Clearways Proposal

Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road, Parramatta to North Strathfield

June 2016

Community Consultation Report
Executive summary

Roads and Maritime Services is proposing to implement additional clearway measures on the Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road from Pitt Street, Parramatta to the M4 Motorway, North Strathfield.

The proposal is part of the Sydney Clearways Strategy which aims to reduce congestion on Sydney’s roads. This Strategy outlines how to get more from Sydney’s roads by introducing new or extended clearways on roads that don’t perform to expectations.

Roads and Maritime invited community and stakeholder feedback on the proposal in February 2016. The proposal included:

- Installing new clearways in both directions on the Great Western Highway, between Pitt Street and Parkes Street, Parramatta
- Extending the operating hours of the existing northbound and southbound clearways, on Church Street between Parkes Street, Parramatta and Woodville Road, Granville
- Extending the operating hours of the existing clearways, in both directions on Parramatta Road, from Woodville Road, Granville to the M4 Motorway, North Strathfield
- Installing No Stopping restrictions to operate at all other times along the route.

The proposed new and amended clearways on the Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road would operate:

- 6am to 7pm on weekdays
- 8am to 8pm on weekends
- No Stopping restrictions would operate at all other times.

We distributed 3000 letters in the local area inviting feedback, carried out a door knock of businesses and held two community information sessions.

We received comments from six people, three supported the proposal and three opposed it. We will provide responses to all feedback both through this report and directly to the people that made comments.

The decision

Roads and Maritime would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who provided comments on this proposal and to the community and stakeholders for considering the project.

Roads and Maritime considered feedback and decided to proceed with the proposal. Following a review of the matters raised, we have decided to install a loading zone on the western side of Knight Street by reducing the length of the existing ‘No Stopping Zone’ to support local businesses.

This will help businesses on Parramatta Road with deliveries and pick-ups. We will keep the community and stakeholders updated on installation timeframes.
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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

On 1 December 2013, the NSW Government announced the Sydney Clearways Strategy as one of its key initiatives to reduce congestion on Sydney’s roads. This Strategy outlines how to get more from Sydney’s roads now – by introducing new or extended clearways on roads that don’t perform to expectations.

The NSW Government’s Long Term Transport Master Plan outlines a number of responses to traffic congestion in Sydney, aimed at improving travel on Sydney’s roads in both the short and the long term. One of the primary means to achieve this is the use of clearways.

The current clearways network has been in place for several decades, and has proven to be effective. Traffic growth in Sydney has reached a point where there is a need to consider further improvements in the use of the existing road network to reduce travel times. A particular need has been identified to extend clearways for weekend travel, where traffic growth has led to congestion levels similar to that of weekday periods.

It also sets out a process for engaging with local communities and councils and for providing alternative business parking to minimise impacts on local businesses and residents.

The NSW Government has committed $121 million to the clearways strategy which includes assisting local councils with alternative business parking solutions. So far, we have delivered 85km of new and extended weekend and weekday clearways across the Sydney road network under the clearways strategy.

1.2. The proposal

The Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road are important east-west arterial roads. The route connects Western Sydney and the Inner West with the Sydney CBD. It also provides access to major roads including the M4 Motorway, Woodville Road, James Ruse Drive and Silverwater Road. Sydney’s Bus Future also recognises Parramatta Road as an important bus route.

The Sydney Clearways Strategy identifies Parramatta Road for the introduction of extended clearways to manage congestion. In March 2015, Roads and Maritime installed new weekend and extended weekday clearways on Parramatta Road, from the M4 Motorway, North Strathfield to Wattle Street, Ashfield.

The proposed clearway on Parramatta Road would continue this clearway to Parramatta. The Great Western Highway and Church Street were also investigated for new clearways as they are part of the route to the west.

