

**Item 30.****Traffic Treatment - Landscaped Median Strip - Walker Street, Redfern**

TRIM Container No.: 2024/525041

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the installation of 2 metre wide landscaped median strips in Walker Street, Redfern between Cooper Street and James Street between the following points north of Cooper Street:

- 21.1 metres and 44.1 metres
- 62.8 metres and 79.3 metres

**Voting Members for this Item**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Object</b>
City of Sydney	[Insert]	[Insert]
Transport for NSW	[Insert]	[Insert]
NSW Police – South Sydney PAC	[Insert]	[Insert]
Representative for the Member for Newtown	[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 two raised medians strips in Walker Street, Redfern will provide space for planting of trees and general landscaping in the road.

## Comments

Walker Street, Redfern between James Street and Cooper Street is a 12.8-metre-wide road with one traffic lane and one parking lane in each direction. Walker Street is a part of the strategic bike network and is identified as a local planned bike route. There are approximately 40 properties which directly front this section of Walker Street. The properties are generally 1-2 storey terrace houses.

James Street runs perpendicular to Walker Street in an east-west direction and is one-way eastbound. Arthur Street intersects with Walker Street on the eastern side and is a very narrow two-way street. Waste collection vehicles do not use Arthur Street and traffic counts indicate very low volumes of vehicles.

Walker Street provides local access from Cleveland Street to properties in Redfern. The width and geometry of the existing street as well as the proximity to the signalised intersection at Cleveland Street have resulted in regular concerns from residents around traffic safety. Speed cushions were installed in 2022 in response to these concerns.

Access to driveways for 19 and 21 Walker Street will be left in and left out only. Property owner at 19 Walker Street has been the resident advocate for the proposed median strip in this location. No objections received as part of consultation.

The proposal to install 2 raised landscape 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.

The proposed treatment will provide space to plant four 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 in the area for a period of 30 days (31 July 2024 to 28 August 2024). This included a letter box drop to 95 properties and an online webpage Sydney Your Say (SYS) requesting feedback on the proposal.

A total of 35 submissions were received via the SYS survey; 33 submissions supported the proposal, and two submissions were concerned about the impact of the tree planting and did not support the proposal. Nine submissions specifically raised traffic safety as a concern on the street. Two submissions recommended the removal of the existing speed cushions as part of this project.

In addition, a petition was received from residents with 21 signatures (from 16 unique property addresses) on the following:

- (i) Support for the City of Sydney to install the proposed street trees on Walker Street Redfern
- (ii) Support for the City of Sydney to install any further traffic calming measures, such as permanent, full width solid speed bumps.

No changes were proposed to the concept design following consultation feedback. It is anticipated that the introduction of the median strips will reduce speed on the street without the need for further traffic calming measures. Once the median strips have been installed the City will monitor the street to review if any further traffic calming devices are required.

### **Financial**

Funds are available in the current capital works budget.

**HELEN ROGERS, PROGRAM MANAGER UBRAN FOREST DELIVERY**