

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA 1

Distributed on 10 December 2019



INNER WEST COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER 2019

6.30pm

Location Ashfield Service Centre, 260 Liverpool Road, Ashfield

**MEETING AGENDA – PRECIS
SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS**

The following report/s appear as late item/s with Mayoral approval as information required for the preparation of the report/s was not available at the time of distribution of the Business Paper.

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Item No: C1219(1) Item 20
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: REMOVAL OF TREES ALONG RAILWAY PARADE BY WESTCONNEX CONTRACTORS
From: The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

MOTION:

THAT Council write to the NSW Transport Minister condemning the removal of hundreds of trees by WestConnex contractors along railway Parade and Brenan Street, Annandale.

Background

Hundreds of trees have been cut down over the years throughout the Inner West as part of the WestConnex project. Most recently Council discovered that a further hundred-plus casuarinas, eucalypts and mature figs were to be removed to make way for a walk/cycle bridge in Annandale.

The proposal to construct a walk/cycle bridge across from Whites Creek near Brenan Street over the City West Link to the Rozelle Rail Yards (RRY) (and associated tree removal) was included in the WestConnex Stage 3 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), approved in April 2018.

Earlier this year, the Stage 3B (Rozelle Interchange) contractor briefed Council staff on this bridge, explaining that the design of the bridge on the Brenan Street side was to be altered. Tree removal was not discussed at that time.

Council staff became aware of residents' concerns over tree removal at the end of November and contacted the contractor asking them to postpone the tree removal as this would allow for a site meeting with interested residents and relevant staff from the contractor, RMS and Council.

The contractor's response was that they didn't want to alter their work schedule and wouldn't delay the tree removal. The contractor began work on December 3 and proceeded to remove trees from the site.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C1219(1) Item 21
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: PROBITY ARRANGEMENTS AT FORMER BALMAIN LEAGUES CLUB SITE
From: The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

MOTION:

THAT Council write to the NSW Transport Minister expressing concern about the obvious conflict of interest created by Transport for NSW acting as a consent authority over the former Balmain Leagues Club site, while also seeking to acquire the site for the lowest necessary cost and seek confirmation about what probity measures are in place to ensure transparency about these conflicts.

Background

A development application was lodged on 1 May 2018, for the redevelopment of the former Balmain Leagues Club site at 138-152 Victoria Road, Rozelle. The proposal involves the demolition of the existing buildings, remediation of the site and the erection of a mixed-use development, including a Leagues Club. On 27 & 28 November 2019, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and Roads and Maritime Services separately wrote to Council providing comments on the development application (DA).

TfNSW has granted concurrence to the revised development proposal subject to a number of conditions, including that the car park to be redesigned to provide all vehicular access from Waterloo Street, with the exception of vehicles servicing the loading docks, which they will give consider accessing from Victoria Road. RMS has not granted concurrence to the revised development proposal and has objected to the proposed vehicular access on Victoria Road due to future safety and network performance concerns. RMS notes that access for all vehicles, excluding service vehicles, can be obtained via Waterloo Street.

The consent authority for this DA is the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel. If RMS will not grant their approval, the Panel must refuse the application. Council staff were intending to report the application to the Panel in December, however this has now been delayed.

The position of TfNSW and RMS that all traffic must enter and exit the site from Waterloo Street is a new one, having not been raised in any of the previous DAs on this site. This position will involve a significant reassessment of traffic impacts from the proposal, which will now be diverted from Victoria Road, into local streets. The former Balmain Leagues Club site is also under consideration by TfNSW for compulsory acquisition for use as a "dive site" for construction of the Western Harbour Tunnel project.

