

10.6. Embankment - Alfred Street North, Neutral Bay: reallocation of funding for critical works

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| AUTHOR | Ashraf Doureihi, Engineering Project Manager |
| ENDORSED BY | Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure |
| ATTACHMENTS | Nil |
| CSP LINK | Outcome 3 – An active community with space for everyone to exercise and enjoy the outdoors O4. Manage our open space and recreational facilities to ensure that they are well maintained and shared Outcome 8 – An effective, accountable and sustainable Council that serves the community G2. Put community needs at the core of everything we do and deliver excellent customer service |

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the proposed reallocation of funding within the 2025-26 Capital Works program to undertake critical embankment works along Alfred Street North, Neutral Bay.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Council's Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 note that “project prioritisation may change in response to emerging infrastructure risks, and that if this occurs, funding will need to be redirected accordingly”.
- Critical works to a sandstone embankment in Alfred Street North, Neutral Bay have been identified as requiring immediate attention.
- An inspection of the embankment has been undertaken by an independent Structural Engineer.
- After consideration, shotcrete will be applied to the critical section of the wall.
- It is proposed to reallocate \$210,000 from the 2025/26 Footpath Renewal Program to fund the works in Alfred Street North, Neutral Bay.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** Council note the contents of this report regarding works required in Alfred Street North, Neutral Bay and that these works are estimated to be in the order of \$210,000.
- 2. THAT** Council endorse the reallocation of \$210,000 from the Footpath Renewal Program within the 2025/26 Capital Works Program to address the critical works required in Alfred Street North, Neutral Bay.
- 3. THAT** Council's 2025-2026 budget be updated in the next quarterly budget review to reflect the changes outlined in this report.

4. THAT Council note that reporting items for the Delivery Program 2025–2029 and Operational Plan 2025-2026 will be updated in the next quarterly progress report to reflect the changes outlined in this report.

Background

Suspected movement in the retaining wall opposite 373 Alfred Street North, Neutral Bay, was reported to Council.

The embankment comprises a sandstone retaining wall, which is predominately made up of loosely stacked stones, is approximately 125m long with a height of 0.5m at the southern end, tapering to 5m at the northern end. The section of wall of immediate concern is the first 75m commencing from the southern end.

A consulting Structural Engineer was subsequently engaged to conduct an inspection and provide an assessment of the retaining wall in question.

Parking in this section of Alfred Street North has been significantly impacted by the Warringah Freeway Upgrade works.

Report

The consulting Structural Engineer's report noted that the retaining wall was in poor-to-fair condition across most sections, with a section that exhibited pronounced deformation that raised concerns of early-stage structural failure.



Figure 1: Alfred St Retaining Wall: Deformation (Ch15-35m)

Whilst the risk of the wall collapsing was assessed as 'low' and 'likelihood' unlikely, the consequences of injury to persons and property due to failure required Council to undertake unprogrammed remedial works.

The Structural Engineers report outlined the following three potential options to address the issue:

1. the application of shotcrete to critical section of the wall;
2. installation of temporary concrete barriers and roadway drainage control; and
3. monitoring and deferred intervention.

Whilst the installation of concrete barriers and roadway drainage control was initially proposed as the preferred solution due to the availability of funds, at an indicative cost of \$34,000, the application of shotcrete was eventually selected as the preferred option due to the proposed loss of up to six parking spaces for a period of 9-12 months that would occur due to the placement of concrete barriers.

Monitoring and deferred intervention was not considered appropriate given the potential of injury to persons and property.

Consultation Requirements

Community members in the vicinity of the works were notified by letterbox and signage installed along Alfred Street.

Financial/Resource Implications

The 2025/26 Capital Works Program currently has \$362,972 currently remaining for footpath renewal program across the Local Government Area. It is proposed to reallocate \$210,000 from the footpath program to fund this work.

Legislation

NSW Local Government Act 1993