

Works Report No. W21/09



Subject: Public Consultation of Draft Report -
Assessment of Traffic Impacts upon
Kensington and Parts of Kingsford

Folder No: F2004/08211

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Introduction

A number of proposals are either planned or are already occurring which may have significant influence on traffic flows in the Kensington/Kingsford area. As a result Council arranged to have a study undertaken to assess traffic impacts upon Kensington and parts of Kingsford.

Issues

There are three proposals which will affect traffic flow in Kensington.

In 2004 the NSW Roads and Traffic Authority presented a proposal to Randwick City Council and the community to construct south-facing ramps on Southern Cross Drive at the Gardeners Road overpass. The purpose of the proposed ramps is to provide motorists with direct access to and from Southern Cross Drive and Gardeners Road at this point. This, the RTA states, will improve access to local and regional places, reduce congestion at key locations to the north of the proposal and consequently improve travel times and safety for pedestrians and cyclists. This proposal by the RTA has the potential to alter traffic movements in and through the Randwick City LGA, which will impact on the local community.

Large residential and commercial development with high density is proposed in the Zetland and Victoria Park areas adjoining the Randwick Local Government Area (LGA) to the west. This development also has the potential to impact on the local Randwick community. Therefore, as a part of this project Council is also seeking a review and traffic assessment of the effects of the proposed urban development within the City of Sydney LGA.

Council resolved in April 2007 to support the proposal to install a half road closure (buses and cyclists excepted) in Lenthall Street, so that eastbound traffic from Epsom Road be denied access to Lenthall Street.

To gain a greater appreciation of the issues involved, the potential traffic impacts and the opportunity to develop remedial treatments, Council appointed GTK Consulting on 7 November 2008 to undertake a study in the suburbs of Kensington and West Kingsford to assess likely traffic impacts resulting from the following proposals:

- New ramps on Gardeners Road to and from Southern Cross Drive (RTA);
- The Green Square Urban Renewal Area (City of Sydney); and
- The half road closure of Lenthall Street, Kensington (Council).

Council's primary objectives for this study are:

- Identify the impact of the RTA proposal on Council's road network and the amenity of the residents in the study area;
- Recommend treatments to address the adverse traffic impacts identified in the above assessment;

- Provide advice to Council about the RTA proposal, to inform discussion and consultation with the local Randwick community;
- Identify the impact on Council's road network and the amenity of residents in the study area of proposed increased residential density in the Zetland and Victoria Park areas as proposed by the City of Sydney; and
- Assess the likely impacts of implementing a 'half-closure' eastbound on Lenthall Street.

Draft Report

A Draft Report has been prepared by GTK Consulting; this was circulated to Ward Councillors and the contact group from the Kensington Precinct Committee for comment prior to wider Community Consultation. The Precinct Committee concluded that the consultant had taken a conservative approach to traffic generation however, it has been decided that no change should be made to the Report until all comments have been received, following wider consultation.

Community Consultation

It is proposed that community consultation will be carried out in accordance with Council's guidelines. During the public exhibition period the following activities will be undertaken:

- An advertisement inviting comment placed in the Southern Courier
- An item inviting comment placed in the Mayor's column;
- Distribution of the Report and graphically designed posters at Council libraries and the Customer Service Centre;
- Draft Report placed on Council's website under the Consultation section, and,
- Copies of the Draft Report sent to the Randwick City Precinct Committees and Chambers of Commerce groups.

Relationship to City Plan

The relationship with the City Plan is as follows:

Outcome 9: Integrated and accessible transport.
 Direction 9d: Residential amenity is protected by appropriate traffic management.

Financial impact statement

There is no direct financial impact for this matter at this time.

Conclusion

The consultant's report examines the magnitude of the effects on the Kensington area of three proposals, the ramps, the increasing densities in the Green Square area and the half closure of Lenthall Street.

It is considered appropriate to place the report on public exhibition, according to Council's Community Consultation Policy, for a period of 28 days. Submissions would be sought from the community.

Subsequently a report on the community submissions and the report would be placed before Council for consideration.

Recommendation

That:

- a) the report be received and be released for community consultation, and
- b) a report be brought back to the Council on the GTK Consulting Report and on the results of the community consultation.

Attachment/s:

1. An Assessment of Traffic Impacts upon Kensington and Parts of Kingsford prepared by GTK Consulting - UNDER SEPARATE COVER

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