Proposed traffic improvements on Wentworth Avenue from Mascot to Eastgardens

Engagement Report

November 2020
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1 Executive summary

1.1 Overview

This engagement report provides a summary of Transport for NSW’s (Transport) engagement with the community and key stakeholders about proposed clearways and traffic improvements on Wentworth Avenue between General Holmes Drive, Mascot and Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens.

Wentworth Avenue was identified in the Sydney Clearways Strategy (2013) for the investigation of new and extended clearways. The Strategy aims to help manage congestion across the Sydney’s road network by introducing new and extended clearways on busy roads that play an important role in moving people and goods across Sydney.

The proposed clearways on Wentworth Avenue will connect and complement existing clearways in the surrounding state road network such as General Holmes Drive and Southern Cross Drive, enhancing road connections to Port Botany and south-western suburbs through the M5 Motorway (see Figure 1).

In addition to the proposed clearways, Transport also proposed to extend existing ‘No Stopping’ restrictions at certain locations to help improve traffic flow through the intersections on Wentworth Avenue between Bay Street and Baker Street (see Figure 2).

1.2 Summary of engagement

On 27 March 2020, Transport informed the community and key stakeholders about the proposed clearways and traffic improvements on Wentworth Avenue. We also invited feedback by 14 April 2020.

Due to COVID-19 and the social distancing order, Transport adopted a slightly different approach to engage with the community and key stakeholders during the consultation period. We were not able to doorknock in person, but we sent registered mail to targeted customers directly impacted by the proposal.

During the engagement period, we:

- delivered a community update (see Appendix A) through a letterbox drop (see Appendix B) to 1795 properties
- sent registered mail to 35 targeted properties to ensure customers receive the project information
- received 11 pieces of feedback from the project portal (see Appendix C) and 2 via email.
The key matters raised included:

- support for the clearways and traffic improvement proposal
- traffic and safety concerns at key intersections
- safety concerns when turning into adjacent streets
- speeding.

A detailed summary of the feedback and responses can be found in the section of this document titled: Feedback and Transport’s response.

1.3 The decision

Transport would like to thank everyone who provided feedback.

After carefully considering the feedback received, we intend to proceed with the clearways and traffic improvement proposal presented in March 2020, with additional traffic improvements referred to below.

The additional traffic improvements follow discussions with Bayside Council and include new traffic control signals and two new pedestrian crossings at Baker Street and Wentworth Avenue intersection. We will also extend the dedicated right turn bay on Wentworth Avenue into Baker Street.

The decision was also made in response to the Australian Government announced a $1.5 billion package to invest in infrastructure which includes $120 million for NSW Pinch Point Program that can support jobs immediately. The program identified the need to install traffic signals at Wentworth Avenue and Baker Street to improve freight access between the industrial precinct and Port Botany.

Early works are planned to commence at the end of 2020.

We will continue to keep the community updated as this project progresses.
2 Introduction

2.1 Background

The NSW Government released its roadmap to deliver the state’s future transport network, the Future Transport Strategy 2056, which acknowledges the vital role transport plays in the land use, tourism, and economic development of towns and cities.

Traffic growth in Sydney has reached a point where there is a need to consider further improvements in the use of the existing road network to reduce travel times. The Sydney Clearways Strategy released in 2013 is an on-going initiative to reduce congestion on Sydney’s state roads. The strategy aims to increase the performance of Sydney’s state roads by introducing new or extended clearways on roads that are experiencing congestion and not operating at full capacity to efficiently transport people and goods across the Sydney metropolitan area.

The NSW Government has committed $121 million to the Sydney Clearways Strategy which includes assisting local councils with alternative business customer parking solutions where feasible, and identifying any traffic improvement opportunities to optimise journeys for motorists.

Wentworth Avenue was identified in the Sydney Clearways Strategy (2013) for the investigation of new and extended clearways. This corridor plays an important role for moving people and goods across the Sydney road network, and has been identified as a secondary tier freight route in the Road Network Plan Report – Port Botany (2018).

Traffic investigations carried out between General Holmes Drive, Mascot and Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens showed that sections of Wentworth Avenue would benefit from new and extended clearways based on hourly traffic volumes and travel times. The investigations also showed that certain sections on Wentworth Avenue is experiencing delays due to inefficiency at intersections.

The proposed clearways and traffic improvements will benefit road users traveling on Wentworth Avenue.
2.2 The proposal

To support Sydney’s growing population, the NSW Government is working towards delivering significant improvements to reduce Sydney’s congestion.

