

Item 4.6 - Traffic - 22/3/19

N O R T H S Y D N E Y C O U N C I L



To the General Manager

Attach: Nil

SUBJECT: (4.6) Tunks Park, Montpelier Street, Fifth Avenue, Montague Street -
Proposed Trailer Restrictions Trial – No Parking Motor Vehicles Excepted

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DESCRIPTION/SUBJECT MATTER:

Each year Council receives a significant number of complaints from residents claiming that boat trailers, trailers and advertising trailers are causing parking, road safety, residential and visual amenity issues.

In recent years, and after extensive lobbying from Councils, including North Sydney Council, the NSW State Government introduced a number of measures to partially address these issues. However, Council continues to receive regular complaints about long term parking of trailers including box trailers, tradesman trailers, and boat trailers in residential streets and adjacent to parks, making it difficult for residents and visitors to find parking.

To address these issues, it is proposed to trial the implementation of “No Parking - Motor Vehicles Excepted” in existing unrestricted parking zones in the following streets where Council receives the most complaints about trailer parking:

- Montpelier Street, Neutral Bay.
- Fifth Avenue and Montague Street, Cremorne.
- Brothers Avenue, Tunks Park, Cammeray.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council implement “*No Parking – Motor Vehicles Excepted*” in the existing unrestricted parking zones on Montpelier Street, Fifth Avenue, Montague Street and Brothers Avenue (excluding the existing “Vehicles with Trailer Only” spaces) for a trial period of 3 months and a subsequent report be provided to the traffic committee at the conclusion of the trial.

CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol

Relates to ECM No: N/A

Standard or Guideline Used: AS1742.11; RMS Sign Register

Signs & Lines Priority: 2

Precinct and Ward: Bay/Neutral/Willoughby Bay; Tunks/Victoria

Impact on Bicycles: Nil

Impact on Pedestrians: Nil

Impact on Parking: The proposed parking restrictions are expected to remove trailers from the zones where they are installed to enable more parking for motor vehicles. It is possible that trailers may be relocated to nearby unrestricted parking areas where these restrictions do not apply. A three-month trial is proposed for these restrictions to enable Council to review the effectiveness of the restrictions.

DETAIL

Each year Council receives a significant number of complaints from residents claiming that boat trailers, trailers and advertising trailers are causing parking, road safety, residential and visual amenity issues.

In recent years, and after extensive lobbying from Councils, including North Sydney Council, the NSW State Government introduced a number of measures to partially address these issues which are outlined below.

Measure	Commence Date	Pros	Cons
Impounding Act 1993 (Unattended boat trailers)	1 October 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discourages long term parking of boat trailers • Council has power to impound boat trailers which are parked longer than permitted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only applies to trailers which are principally constructed to transport boats • Trailers can still effectively park for 43 days at a time, including minimum required notice period.
SEPP No. 64 Advertising and Signage (Amendment No. 3)	1 March 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prohibits display of advertisements on a trailer parked on a road or road related area • Prohibits display of advertisements on a trailer parked on other land visible from a road or road related area without consent from consent authority • Council has power to issue penalties between \$1500-\$3000. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does not apply to advertisements that are ancillary to the dominant purpose of the trailer.

However, Council continues to receive regular about long term parking of trailers including box trailers, tradesman trailers, and boat trailers in residential streets and particularly adjacent to parks, making it difficult for residents and visitors to find parking.

A number of residents have also raised concerns about the introduction of timed parking to increase turnover in residential streets, for which some residents may not be entitled to a parking permit. However, trailers are permitted to park for long periods in unrestricted zones within the same street and this causes frustration for those residents.

In addition to the measures described above, the RMS has also introduced a new parking sign “No Parking – Motor Vehicles Excepted” that Councils may use which is intended to allow parking of motor vehicles, and restrict the parking of all types of trailers and caravans. An example of the sign is shown in Figure 1 below.

A vehicle as defined in the NSW Road Rules (2014) includes:

- (a) a motor vehicle, trailer and tram, and
- (b) a bicycle, and
- (c) an animal-drawn vehicle, and an animal that is being ridden or drawing a vehicle, and
- (d) a combination, and
- (e) a motorised wheelchair that can travel at over 10 kilometres per hour (on level ground),



Figure 1 Sign example



but does not include another kind of wheelchair, a train, or a wheeled recreational device or wheeled toy.

A motor vehicle, as defined in the NSW Road Rules (2014) is “a vehicle (other than a bicycle) that is built to be propelled by a motor that forms part of the vehicle.”

To address these issues, it is proposed to trial the implementation of “No Parking - Motor Vehicles Excepted” for 3 months in existing unrestricted parking zones in the following streets where Council receives the most complaints about trailer parking:

Street	No. trailers parked (Feb 2019)
Montpelier Street, Neutral Bay <i>Between Eaton Street and Premier Street</i>	13
Fifth Avenue and Montague Street, Cremorne	4
Brothers Avenue, Tunks Park, Cammeray <i>(Excluding the existing “Vehicles with trailers” spaces)</i>	2

Following consultation with Councillors, it was agreed that supplementary signage will be installed with the above signs to explain to motorists what the new signs mean and what vehicles are permitted to park in these zones.



Figure 2 Montpelier Street existing trailer parking conditions

With regard to Tunks Park, it should be noted that Council adopted the Tunks Park Plan of Management/ Masterplan (Masterplan) in December 2018, with amendments, following a 6-week public exhibition period that concluded on 24 October 2018. The Draft Masterplan included 2 options for the alignment of Brothers Avenue, with the first option to retain the current alignment. Due to majority support for this option, it was determined that the adopted Masterplan would retain the current alignment. In addition, the Draft Masterplan included a suggestion to convert the designated boat trailer parking into bus parking. There was strong objection from users of the Tunks Park boat ramp to reduce the amount of boat trailer parking within the carpark. In this regard, it was determined that the Masterplan would be amended to clarify that proposals to reduce the amount of boat trailer parking spaces will not be pursued.

It is considered that the trial will not result in a reduction of boat trailer parking, given that there are 29 designated “Parking – Vehicles with Trailers Only” spaces, however invariably boat trailers are parked within other parking spaces despite designated spaces being available. The capacity of these spaces is generally adequate for the existing demand of boat trailer users in Tunks Park. Combined with ongoing enforcement, it is expected that the proposed trial will improve parking availability for non-boat users of the park, while ensuring existing designated boat trailer parking spaces are retained to meet the current demand. Similarly, ongoing enforcement of the designated trailer spaces is required to discourage vehicles without trailers occupying those spaces.

Community Engagement

It is proposed to notify the residents and organisations in affected streets through letterbox drops, prior to the installation of the parking restrictions, which will include details on how to provide feedback during the trial. Precincts covering the affected areas will be notified through the usual contact channels. In addition, it is proposed to send a direct letter to owners of trailers parked in the affected streets ahead of the trial as a courtesy.

In addition, with regard to Tunks Park, it is proposed to erect notices within the carpark, and adjacent to the boat ramp, and to write to submitters on the Draft Tunks Park Plan of Management/ Masterplan to inform interested stakeholders about the trial and how they can have a say.

A page will be set up on Council’s online engagement portal *Your Say* to provide information and updates about the trial, and to collect feedback throughout the trial.

The parking restrictions will be evaluated following the trial and the outcomes will be reported to a subsequent meeting of the Traffic Committee, most likely in September 2019.