



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY
CLOVER MOORE

14 October 2022

Dear Resident

Proposed changes to the Western Distributor Road Network

I have heard from residents in your area who are concerned about Transport for NSW's (TfNSW) Western Distributor Road Network Improvements proposal.

I am writing to let you know I share your concerns. The City of Sydney is now reviewing the proposal and preparing a submission to TfNSW.

I encourage you to make your own submission to TfNSW by its deadline, which is 5pm on Friday 28 October. We have asked TfNSW to extend this deadline, but this may not be approved.

The TfNSW proposal

TfNSW's proposal includes changes to the Western Distributor, and streets and intersections in Pyrmont and Ultimo. It includes:

- Constructing an additional on-ramp at Fig Street
- Expanding off-ramps to Pyrmont Bridge Road and Allen Street from one to two lanes
- Removing parking on Allen Street to create more traffic lanes
- Removing a signalised pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Allen Street and Harris Street
- Converting the zebra crossing on Bank Street at Pyrmont Bridge Road to a signalised crossing, which will increase delays for people walking
- Installing three overhead gantries on the Anzac Bridge.

Traffic congestion and safety issues

TfNSW says its proposal will improve traffic flows, and reduce congestion for drivers accessing the city centre, Pyrmont and the Harbour Bridge. However, these kinds of changes only ease motorway congestion for a short time, while the traffic increases the proposal will bring to Pyrmont and Ultimo will be permanent.

TfNSW also says it wants to improve safety for people driving on the Western Distributor but funnelling more motorway traffic into our local streets will put our community at risk.

The proposal:

- Increases traffic in Pyrmont and Ultimo by expanding off-ramps and intersections at Harris Street / Fig Street and Pyrmont Bridge Road / Bank Street to prioritise vehicle movements
- Reduce safety for people walking in Pyrmont by funnelling more traffic into streets and removing or changing existing, well-used pedestrian crossings
- Conflicts with the NSW Government's Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy, which proposes reduced traffic lanes, slower traffic speeds and increased tree plantings
- Requires the removal of at least 70 trees, including many high value mature trees
- Involves around two years of major construction works that will impact thousands of residents and visitors, as well as the L1 light rail and 501 bus services, and possibly permanent operational impacts to bus services
- Impacts the aesthetic quality of the State-significant Anzac Bridge and creates visual impacts for the surrounding residents due to the new overhead gantries
- Uses traffic modelling that fails to consider the new metro station in Pyrmont, which is likely to improve traffic in the local area.

Rather than planning for more driving, Pyrmont and Ultimo need planning that prioritises walking, cycling and public transport to reduce traffic congestion and pollution – and ensure your area remains a wonderful place to live.

How to make your submission

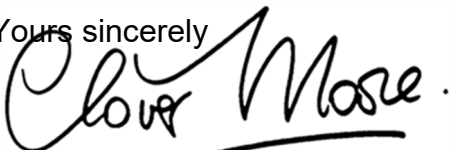
The City has asked TfNSW to extend the consultation period by two weeks until mid-November to provide enough time outside of school holidays for the community and key stakeholders to respond.

You can find out more about the project at the upcoming information sessions at Pirrama Park in Pyrmont and Ultimo Community Centre. You can find the dates for these sessions and download the project documents at nswroads.work/wdrni-portal.

I strongly encourage you to make a submission to TfNSW by its current deadline of 5pm on Friday 28 October at nswroads.work/wdrni-portal, by email to WesternDistributor@transport.nsw.gov.au, or by calling 1800 684 490.

If you would like to speak with a Council officer about the City's submission, you can contact Tegan Mitchell, Manager Transport Major Projects, on 9265 9333 or at tmitchell@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Clover Moore
Lord Mayor of Sydney