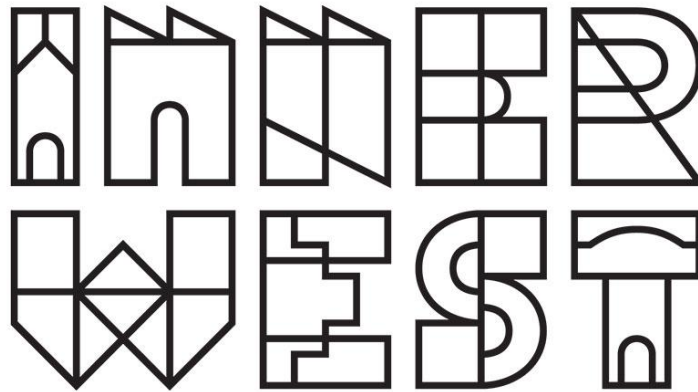


SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA 2

Distributed on 22 November 2021



COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2021

6.30pm

Location: Remote Meeting

MEETING AGENDA – PRECIS SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

The following reports appear as late items as information required for the preparation of the reports was not available at the time of distribution of the Business Paper.

1 Mayoral Minutes

ITEM		Page
C1121(2) Item 14	Mayoral Minute: Inner West Light Rail - Council Actions	3
C1121(2) Item 15	Mayoral Minute: Ensuring Accessible Footpaths In The Inner West	5

Item No: C1121(2) Item 14
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: INNER WEST LIGHT RAIL - COUNCIL ACTIONS
From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

MOTION:

THAT:

1. Council writes to Transport for NSW (TFNSW) requesting that temporary bus stops have waterproof enclosures, accessible paths, directional signage, printed leaflets in all community languages and maps, and that staff be allocated to each light rail station to assist residents with finding their way to temporary services;
2. Council notes that an officer level working group comprised of staff from Inner West Council and staff from TFNSW / Minister for Transport's office has been established;
3. Council sets up an Inner West Light Rail information page on its website that residents can use to obtain up to date information;
4. The Inner West Light Rail website information page also allows residents to ask questions and lodge requests to Council which will be fed, where needed, to the Council / TFNSW working group for further action; and
5. Council writes to the Minister, thanking him for making all replacement buses now half price but noting the very considerable disruption this has caused residents, therefore re-iterating Council's request that all replacement buses be provided free of charge.

Background

Many residents are rightly concerned about the impact of the temporary closure of the Inner West Light Rail for up to 18 months. This is devastating news and it is important that Council holds Transport for NSW (TFNSW) to account for this situation. Nevertheless our focus is on delivering solutions which are in the best interests of residents.

Councillors are aware that at the last Council Meeting it was resolved to meet with the Minister for Transport about the light rail closure. I therefore contacted the Minister and on Friday 12 November 2021, myself, the General Manager and Council's Team Leader for Strategic Transport Planning met with the Minister for Transport, Rob Stokes and Senior TFNSW staff to discuss the timeline for repair of the trams as well as their replacement bus routes; the temporary bus routes and temporary infrastructure required.

Issues raised also included the need to identify the best and safest routes to temporary bus stops; the repairs and maintenance needed to footpaths along routes; the need to improve cycleways across the route; the adding of express buses; the adding of more storage and parking capacity for buses; ensuring routes and buses are fully accessible; improving signage and way finding; ensuring temporary bus stops are waterproof; ensuring there are staff available to assist light rail users and ensuring information is provided in all community languages and in hard copy as well as online.

Council also thanked the Minister for reducing replacement buses to half price but noting the considerable disruption caused by the decommissioning of the trams, asked again that the replacement buses be provided free of charge.

Council agreed to hold ongoing working group meetings at an officer level with TFNSW to ensure we have appropriate infrastructure and services in place throughout the duration of the closure.

Council will also be working with TFNSW to identify benefits which may be able to come out of this disaster – for example achieving a commitment to more trams and enabling a faster turnaround of work on the Greenway.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

Item No: C1121(2) Item 15
Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: ENSURING ACCESSIBLE FOOTPATHS IN THE INNER WEST
From: The Mayor, Councillor Rochelle Porteous

Item 15

MOTION:

THAT Council:

1. **Note the completion of the draft Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan which has identified \$8M worth of capital works that the new Council consider fast tracking through the development of the 22/23 budget;**
2. **Note that an audit is underway of all footpaths and that funding will be allocated to renew all Condition 4 and 5 (poor) footpaths in 2022/23;**
3. **Commit to working towards making all Inner West footpaths well-maintained, level and accessible so that everyone can safely travel around their local communities;**
4. **Review the draft Urban Public Domain Guidelines, the Tree Master Plan, Local Approvals Policy and advise on changes needed to retain or improve existing footpath accessibility levels;**
5. **Ensure findings from the above steps inform the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2025 and Council’s new Community Strategic Plan; and**
6. **Council considers fully funding and fully resourcing the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2025.**

Background

The Inner West has an extensive network of footpaths. The maintenance and accessibility of these footpaths will often determine whether residents with a disability and older residents are able to get out of their homes; go to work; meet with friends; access public transport and participate in their communities. Good, well-maintained, level and accessible footpaths allow everyone to safely travel around their local communities. They are essential for older people; for people with disability including people using mobility devices like wheelchairs and for families with prams.

Council has an obligation under the *Disability Discrimination Act* 1992 to ensure all its services, facilities, infrastructure, and planning are undertaken in a non-discriminatory manner. Equal access is the principle under the law. Therefore, a primary concern for Council is the design, maintenance and operational controls that provide accessible pedestrian pathways throughout the Inner West. Pathways are a fundamental element required for an inclusive community.

The NSW *Disability Inclusion Act* 2014 requires Council to plan for and deliver more livable and accessible communities that enable greater participation by people with disability in their local area. Council responded to this statutory requirement through the adoption of the Inner West Council Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2017-21 that identifies actions to achieve identified inclusion goals.

Each of the 6 Action Areas of the Plan aims to create a consistent application of policy setting within that domain. In Section 4 on Inclusive Planning Infrastructure and Environment, Council

has committed to “embed access and inclusion into all Council frameworks, criteria and studies relating to infrastructure and asset planning”. Further the Plan commits Council to “in consultation with people with a disability confirm criteria of what is considered to be an accessible pathway suitable for people of all abilities with recommendations on shared zone viability”. At the outset to the Plan, Council collaborated with disability peak agencies on research to identify what these expectations of people with disability for access were. The *Pathways to Inclusion Guide* was the result of that research and identifies where greater policy integration is necessary to meet Councils legislative obligations and intended inclusion outcomes.

Subsequently, Council has worked intensively to create, expand and maintain accessible pathways including through Inner West wide condition mapping for the new Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan; through developing new Public Domain Guidelines; through attention to how waste bin collections occur and close work on approved uses on footpaths. Through the Disability Inclusion Action Plan, Council already has a strong pathway and record of delivery on ensuring leading practice informs footpath accessibility.

Council has just completed a Pedestrian Access Mobility Plan which has identified \$8M worth of capital works and it is important that the new Council consider fast tracking these works as part of the 2022/23 budget consideration. Councillors would be aware that staff are currently undertaking an audit of all of its footpaths and will allocate capital funding to renew all Condition 4 and 5 (poor) footpaths in 2022/23.

With Council prioritising tree planting it is important that a review of the Urban Domain Guidelines, the Tree Master Plan, Local Approvals Policy and advise on changes needed to retain or improve existing footpath access levels and ensures findings from above steps inform engagement on the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2025 and Council’s new Community Strategic Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.