

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANDWICK WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, 90 AVOCA STREET, RANDWICK, ON TUESDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY 2005 AT 6:00 PM

Director Asset & Infrastructure Services' Report 6/2005

SUBJECT:	CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL POSITION OF PROPOSED OFF RAMPS FROM SOUTHERN CROSS DRIVE TO GARDENERS ROAD.
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DATE:	16 February, 2005	FILE NO:	98/S/5326
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REPORT BY: DIRECTOR ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

INTRODUCTION:

Council at its Health, Building and Planning Committee meeting held on 8 February, 2005 considered a Mayor's Minute recommending that Council suspend its earlier support for the concept of the Gardeners Road ramps until there is greater clarification on the RTA's response to Council's conditions, and resolved:

"that this matter be deferred to the next Ordinary Council meeting so the Councillors can be furnished with all the proper information on this matter in order to make an informed decision."

ISSUES:

A.

Council at its meeting held on 23 November, 2004, resolved that it would support the concept of the Gardeners Road access ramps with Southern Cross Drive and attached several conditions to its support.

Details of the resolution of Council are shown on "Attachment A".

Subsequently the General Manager advised the RTA, the Member for Heffron, Ms Kristina Keneally, and Lord Mayor of City of Sydney, Ms Clover Moore, of details of Council's resolution.

B.

In December 2004, the Mayor wrote to the then Minister for Roads, Mr Carl Scully, expressing his personal concerns regarding:

- o The lack of an EIS;
- o The capacity of the Kingsford roundabout to cope with the extra traffic;
- o Clarification on the consideration that the RTA had given to the option of 'No Left Turns' on Gardeners Road at the intersections of Tunstall, Cottenham, Eastern Maitland and Aboud Avenues; and
- o The possible benefits of reopening Dalmeny Avenue.

The Mayor concluded the letter by stating that -

"I must advise you that I will find it difficult to maintain my support for the proposed off ramps in the absence of clarification on these issues."

C.

The Mayor arranged a meeting on 27 January, 2005, with representatives of the RTA, Council's General Manager, Director of Asset and Infrastructure Services, Councillor Bradley Hughes and himself to further discuss the following main areas of concern:

- 1) Preparation of an EIS;
- 2) Proper public consultation for the project;
- 3) That the residential amenity of the residents of West Kingsford be protected;
- 4) The RTA further investigates the operation of the Nine Ways roundabout at Kingsford.

D.

RTA's Regional Manager, Sydney Client Services, Mr Mike Veysey's response to a number of matters raised in Council's resolution in regard to the project is shown on "Attachment B."

E.

The response from the Minister for Roads, Mr Michael Costa, to the Mayor is shown on "Attachment C."

In summary, the Minister has given the following undertakings:

- ~~EEE~~A public meeting will be conducted by the end of February, 2005 (it is understood that the Member for Heffron, Ms. Kristina Keneally, has arranged a public meeting to be held on Thursday 24 February, 2005 at 7.00pm at St. Martins Church, Cnr. Todman Avenue and Balfour Road);
- ~~EEE~~An EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) will be carried out if the REF (Review of Environmental factors) indicated that it is required;
- ~~EEE~~An EIA/REF display of the preferred option(s) will be carried out in April/May 2005 with a display period of no less than 30 days and wide publicity during the display period to encourage and facilitate public input;
- ~~EEE~~The Minister has asked the RTA to further investigate the operation of the Kingsford roundabout and suggest any appropriate changes to simplify this complex intersection;
- ~~EEE~~The RTA is investigating possible “No left turn” bans from Gardeners Road into residential streets of West Kingsford; and
- ~~EEE~~The RTA is prepared to seriously consider appropriate traffic management measures in West Kensington, provided bus routes and emergency vehicle access can be accommodated.

F.

Environmental Planning and Assessment Act (EP&A Act)

The RTA has a statutory responsibility under the NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act to consider the impacts of its activities on the environment.

The RTA has developed EIA guidelines to ensure that all RTA environmental impact assessments meet both legal requirements and community expectations.

