

## **6.2. MM02: Loss of Open Space in Kesterton Park**

I was surprised to learn last week that the NSW Government plans to build a new wharf at High Street (North Sydney Wharf) positioned to the north of the existing wharf and accessed through Kesterton Park. The Government intends to retain a portion of the existing jetty and the 1.8m pathway that connects the current wharf structure to the Platypus site and build an additional pathway with retaining wall for access to the new wharf.

I understand that Transport for NSW consulted the community earlier this year and the decision to retain a portion of the original jetty was at the request of residents. Unfortunately, the residents may not have realised that to meet accessibility standards for both structures, two footpaths would need to exist side by side in the relatively small and much loved Kesterton Park.

It is difficult to tell from the flyer provided how much space the two pathways will actually take up but it could be up to 25% of the usable parkland. The proposed reconfiguration of the car parking area will also encroach on the park and the project will result in the loss of a number of mature trees. The new wharf is very imposing in size, but I am advised that the new pontoon-style wharf would need to be this size to withstand the tidal impact in that area.

While the size of the wharf may not be negotiable, I think we need to ask for a review of the car park and footpath configuration. North Sydney currently has significantly less open space per person than any of our neighbours and we need to be proactive in protecting the parkland we currently have. To my mind, building a second pathway, car parking and removing mature trees from this popular park is simply not acceptable.

### **I therefore recommend:**

- 1. THAT** Council write to the Minister for Transport and Roads, the Hon Andrew Constance, requesting an urgent review of the design.
- 2. THAT** the revised design ensures there is no loss of parkland, no net increase of hard surfaces within the park and no mature trees removed.
- 3. THAT** Council staff be authorised to negotiate an improved design on behalf of Council.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON  
MAYOR**