

ENCL:
YES

2ND ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING/OPEN

AGENDA ITEM: 16.1.5

CAR PARKING ALONG GARDENS ROAD – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

REPORT No.: 17TS0061 DL:tz

COMMON No.: 3444217

DATE: 25/07/2017

Presenter: Acting Manager Design, Development & Projects,
James Whyte

Approved: General Manager City Operations, Luccio Cercarelli

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the outcomes of the community consultation regarding on-street car parking along Gardens Road, The Gardens, and to seek its endorsement to undertake a further assessment of the preferred option.

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The issues addressed in this Report are in accordance with the following Goals/Strategies as outlined in the 'Evolving Darwin Towards 2020 Strategic Plan':-

Goal

2 Vibrant, Flexible and Tropical Lifestyle

Outcome

2.1 Improved access and connectivity

Key Strategies

2.1.4 Provide parking facilities to meet community needs

KEY ISSUES

- Council resolved to undertake community consultation on four car parking options along Gardens Road, The Gardens, between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road.
- Informal kerbside parking is currently allowed along the eastern side and prohibited along the western side of Gardens Road, between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road.
- When public events are held at the Botanic Gardens, Mindil Beach and Gardens Sports Ovals, they can attract large numbers of visitors and car parking in and around these facilities is in high demand.
- There are concerns about informal parking over shared paths limiting access to pedestrians, cyclists and people with limited mobility.
- For major public events, consideration will be given to closing Gardens Road to all vehicular traffic should the need arise. Therefore the parking considerations are most relevant for small to medium events.

- With the largest group of respondents (46%) preferring *Option 3: Formalise bays on both sides*, it is recommended that Council endorse Option 3 and progress to detailed design taking into consideration concerns raised by stakeholders and the improvements to the connectivity and accessibility of the car parks by pedestrians.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. THAT Report Number 17TS0061 DL:tz entitled Car Parking along Gardens Road – Community Consultation Outcomes, be received and noted.
- B. THAT Council adopt '*Option 3: Formalise bays on both sides*' as outlined in Report Number 17TS0061 DL:tz entitled Car Parking along Gardens Road – Community Consultation Outcomes, investigating the inclusion of some minor civil works to provide improved pedestrian connectivity (which will involve additional costs).
- C. THAT Council write to all of the respondents to the community consultation, thanking them for their submissions and advising them of the actions to be undertaken as a result of the consultation.

BACKGROUND

At the Ordinary Council Meeting of 28 February 2017, Council resolved as follows:

DECISION NO.21\5206 (28/02/17)

Car Parking Along Gardens Road, The Gardens, Between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road

Report No. 17TS0006 DL:lf (21/02/17) Common No. 3444217

- A. *THAT Report Number 17TS0006 DL:lf entitled Car Parking Along Gardens Road, The Gardens, Between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road, be received and noted.*
- B. *THAT Council undertake Level 2 community consultation on the car parking options presented in Report Number 17TS0006 DL:lf entitled Car Parking Along Gardens Road, The Gardens, Between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road.*
- C. *THAT a further report be presented to Council on the outcomes of the community consultation for car parking options.*

Gardens Road is an important transport link to and from Darwin's Central Business District and is bounded by two major public facilities: the George Brown Botanic Gardens to the east and Gardens Sports Ovals to the west. Both of these locations

attract large numbers of visitors and at times (during events in the vicinity), there is pressure on the existing car parking facilities in the area.

Gardens Road has a posted speed limit of 60 km/h and an average traffic volume of 3,600 vehicles per day.

There have been two accidents recorded along Gardens Road between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road in the past five years.

There is concern over vehicles parking on the shared paths along Gardens Road, between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road.

DISCUSSION

Parking is currently prohibited at all times (in the form of a yellow no-parking line) along the western side of Gardens Road (Gardens Sports Ovals side). Informal kerbside parking is currently allowed along the eastern (Botanic Gardens) side of the road.

A review was undertaken of on-street parking opportunities along Gardens Road between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road and four options for managing parking along this section of road were identified and endorsed by Council for the purposes of community consultation. These options were:

Option 1: Change yellow line to signage – Leave the road as is, with the removal of the existing yellow line and addition of signage along the western side to reinforce no parking at normal times - with the signage being hidden (i.e. bagged) to allow informal parking on that side during major events.

Option 2: Formalise bays on one side – Formalise on-street parking on the eastern side of Gardens Road (Botanical Gardens). This would result in approximately 30 formalised parking spaces.

Option 3: Formalise bays on both sides – Formalise on-street parking on both sides of the road. This would result in a total of approximately 90 formalised parking spaces.

Option 4: No change - Leave the road as is.

A community consultation was delivered to gauge the views of key stakeholders and the general community on the proposed options.

Option 3 – Formalise Bays on Both Sides was preferred by more respondents than any of the other options, refer Table 1 below. Full details and analysis of the community consultation report is provided at **Attachment A**.

Table 1

Answer Choices	Responses % & Number	
Option 1 – Change yellow line to signage	5.97%	4
Option 2 – Formalise bays on one side	26.87%	18
Option 3 – Formalise bays on both sides	46.27%	31
Option 4 – No Change	13.43%	9
Other	7.46%	5
Total		67

It has also been identified that additional civil works may be required to adequately cater for pedestrians, providing better connectivity between the footpaths and improved accessibility for all users. The additional civil works would increase the cost of the works and have been identified within the budget section of the report.

AFLNT has identified in the response that they have a preference for Option 3 provided screening was provided along the length of the chain mesh fence along Gardens Road. AFLNT has been advised that screening is not being considered with Option 3.

It is recommended that Council endorse Option 3 and progress detailed design taking into consideration the concerns raised by stakeholders and the minor civil works required to provide better connectivity and accessibility.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

In preparing this report, the following City of Darwin officers were consulted:

- Communications and Engagement Officer
- Senior Community Engagement Officer
- Executive Manager
- Community Inclusion Coordinator

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Community consultation was undertaken in accordance with City of Darwin Policy No. 25 – Community Engagement.

BUDGET AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The estimated cost of the signage in **Option 1: Change yellow line to signage** is \$2,000.

The estimated cost to formalise parking along Gardens Road between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road (**Option 2: Formalise bays on one side**) is \$4,500, plus an additional cost of \$11,500 for shared path connections.

The estimated cost to formalise parking along both sides of Gardens Road between Gilruth Avenue and Chin Quan Road (**Option 3: Formalise bays on both sides**) is \$10,000, plus an additional cost of \$22,500 for shared path and disability access connections on the Botanic Gardens side.

There are no costs associated with **Option 4: No change**.

There is sufficient funding within Council's 2017/2018 Local Area Traffic Management budget to undertake the works described in this report.

RISK/LEGAL/LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Providing formalised on-street parking may minimise the potential safety risks for pedestrians and motorist created by informal parking on shared paths.

Introducing further parking along Gardens Road may increase the risk of potential conflict between vehicles/cyclists travelling along this road and those leaving or entering the new parking area during major events.

Formalising and introducing further parking along Gardens Road would likely reduce traffic speeds along Gardens Road during periods of high use of the parking areas.

Council is responsible for ensuring the safety of its road network for all road users.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Council undertakes road design to provide a safe and efficient road environment for all road users.

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CONSULTATION OUTCOMES

COUNCIL OFFICER CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

We the Author and Approving Officers declare that we do not have a Conflict of Interest in relation to this matter.

JAMES WHYTE
ACTING MANAGER DESIGN,
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GENERAL MANAGER
CITY OPERATIONS

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Attachments:

Attachment A: Community Consultation Report