Following investigation work, Roads and Maritime proposes to:

- Install new clearways in both directions on the Great Western Highway, between Pitt Street and Parkes Street, Parramatta
- Extend the operating hours of the existing northbound and southbound clearways, on Church Street between Parkes Street, Parramatta and Woodville Road, Granville
- Extend the operating hours of the existing clearways, in both directions on Parramatta
Road, from Woodville Road, Granville to the M4 Motorway, North Strathfield

- Install No Stopping restrictions to operate at all other times along the route.

The clearways to be installed or extended along the Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road would operate:

- 6am to 7pm on weekdays
- 8am to 8pm on weekends.

The proposal would remove 92 business parking spaces:

- 18 spaces southbound on Church Street between Marion Street and Raymond Street, Parramatta
- 11 spaces eastbound on Parramatta Road between Knight Street and Powell Street, Homebush
- 63 spaces westbound on Parramatta Road between Knight Street and Potts Street, Homebush.

Studies of current parking demand and alternative parking options found sufficient alternative parking is available in nearby side streets.
Figure 1 – Clearway proposal for Great Western Highway/Church Street/Parramatta Road from Parramatta to North Strathfield
2. Consultation approach

2.1. Consultation objectives

Roads and Maritime consult to understand the concerns and needs of the community, so that this feedback can be considered in deciding the final clearway solution.

Consultation allows Roads and Maritime to:

- Build rapport with local businesses operators and residents and incorporate their knowledge and expectations to inform the project
- Seek community feedback on Roads and Maritime’s proposal
- Advise directly affected stakeholders of the proposal
- Advise the community about how they could obtain further information and communicate feedback.

2.2. How consultation was done

Consultation was open from Tuesday 2 February to Thursday 18 February 2016. The community and stakeholders were encouraged to provide their comments via mail, email, phone or in person.

We contacted people using a range of tools outlined in the table below:

| Stakeholder Meetings / Communication | • Meeting held with Parramatta Council (2 December 2015), Strathfield Council (28 January 2016), Auburn Council (27 January 2016).  
| • Phone call and email to Holroyd Council, Canada Bay Council and Sydney Olympic Park Authority (22 January 2016 / 2 February 2016).  
| • Phone call and email to the Member for Parramatta Geoff Lee, Member for Granville Julia Finn, Member for Auburn, Luke Foley and Member for Strathfield, Jodi McKay (2 February 2016) |
| Door knock | • 30 businesses near existing parking on Church Street and Parramatta Road were door knocked on Tuesday 2 February to discuss the proposal. |
| Local media Newspaper advertisements (Appendix C) | • Inner West Courier on Tuesday 2 February and Tuesday 9 February  
| | • Parramatta Advertiser on Wednesday 3 February |
| Community update newsletter (Appendix A) | • Delivered to residents and businesses in Parramatta, Harris Park, Granville, Silverwater, Auburn, Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, North Strathfield and Strathfield (see map in Appendix B) on Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 February 2016.  
• Direct mail to emergency services, schools and universities, large businesses, religious centres and community groups in the local area |
| Webpage | • Project webpage updated 3 February 2016 with latest project information including community update newsletter |
| Information sessions | • Two community information sessions held:  
  o Wednesday 10 February from 6pm to 8pm at Strathfield Library, Homebush  
  o Thursday 11 February from 6pm to 8pm at Granville Library, Granville |
3. Consultation summary