It seems obvious that TfNSW seeking to acquire a site that they are also acting as a consent authority for is a blatant conflict of interest. It is also strange to have received two conflicting submissions from RMS and TfNSW given that as of 1 December 2019 RMS no longer exists with its functions now transferred to TfNSW. It is prudent for Council to understand how such conflicts of interest are managed and what probity arrangements exist within the State Government for the project.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C1219(1) Item 22
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: RAINBOW CROSSINGS
From: The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

MOTION:

THAT Council:

- 1. Note that Council's LGBTI Working Group has proposed the installation of a Rainbow Crossing in the LGA as a strong, visible sign of pride and support for the LGBTI community;**
- 2. Note a location has been proposed at the intersections of King St and Enmore Rd, Newtown outside Newtown Station, for initial exploration of feasibility;**
- 3. Initiate immediate discussions with stakeholders including City of Sydney and Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to understand the feasibility and requirements for installing a Rainbow Crossing at the intersection of King St and Enmore Rd, noting that the City of Sydney has proposed to install a Rainbow Crossing nearby on Wilson St, at the request of local residents; and**
- 4. Seek further advice, in consultation with the LGBTI Working Group, about the implementation of a Rainbow Crossing at this location as well as advice about potential suitable alternative locations in the LGA.**

Background

The Summer Hill Rainbow Crossing remains the only rainbow crossing in the Inner West LGA. Originally created by members of the community as a symbol of support for marriage equality, the Summer Hill Rainbow Crossing was formally endorsed and adopted by the former Ashfield Council in 2013. Located in the Lackey Street piazza, it comprises painted outlines of the squares that were originally chalked by the community members who created the Rainbow Crossing. These volunteers regularly continue to chalk the squares with messages of support. The Council's LGBTI Working Group has recently resolved to explore the possibility of installing another Rainbow Crossing in the Inner West LGA, reflecting the community's pride in our LGBTI community. The preference of the Working Group is to explore the installation of a crossing in the form of a rainbow pedestrian marking on the street, or similar. There are a number of potential locations that could be explored in the LGA for such a crossing. The Working Group has identified a number of possibilities, with a preference for a strong visible presence at the intersection of King St and Enmore Rd, at the entrance of Newtown Station, possibly incorporating part of the adjacent Newtown Square.

Installing a rainbow crossing at this location would require close partnership with a range of stakeholders including TfNSW and the City of Sydney (as King St marks the boundary between the Inner West and City of Sydney Councils). There is some urgency to initiating discussions with potential partners, as City of Sydney has proposed to install a rainbow crossing at Wilson St, Newtown, not far from Newtown station, at the request of local residents in the street. It is proposed that discussions be initiated with stakeholders including City of Sydney and TfNSW about the possibility of installing a Rainbow Crossing at the King St and Enmore Rd intersection, with a view to understanding the feasibility and requirements. Further advice from Council staff about this location, and possible alternatives, is sought.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C1219(1) Item 23
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: UNWINS BRIDGE ROAD SIGNALISED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING
From: The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

MOTION:

THAT Council writes to the Deputy Secretary, Greater Sydney at Transport Roads and Maritime Services highlighting the dangers facing pedestrians crossing Unwins Bridge Road, Tempe, adjacent to Tillman Park, including a request for approval and funding of a signalised pedestrian crossing in Unwins Bridge Road adjacent to Tillman Park, as a matter of urgency.

Background

At the Council Meeting on the 13 August 2019, it was resolved:

THAT Council:

1. Notes continued reports of serious accidents and near misses at Tillman Park Unwins Bridge Road crossing;
2. Notes the regular representations made by members of the community and residents local to the area regarding concerns for pedestrian safety at the crossing, in the context of high demand for pedestrian access to Tillman Park and the adjacent childcare centre;
3. Notes the officers' recommendation in response to Item C0819(1) that previous reviews of the crossing have informed the view that a signalised crossing and footpath widening is required to improve pedestrian safety, and maintain pedestrian access to the park and childcare centre;
4. Notes that Council officers have made submissions to RMS for an upgrade, and a submission for 2019 Black Spot grant funding to undertake these pedestrian safety works; and
5. Makes representations from the Mayor to RMS and relevant agencies to advocate for an upgrade and/or Black Spot grant funding to support improved pedestrian safety and safe pedestrian access at this spot.

To improve pedestrian safety at this location, Council Officers submitted a funding application to Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) under the Safer Roads Program to signalise the crossing. Council has been advised that it has been unsuccessful in its request for funding. The rejection letter erroneously states that Council had not submitted the necessary warrant assessment to RMS. In June 2018, Council undertook pedestrian and vehicle counts over a three-day period, on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. This information, which is suitable for undertaking a warrant check, was provided by Council to RMS. It is essential that this urgent road safety issue is addressed as a priority.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.