Under Section 6 of the guidelines, the RTA must examine and take into account to the fullest extent possible all matters affecting or likely to affect the environment by reasons of that activity and establish whether or not an EIS is required for that activity.

To fulfil these general obligations, under Part 5 of the Act, the RTA usually prepares a review of environmental factors (REF); assesses the REF; and decides on the basis of the assessment whether or not an EIS is required. The attached memo (Attachment D) which was distributed to all Councillors on 15 February 2005 explains the processes of REF/EIS.

A REF is not a public document and need not be exhibited. However, if there is considerable community interest in the project, the RTA or the Minister may decide to publicly exhibit the REF.

Responsibility for the preparation of a REF rests usually with the RTA's Project Manager. However, the guidelines require that no REF should ever be assessed by the person under whose responsibility the REF was prepared. Responsibility for assessment of a REF rests with the RTA's Regional Environmental Manager.

In assessing the REF, the RTA's Regional Environmental Manager must ensure that:

- the results of any community involvement have been properly included and considered in the REF;
- determine whether an EIS is required; and
- the proposed activity includes mitigation and compensatory / offset measures arrived at ameliorating the impact of the proposed activity on the environment.

Council is advised that the construction of the ramp at Gardeners Road is an activity of the RTA. The ramp does not constitute a designated development as described by Schedule 3 of the Environmental Planning Assessment Regulation 2000.

It is therefore considered that the Minister's proposal to undertake a REF display to facilitate the community input would be an acceptable process under the provisions of EP&A Act.

However, Council may consider the engagement of the services of a specialist advisor, to appropriately monitor, liaise and facilitate the environmental impact assessment to ensure that the process satisfies both legal requirements and community expectations.

As stated in the original resolution of Council on 23 November, 2004, a primary objective of Council is to ensure that the RTA be responsible for the funding and prior implementation of traffic calming measures in the West Kingsford Precinct with a local area traffic management scheme to discourage cross traffic movements taking shortcuts through these local residential streets.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

An approximate cost of \$50,000 will be incurred should Council wish to engage the services of a specialist advisor as recommended in this report.

CONCLUSION:

As the result of further negotiations with the RTA and representations with the Minister for Roads, Council has now received commitments from the RTA ensuring open public consultation with a view to incorporating mitigation and compensatory/offset measures to ameliorate the impact of the proposed ramps on the residential amenity of the West Kingsford/West Kensington areas.

The following recommendation is therefore submitted for Council's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

A.

The RTA be notified that Council will continue its in principle support for the concept of the Gardeners Road access ramps with Southern Cross Drive on the basis of the following undertaking given by the Minister for Roads:

- a) The RTA will conduct public meeting by the end of February 2005 to demonstrate the ramification of these ramps on local roads;
- b) The RTA will carry out a full REF (Review of Environmental Factors) and commit to publicly exhibit the REF as soon as possible with a display period of no less than 30 days and wide publicity prior to and during the display period to encourage and facilitate public input;
- c) The RTA will investigate the operation of the Kingsford Roundabout and consider implementation of measures to simplify this complex intersection;
- d) The RTA will investigate the possible introduction of “No Left Turn” restrictions from Gardeners Road into the West Kingsford local area.; and

B.

A Specialist Advisor be engaged to monitor and liaise with the RTA and the community groups, and ensure that the environmental impact assessment process meet both legal requirements and community expectations.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Attachment A

Attachment B

Attachment C

ALL UNDER SEPARATE COVER

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JORDE FRANGOPLES
DIRECTOR ASSET &
INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

.....
KEN KANAGARAJAN
SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER

**MINUTES OF ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF
THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RANDWICK
HELD ON TUESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY, 2005 AT 6:15 P.M.**

**8.3 DIRECTOR ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES' REPORT 6/2005 -
CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL POSITION OF PROPOSED OFF
RAMPS FROM SOUTHERN CROSS DRIVE TO GARDENERS ROAD.
(98/S/5326)**

22 ***RESOLUTION: (Hughes/Nash)** that the contents of the Director Asset &
Infrastructure Services' Report 6/2005 be received and noted.*