3.1. Overview

Feedback Summary and Roads and Maritime Response

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue category</th>
<th>Number of submissions</th>
<th>Issues raised</th>
<th>Roads and Maritime response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support for the proposal</td>
<td>4 comments</td>
<td>Support need for clearway to improve traffic flow</td>
<td>Thank you for your comments on our proposal, we acknowledge your support.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>4 comments</td>
<td>Clearways will reduce walk-in’s for small business</td>
<td>Any clearways proposal must ensure a balance between local business parking needs and traffic flow for road users. In order to balance these needs, where parking is removed to introduce a cle</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>arway, existing parking demands must be managed by finding alternative public parking nearby.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>An independent parking study carried out in 2015 found that the demand for parking could be accommodated in side streets with no changes to the current parking restrictions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>4 comments</td>
<td>Parking availability will reduce upon completion of nearby residential developments</td>
<td>It is the responsibility of local council to determine off-street parking requirements for new developments. This requirement is assessed during the Development Application stage using council’s planning controls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliveries</td>
<td>1 comment</td>
<td>Difficulty receiving deliveries by suppliers</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Local businesses are encouraged to use nearby loading zones for deliveries and pick-ups, where they cannot be accommodated within private driveways or accesses via local roads. This is similar to all other State roads where clearways and No Stopping restrictions are in place. Following a review of the feedback, we have decided to install a loading zone on the western side of Knight Street by reducing the length of the existing ‘No Stopping Zone’. This will help businesses on Parramatta Road with deliveries and pick-ups.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>There is not sufficient parking in side streets</td>
<td>An independent parking study carried out in 2015 identified there was low parking demand on Parramatta Road at Homebush. It was observed that many of the cars parked at this location were from adjacent car dealerships, parking cars for sale on Parramatta Road. It also found the demand for parking could be accommodated in side streets with no changes to current parking restrictions. Similarly, a parking study found the demand for parking on Church Street, Parramatta could be accommodated in side streets.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
3.2. Recommendations

Roads and Maritime considered feedback and has decided to proceed with the clearway and No Stopping proposal on the Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road from Pitt Street, Parramatta to the M4 Motorway, North Strathfield.

The proposed clearway hours are:

- 6am to 7pm on weekdays
- 8am to 8pm on weekends.

The benefits of the proposed clearways include:

- Improvements to traffic flow and travel times
- Reduced congestion and delays
- Improved reliability of public transport.
3.3. **Next steps**

Roads and Maritime Services will:

- Seek approval for the clearway and No Stopping proposal
- Advise the community and stakeholders of the outcome of the consultation
- Implement the proposed clearway (if approved).

We will continue to keep the community informed of the project progress.

4. **Appendix**

Appendix A- Community letter

Appendix B - Letterbox distribution area of community letter

Appendix C - Print advertisement
Have your say

Proposed clearways on the Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road – Parramatta to North Strathfield

February 2016

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking feedback by Thursday 18 February on a proposal to:

- Install new clearways in both directions on the Great Western Highway, between Pitt Street and Parkes Street, Parramatta
- Extend the operating hours of the existing northbound and southbound clearways, on Church Street between Parkes Street, Parramatta and Woodville Road, Granville
- Extend the operating hours of the existing clearways, in both directions on Parramatta Road, from Woodville Road, Granville to the M4 Motorway, North Strathfield
- Install No Stopping restrictions to operate at all other times along the route.

We have included a map to help explain the proposed changes. While the NSW Government invests in major infrastructure, it’s also rolling out immediate measures to reduce congestion and delays on Sydney’s roads. We know installing and extending clearways on weekdays and weekends can help reduce congestion in many areas of Sydney by allowing motorists to use all traffic lanes.

These roads have been identified as part of a wider proposal to implement amended weekday and new weekend clearways from Parramatta to Ashfield and ultimately into Sydney’s CBD.
Roads and Maritime understands and appreciates the importance of finding a balance between reducing congestion and the needs of road users, local businesses and people accessing services.

**What hours of operation are proposed?**
The proposed new and amended clearways on the Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road would operate from:
- 6am to 7pm on weekdays
- 8am to 9am on weekends.

**Alternative parking arrangements**
The proposal would impact 92 business parking spaces:
- 18 spaces southbound on Church Street between Marion Street and Raymond Street, Parramatta
- 11 spaces eastbound on Parramatta Road between Knight Street and Powell Street, Homebush
- 63 spaces westbound on Parramatta Road between Knight Street and Potts Street, Homebush.

A study of current parking use and alternative parking options found sufficient alternative parking is available in nearby side streets.

**Background**
The Great Western Highway, Church Street and Parramatta Road are important east-west arterial roads which form part of route A44. The route connects Western Sydney and the Inner West with the Sydney CBD. It also provides access to major roads including the M4 Motorway, Woodville Road, James Rose Drive and Silverwater Road. Sydney’s Bus Future also recognises Parramatta Road as an important bus route.

**Great Western Highway**
No Stopping/No Parking restrictions currently operate at all times in both directions on the Great Western Highway between Pitt Street and Finkle Street, Parramatta.

**Church Street**
Existing clearways operate from 6am to 10am and from 3pm to 7pm, between Mondays and Fridays in both directions on Church Street, between Parkes Street, Parramatta and Woodville Road, Greenvale. A No Stopping/No Parking zone is in operation at all other times in Church Street northbound and for most of the southbound section. Parking is permitted between Marion Street and Raymond Street, Parramatta southbound.

**Parramatta Road**
Existing clearways operate from 6am to 10am and from 3pm to 7pm, between Mondays and Fridays in both directions on Parramatta Road, between Woodville Road, Greenvale and the M4 Motorway, North Strathfield. No Stopping/No Parking zones operate at all other times on both sides of the road, except for a few short lengths between Potts Street and Knight Street, Homebush where parking is permitted.
Investigations for new clearways

The Sydney Clearway Strategy has identified Parramatta Road for investigation of new clearways. Roads were identified in the strategy for further investigation where:

- Travel speeds are less than 30km/h during peak periods
- Traffic flow is more than 800 vehicles per lane, per hour during peak periods
- The road is an important public transport and/or freight route for moving people and goods
- Alternative parking close to local businesses can be found.

The Great Western Highway and Church Street were also investigated for new clearways as they are the continuation of the A44 route to the west.

You can nominate a new clearway at saferroadsnsw.com.au/clearways/

Community information session

We would like to hear from you about the proposal. Please come along to our community information sessions on:

- Wednesday 10 February, from 6pm to 8pm
  Strathfield Library, Ironbark Meeting Room
  65–67 Rochester Street, Homebush
- Thursday 11 February, from 6pm to 8pm
  Granville Library Meeting Room
  8 Carlton Avenue, Granville

Members of the project team will be available to answer questions and explain the details of the proposed clearway.

Have your say

Roads and Maritime welcomes your comments on our proposal by Thursday 18 February. You can provide your comments by:

- Calling 1300 706 332
- Emailing clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au
- Writing to Clearways,
  Roads and Maritime,
  PO Box 973 Parramatta NSW 2124

Next steps

We will consider all feedback received before deciding whether to proceed with the proposal. A community consultation report will be prepared summarising the matters raised and will be made available on our website.

We will keep you updated as the proposal progresses.
4.2. Appendix B – Letterbox distribution area
Transport
Roads & Maritime
Services

Proposed clearways on the Great Western Highway,
Church Street and Parramatta Road
– Parramatta to North Strathfield
Have your say and community information sessions

Roads and Maritime Services is seeking feedback by Thursday 18 February on a proposal to install new clearways, extend the operating hours of the existing clearways and install No Stopping restrictions to operate at all other times on:

• The Great Western Highway, between Pitt Street and Parkes Street, Parramatta;
• Church Street, between Parkes Street, Parramatta and Woodville Road, Granville; and
• Parramatta Road, between Woodville Road, Granville and the M4 Motorway, North Strathfield.

The proposed clearways will operate from 6am to 7pm on weekdays and from 8am to 8pm on weekends.

Drop in and ask questions about the proposal at our community information sessions. A formal presentation will not be given, so please feel free to drop in at any time during these sessions:

• Wednesday 10 February from 6pm to 8pm, Ironbark room, Strathfield Library, 65-67 Rochester Street, Homebush.
• Thursday 11 February from 6pm to 8pm, Granville Library Meeting Room, 8 Carlton Avenue, Granville.

We look forward to seeing you there.

For more information call: 1300 706 332, email: clearways@rms.nsw.gov.au or visit: rms.nsw.gov.au/projects