The proposed clearways and traffic improvements on Wentworth Avenue, first presented to the public on 27 March 2020, included:

- ‘At All Times’ clearways between General Holmes Drive and Bay Street, to connect with an already established network of clearways on Southern Cross Drive and the airport precinct
- Extended ‘No Stopping’ restrictions at certain locations between Bay Street and Baker Street to help improve traffic flow through intersections. No clearways between Bay Street and Baker Street
- New weekday peak hour clearways in both directions between Baker Street and Bunnerong Road to improve traffic flow through Eastgardens. The proposed clearway hours are from 6am to 10am and from 3pm to 7pm Monday to Friday only
- Revised timed ‘No Parking’ restrictions between Denison Street and Bunnerong Road in the westbound direction on Wentworth Avenue, in conjunction with the new weekday peak hour clearways.

A map of the corridor and the proposed changes are shown in Figure 1 and Figure 2 below.

![Figure 1: Proposed clearways and traffic improvements on Wentworth Avenue](image_url)
Transport sought feedback from the community and key stakeholders on the proposal by 14 April 2020 via the project portal.
3 Engagement approach

3.1 Engagement objectives

Transport engaged with the community to understand their concerns and needs, so that this feedback can be considered as part of the decision making process where possible.

This allows us to:

- seek comment, feedback, ideas and suggestions for consideration when making a decision on a matter that has not yet been determined
- advise directly affected stakeholders of changes and/or proposals
- build a database of interested and concerned community members with whom to continue engagement with during the project's development and delivery
- advise the community on how they can obtain further information and communicate feedback.

3.2 How engagement was done

Transport adopted an ‘inform’ and ‘consult’ engagement approach for this project to:

- ‘inform’ the community and key stakeholders on the proposed clearways and traffic improvements, as these have been determined based on traffic investigations
- ‘consult’ with the community and key stakeholders to explain the proposal objectives, potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

We commenced engagement with key stakeholders in March 2020 and began engaging with the community on Monday 27 March 2020. Feedback closed on Tuesday 14 April 2020 (see Table 1).

Table 1 Community and stakeholder engagement timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stakeholder Meetings</td>
<td>Briefed Bayside Council staff</td>
<td>10 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Update Distribution</td>
<td>Project Update (see Appendix A) distributed to 1795 properties within the distribution area (see Appendix B).</td>
<td>27 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project portal</td>
<td>Emailed key stakeholders including local council, police, emergency services and utility companies.</td>
<td>30 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project portal</td>
<td>Registered express post to 35 targeted properties, in replacement of doorknock.</td>
<td>30 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project portal</td>
<td>Project portal go live to provide interactive map for ‘Have Your Say’ and project information (see Appendix C).</td>
<td>27 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Method</td>
<td>Event</td>
<td>Date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Project webpage with information including the Project Update (see Appendix D).</td>
<td>27 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper advertisement</td>
<td>Publication in the Daily Telegraph and Sydney Morning Herald (see Appendix E).</td>
<td>8 April 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Close of feedback</td>
<td></td>
<td>14 April 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 3.3 Engagement outcome

Transport received a total of 13 submissions, 11 via the project portal and 2 via email. The key matters raised included:
- support for the clearways and traffic improvement proposal
- traffic and safety concerns at key intersections
- safety concerns when turning into adjacent streets
- speeding.
4 Feedback and Transport’s response

Transport has summarised the feedback received and provided responses in Table 2 below. This report is made available to the public.

All feedback has been considered to help Transport make decisions about the final scope and delivery of the project.

The table below shows the full range of feedback provided. This feedback is not repeated so, for example, although a majority of people said they support the proposal, this is listed just once.

Matters raised that are out of scope of this project will be forwarded to the relevant agencies.

Table 2: Feedback received during the community engagement period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Support for the project</td>
<td>Agree strongly. The traffic improvements are essential to cater for the new residential development in the area.</td>
<td>Transport thank you for your feedback and acknowledge your support for the proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Acknowledge that the clearways may improve traffic.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I like this proposal and idea.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Feedback</td>
<td>Response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. Clearways justification    | Clearway is pointless between Bunnerong Road and Dennison Street because the major congestion is mainly between Baker Street and Page Street. | On Wentworth Avenue between Baker Street and Bunnerong Road, the new weekday peak hour clearways are proposed to operate in both directions to help improve traffic flow adjacent to the Eastgardens shopping centre. The clearway hours are 6am to 10am and 3pm to 7pm Monday to Friday.  
On Wentworth Avenue westbound direction between Bunnerong Road and Denison Street, currently there is existing timed ‘No Parking’ restriction from 8.30am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.30am to 12.30pm on Saturday. The new weekday peak hour clearway will replace the current ‘No Parking’ condition in this section.  
The new clearways will help improve traffic flow during morning and afternoon peak hours.  
No parking hours remain the same on Saturday between 8.30am to 12.30pm  
Vehicles parked in a clearway during clearway hours risk being towed and fined. |
| 3. Extended ‘No Stopping’ restrictions | There is no point extending the No Stopping for an extra 20 meters. The traffic built up is caused by vehicles wanting to turn right into Page Street. | The extended ‘No Stopping’ restrictions would help improve traffic flow through this busy intersection by allowing more vehicles to safely turn into side streets, and to improve traffic throughput at the intersection.  
Moving the No Stopping zone by 1 property (#19) will do nothing to allay the alleged congestion issue  
Transport has taken this feedback on board and re-investigated the proposed extension of the ‘No Stopping’ restriction in front of property 19 Wentworth Avenue. As a result, we decided to reduce the length of the ‘No Stopping’ to meet the minimum requirement of 20 metres from the |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>intersection outlined in the ‘Technical Direction – Stopping and Parking Restrictions at Intersection and Crossing (RMS 2011)’.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
|                        | The extended No Stopping will make it difficult for residents to find parking in the area. | Transport understands that the extended ‘No Stopping’ restrictions will change parking conditions in front of some properties, which may cause some inconvenience for residents and visitors.  
However, the primary purpose of state roads such as Wentworth Avenue is to move people and goods efficiently across Sydney. Any parking currently permitted on the State Road is not specifically allocated to residents or properties.  
Under justifiable circumstances, Transport has to make changes across the State Road network to improve traffic flow so that the roads are meeting their primary purpose.  
Residents and visitors are encouraged to park within properties where possible. If parking is not available on your property, you will need to park in local side streets and walk to your property. |
| 4. Traffic improvements| Agree that the extended No Stopping will allow a smoother traffic flow at intersections. | Transport thank you for supporting the extended ‘No Stopping’ at certain intersections on Wentworth Avenue to help improve traffic throughput.                                                                      |
|                        | A traffic light at Baker Street would solve a lot of traffic problem on Wentworth Avenue. | Transport will be installing new traffic control signals and extending the dedicated right turn lane on Wentworth Avenue into Baker Street.                                                                            |
|                        | The speed limit on Wentworth Avenue should be reduced to 60kmh (from |                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
### Category: Safety and environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70kmh) because vehicles race on this road at night.</td>
<td>Vehicles breaking the road rules should be reported to the NSW Police to request enforcement. An initiative of the NSW Speed Camera Strategy is to allow NSW residents to nominate locations for speed camera enforcement. Residents can visit the below website to formally nominate a location as a potential site for a NSW Speed Camera. <a href="https://www.saferroadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursayspeedcamera.s.aspx">https://www.saferroadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursayspeedcamera.s.aspx</a> The NSW Police is responsible for monitoring the road network to ensure road users comply with all road rules and regulations. We encourage members of the public to report speeding, dangerous driving or unsafe behaviour on the road network to the police.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorities need to target offenders who disregard the parking restrictions.</td>
<td>Vehicles parked in a clearway during clearway hours risk being towed and fined. To report a vehicle parked in a clearway, please call the Transport Management Centre on 131 700. Under NSW road rules, buses and taxis are allowed to stop on a clearway to drop off or pick up passengers. However, hire cars, including ride-sharing services, are not permitted to drop off or pick up passengers in a clearway. Emergency vehicles and registered postal vehicles accessing a public post box are exempt from clearways restrictions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is difficult to enter and exit driveways safely due to the speed and volume of vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Please consider road signs to warn road users</td>
<td>Transport considered the feedback. However, in this instance, in built up areas, signs are not considered necessary because the expectation is that road users are aware of such accesses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Category</td>
<td>Feedback</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>about 'Vehicles entering and exiting driveway'.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Trucks traveling on Wentworth Avenue are causing air pollution and vibration at my property. Please divert trucks to use Foreshore Road to Port Botany instead of Wentworth Avenue.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4.2 Out of Scope

There were a number of responses that were considered out of scope for this project.

