i) ***consider sight lines and passive surveillance into the park from Regent Street and confirm if one or two tree removals will be required;***
 - (ii) ***review the proposed colour of café table furniture in favour of muted tones; and***
 - (iii) ***review pavement design and selection to ensure pavement longevity and pedestrian safety; and***
- (C) approve the additional funds required to deliver the project as outlined in Confidential Attachment D to the subject report.

Additions shown in ***bold italics***.

Purpose

Provide further information and an Alternative Recommendation for consideration.

Background

At the meeting of the Environment Committee on 17 June 2024, the following three issues were raised by a local resident:

- Concern raised that the two proposed tree removals (two existing small sized *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* - Blueberry Ash) will reduce screening to Regent Street. Further citing that views between Oxford Street and Regent Street should remain screened.
- Concern for the proposed 'brightly' coloured café table furniture is not in keeping with the heritage area. The request was for a heritage or muted colour be used for furniture within the park.
- Concern raised for the size of the proposed brick paver will not have longevity i.e. will lift over time and cause trip hazards.

The Alternative Recommendation is to review these items further during the detailed design, further considering all community feedback and best practice for public domain design principles as outlined below:

Sight lines and tree removals

Two trees (Blueberry ash *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* at 2.5m high) are proposed to be removed to improve sightlines, increase safety and to allow for a new path connection from Regent St into the reserve, improving access into and around the park. The new path in the reserve provides a connection for people walking down the west side of Regent Street as there currently isn't a footpath on the southern side of the reserve.

The Draft Concept Design proposed the removal of four trees (Blueberry ash *Elaeocarpus reticulatus* at 2.5m high), to improve surveillance and for new paths into the reserve. This was in response to initial engagement feedback regarding safety issues, perceptions of being enclosed rather than open to the public streets, with requests to improve sightlines and passive surveillance within the reserve.

The Revised Concept Design (refer Attachment A) proposes to retain two of the four small trees to provide screening for residents. Two trees are proposed to be removed to allow new path connections and improve safety.

Community consultation feedback on this item included:

- ten people strongly support or support the "removal of four existing small trees to enable better sight lines and passive surveillance into the park from Regent Street".
- five people requested to retain the four trees proposed for removal as they create a barrier between Oxford Street and the quieter residential streets.

During detailed design, we will review if one or two of the trees nominated for removal can be retained while still achieving the principles of a safe and accessible public domain.

Proposed furniture colour

Colour of furniture will be changed to more muted tones in the detailed design stage of the project.

Paver selection

Regent Street Reserve has been identified for an upgrade due to its overall condition, including the pavements. The proposed brick pavers are in keeping with the Public Domain Manual, the parks code and have been chosen to integrate with surrounding streets and reflect the character of the area.

During the detailed design a review of paver selection, appropriate subbase and laying methodology will be undertaken to ensure longevity of the new pavement and ensure pedestrian safety.

Memo from Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

Prepared by: Belinda Graham, Delivery Manager

Attachments

Attachment A. Revised Concept Plan (with additional 'zoom in' of the proposed tree removal area)

Approved

P. M. Barone

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer