



**Questions raised by the community
at the Victoria Ward Community Forum
held on Tuesday 16 June 2009**

Questions Raised	Council's Reply
1. In regards to water coming off the Harbour Bridge, why isn't Council harvesting this water? Thousands of liters of water are coming off the Bridge.	Council has looked into concepts for capturing the water into tanks. However high contamination levels in the soil of Bradfield Park and in turn the excessive costs involved in excavation and removal of contaminated soils, have prevented installation of the various concepts Council has considered; including putting tanks above ground behind the new toilets. Council is continually exploring opportunities to capture the water and hopes that when Olympic Drive is upgraded next year that tanks could possibly be stored underground in front of Luna Park.
2. Why was the water storage under the playground plaza, that was considered by Council, not undertaken?	Council has looked at many options. The reason for not putting tanks under the Bradfield Plaza was cost of excavation and removal of contaminated soil. Previous maintenance of the Bridge caused lead issues for the soil beneath.
3. Can a notice be placed in the house that fishermen use under the Harbour Bridge that it is not a public toilet and directs people to the new public toilets?	Yes, signage can be arranged; but when the new public toilets are opened it is considered that this will address most problems.
4. What surfaces are being considered for Bradfield Park Central?	Council has considered a range of options including crushed sandstone and natural and synthetic grass (astro turf) surfaces.
5. Is the footpath widening on Broughton Street going to take up some of the actual road surface?	The widening of the footpath will be incorporated into the park and will not affect the road width.
6. The lights in Bradfield Park North are a target for vandalism, they need to be replaced with different types of lights.	The lights have been replaced and are deemed fit for their purpose.
7. After rain, the fig trees create 'goo' over the playground. This is dangerous and slippery. What can be done about this?	There is no real way for Council to stop fruit from trees being dropped. However Council is conscious of the situation created after rain and will ensure the equipment is cleaned regularly. The playground was deliberately placed under the tree due to shade provided.
8. After NYE the area under the Harbour Bridge is damaged, to the point of destroyed. Does Council have plans shut off Kirribilli as they do for McMahons Point?	Yes. Council already provides "managed access" in this area for New Years Eve. Council does the same as for McMahons Point regarding managed access, but does not close residential streets in Kirribilli as done in McMahons Point.
9. Can Council charge a token fee for access during NYE?	Council has firm views that the foreshores of North Sydney are open to everyone. The approach taken is "managed access" i.e. once the area reaches a safe, maximum capacity it is closed.
10. What is valve stemming? Do you combine this method with chalking?	Value steaming is the electronic recording of the position of the tyre valve and position of car. It is essentially 'writing' a ticket without writing a ticket i.e. ticket is prepared, car checked again

	<p>according to the advertised parking period. The car is then fined if it has stayed over time in the same position. This method helps turn over of parking spaces. The car is not chalked. Simply because the car has not been chalked does not mean that it has not been recorded or seen.</p>
<p>11. What are the vehicle driver’s legal obligations after dropping off an MPS (mobility parking sticker) person?</p>	<p>The moment the person leaves the car it is on offense to continue to display the MPS. The fine is \$486 for displaying permit without its owner in car; plus a fine for over staying sign, is an additional \$81.</p>
<p>12. Should motorbikes and scooters park in metered bays, if specific spots not available?</p>	<p>All advertised motorcycle parking spots are free. Council’s Traffic Engineer is constantly looking for new opportunities. Email council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au with suggested locations and these will be considered.</p>
<p>13. Are there facilities in North Sydney to keep bicycles e.g. lockers near wharves?</p>	<p>Council has already installed numerous bicycle parking throughout the LGA. Council is negotiating with the RTA and Ministry of Transport for a bicycle parking “cage” at the North Sydney train station. Council is currently reviewing the <i>North Sydney Bike Strategy</i>, and parking at transport nodes is being investigated as part of this study. Suggestions for specific bike parking locations are welcome and should be forwarded to Council. Email council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au</p>
<p>14. How does Council manage boat owners’ who leave their boats permanently parked on the street in unrestricted parking spaces e.g. Carrabella and Ellamang Streets?</p>	<p>Australian Road Rule 200 states that it is legal for a registered boat or trailer (less than 4.5tonnes and less than 7.5metres long) to park in a built-up area in accordance with any parking restrictions.</p> <p>Council’s Rangers do regularly inspect these trailers to ensure they are registered. However, if you happen to note an unregistered trailer, please forward the location to Council and the Rangers can arrange to have the trailer removed.</p> <p>A solution to boat parking is to install 12 hour parking restrictions. The impact of this will be to move boats to nearby streets. Therefore such changes must be implemented on an area-wide basis. Unfortunately the amount of signage required is extensive and Council does not have the funds to implement this across large scale areas of North Sydney.</p>
<p>15. Does the Traffic Committee consider that consultation with residents may produce opinions that don’t reflect what is best for the area?</p>	<p>The merits of any proposal must be considered. One component is consideration of the opinions of residents through the consultation process. It is up to the Traffic Committee to weight up the pros and cons of a proposal, whether supported by the residents or not.</p>
<p>16. The State Government’s current ‘impost’ on parking spaces in commercial buildings, is leading to owners of parking stations “moth balling” spaces. This is placing greater pressure on on-street parking. Has North Sydney seen this pressure yet?</p>	<p>The Mayor advised that she has spoken with the Treasurer on this issue, concerned that it is impacting on the financial viability of the North Sydney commercial district. For example it has impacted on the Catholic Church in Lavender Bay and the Kirribilli Club. Funds collected by the State Government are put towards public transport infrastructure. Much of the revenue is being used to fund commuter car parks for train stations that are not in or close to North Sydney. Council’s commercial car parks are not exempt from these taxes. The cost will increase from \$900 per pace to \$2000 from 1 July. Residential buildings do not attract a fee. NSC will continue to lobby the State Government to</p>

	implement these taxes in a more equitable manner and to have the funds spent throughout metropolitan Sydney.
17. On-street parking near Kirribilli shops has been reduced to 15 minutes. We acknowledge the need for high turn over, but this is often not long enough to even fill a script at the chemist. Can this limit be increased?	The parking changes brought into effect are implemented after consultation has occurred with neighbouring residents. Concerned residents need to write to Council to have the restrictions reviewed through the Traffic Committee. Email council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au or write to - Attention: Traffic Committee, North Sydney Council, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney NSW 2060
18. Does Council enforce any regulations regarding the size of vehicles required for building having access to narrow, small residential streets? Long trucks carrying equipment can get stuck down some streets.	Larger developments are required to submit a Construction and Traffic Management Plan. Appropriate conditions are imposed regarding truck sizes and routes. These conditions may be enforced by Council's Compliance Team and Ranger Services. In general, when not associated with a development, trucks are permitted to travel on any road which does not have weight restrictions. There are two types of weight restrictions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restrictions imposed because of the structural capability of the road. In these instances, oversize trucks cannot use these roads for any reasons • Restrictions imposed for resident amenity reasons. In these instances, oversize trucks may use these roads if they have a legitimate destination via this road. It cannot be used by oversize through trucks.
19. Who attended the preliminary community meeting, held 11 December 2008, regarding exploration of reactivation of the CBD Precinct?	The meeting was attended by both residential and business community representatives. The meeting was advertised via flyers, email, through advertisements in the local paper and Council's website. The report on outcomes from this meeting and for details of meeting attendees visit http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/5986-cbd.asp
20. Is the formation of a CBD precinct limited by the large number of businesses in the area?	Council is currently working with all stakeholders, both residents and businesses, to identify the most appropriate method(s) for engaging with the North Sydney CBD community. Further consultations will be scheduled in the near future to determine whether reactivation of the CBD Precinct is appropriate. For more information visit http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/6185-cbd.asp
21. Where is Milson Park community garden located? How can we get involved?	The community garden is located in Milson Park, on the northern side, near the Ensemble Theatre/near Bradley Ave, adjacent to the canal. To get involved contact Gordon Howlett, Chair of the Milson Community Garden Committee via email - howlett@brundee.com . The garden currently needs the donation of plants.
22. How can you get involved in the working bees at Wendy Whiteley's garden at Lavender Bay?	The next scheduled working bees are to be held on Saturday 30 August and Saturday 25 November. Bring your own gardening gear, gloves, weeding fork etc. Contact Jo Buttfeld, Secretary of Lavender Bay Precinct - jobutt@optusnet.com.au for more information.
23. What is Council's stance on development applications that propose a height increase to building on the outskirts of the CBD area? Taller buildings can impact on neighbouring low-level	Councils planning controls approach this issue in a three fold manner; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The LEP's (Local Environmental Plan) composite shadow map. Other than minor variations all new development must fit

<p>developments.</p>	<p>within the composite shadows created by existing development. This in its self ensures that buildings step down generally towards the edges of the CBD.</p> <p>2. Further LEP requirements requiring transition of building heights from the Northpoint building towards the boundaries of the CBD, with specific objectives that require the existing amenity of residential areas to be protected, and</p> <p>3. Development Control Plan requirements which reinforce and expand on the above controls.</p> <p>LEP amendments are in train which will place specific heights on all potential development sites in the CBD to further reinforce and clarify controls.</p>
<p>24. Can we get a briefing on the proposed 88 Walker Street development?</p>	<p>This development is being processed by the Department of Planning as a State Significant Development Application. Council is not the consent authority.</p> <p>Council takes on the role as submitter and Land Owner only. We have little influence over the process and public participation aspects of the proposal. The Department of Planning takes a different view to Council in regard to briefings and public information sessions and is generally not inclined to hold them</p> <p>It should be noted that the proponents carried out a letter box drop to everyone in the Beau Monde and 300 businesses and other residential neighbours in early March. Three (3) community information sessions were also held in March by the proponent. Comments and objections were due in writing direct to the Department of Planning by 3 July.</p> <p>It is open for the Council to request the Department convene a public meeting. However on previous occasions the Department has not been inclined to do so.</p>
<p>25. What is Council's stance on 88 Walker Street?</p>	<p>Council has yet to determine its position and has received an extension of time in which to do so. The application is to be considered by Council at its meeting of 6 July 2009. Note: Consideration was deferred to Council meeting of 20 July 2009.</p>
<p>26. How do you find out when and where Precinct Committees meet?</p>	<p>For up-to-date information about Precinct Committee meeting times, venues and contact persons visit http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/precincts , or alternatively contact Council's Community Engagement Coordinator on Ph 9936 8463 or 9936 8100; or Email precincts@northsydney.nsw.gov.au.</p>