**Table 3: Feedback received that was out of scope**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Feedback</th>
<th>Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Traffic improvements</td>
<td>Introduce ‘No Right Turn’ into Alfred Street from Wentworth Ave, Mascot to reduce accidents and bottlenecks</td>
<td>Transport thank you for your suggestion. We will forward the suggestion to the relevant department within Transport for further consideration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduce a dedicated left turn lane into Page Street in the eastbound direction on Wentworth Avenue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 Appendix

5.1 Appendix A – Project Update March 2020

Improving traffic flow on Wentworth Avenue
From Mascot to Eastgardens

The NSW Government released its roadmap to deliver the state’s future transport network, the Future Transport Strategy 2056, which acknowledges the vital role transport plays in the land use, tourism, and economic development of towns and cities.

We want to create reliable journeys by improving the flow of traffic on Wentworth Avenue between General Holmes Drive, Mascot and Burwood Road, Eastgardens.

To achieve this, Transport is proposing traffic changes such as 'No Stopping' under broad overhanging and clearance. This proposal specifically targets traffic improvements along Wentworth Avenue between General Holmes Drive, Mascot and Burwood Road, Eastgardens.

The proposed changes would improve connectivity and provide smoother journeys for the more than 45,000 customers using the road each day.

The new and extended clearways (as shown below) will form part of an already established network of clearways enhancing road connections for Port Botany and Sydney Airport.

There will be no clearways between Bay Street and Baker Street.

Between Bay Street and Baker Street, extended ‘No Stopping’ is proposed to improve traffic flow and reduce delays at intersections.

Between Burwood Street and Burwood Road, revised limited ‘No Parking’ restrictions would apply, in conjunction with the new weekday peak hour clearways.

Extended ‘No Stopping’ restrictions

Transport is proposing to extend ‘No Stopping’ restrictions at certain locations, as shown in inset below, to help improve traffic flow through the intersection on Wentworth Avenue between Bay Street and Baker Street.

What happens next?

Have your say

We welcome your comments on the proposal by Tuesday 14 April 2020.

Please provide us your feedback at:
.Artc/57/communities/5793

Placeing our customers at the center of everything we do is at the heart of our transport services and infrastructure decisions.

We will continue to listen to the community as the project progresses.

To find out more about this project, please visit http://nswroads.work/wentworthave

If your vehicle has been towed from a clearway, please call the Transport Management Centre on 131 700.

If you have further questions, please call 1300 706 232 or email clearways@raa.nsw.gov.au

Translating and Interpreting Service

If you need assistance with this document, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 131 450 so we can arrange an interpreter or translator. Your options include:

* Listening to a translation over the phone
* Accessing a translator over the phone
* Having a face-to-face interpretation

Contact TIS 131 450, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, free of charge. After hours use 1300 130 450.

Wentworth Avenue

November 2020

Proposed traffic improvements on Wentworth Avenue from Mascot to Eastgardens – November 2020
5.2 Appendix B – Distribution Area
5.3 Appendix C – Project Portal

Transport for NSW want to create reliable journeys by improving the flow of traffic on Wentworth Avenue between General Holmes Drive, Mascot and Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens.

To achieve this, Transport is proposing traffic changes such as 'No Stopping' and clearways.

Have your say
Feedback Closed as of 14 April 2020.

Placing our customers at the centre of everything we do is at the heart of our transport service and infrastructure decisions. We will consider your feedback and continue to update you as the project progresses.
5.4 Appendix D – Project Webpage
Proposed traffic improvements on Wentworth Avenue from Mascot to Eastgardens – November 2020
Transport for NSW

Improving traffic flow on Wentworth Avenue from Mascot to Eastgardens

Transport for NSW wants to create reliable journeys by improving the flow of traffic on Wentworth Avenue between General Holmes Drive, Mascot and Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens. To achieve this, Transport is proposing traffic changes such as ‘No Stopping’ and clearways.

The new changes proposed are as follow:
- Between General Holmes Drive and Southern Cross Drive extended clearway hours AT ALL TIMES will replace the existing peak directional 6am to 10am and 3pm to 7pm clearways.
- Between Bay Street and Baker Street – no clearway changes will be implemented, however, Transport is proposing traffic changes such as ‘No Stopping’ in certain areas to improve traffic flow and reduce delays at intersections.
- Between Baker Street and Bunnerong Road, proposed new weekday peak hour clearways from 6am to 10am and 3pm to 7pm.
- Between Dennison Street and Bunnerong Road, revised timed ‘No Parking’ restrictions would apply, in conjunction with the new weekday peak hour clearways.

What happens next?

We welcome community feedback on the proposal by Tuesday 14 April 2020.

For more information: If you have any queries or would like further information, please call 1300 706 232 or clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au. For more information visit http://www.driveway.nsw.gov.au/transport/wentworth-avenue