

Item 12.**Traffic Treatment - Proposed Southbound One Way Restriction - McElhone Street, Woolloomooloo****TRIM Container No.:** 2025/741527**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Forum review the conversion of traffic direction on McElhone Street, Woolloomooloo between Cowper Wharf Roadway and Harnett Street, to southbound one way.

Forum Members for this Item

City of Sydney
Transport for NSW
NSW Police – Kings Cross PAC
Representative for the Member for Sydney

Advice

Advice will be updated after the meeting.

Background

In recent years, the school community of Plunkett Street Public School raised ongoing concerns regarding pedestrian safety and accessibility in Brougham, Dowling, McElhone and Nicholson Streets in Woolloomooloo. In response, the City planned design investigations for treatments to improve pedestrian safety in FY25/26.

The City obtained grant funding from the Australian and NSW Government Road Safety Program 2023/24-2025/26 for the full cost to implement the works as advised in the 24 January 2025 CEO Update.

The designed treatments include raised pedestrian crossings and streetscape improvements including footpath widenings, garden beds and enhanced street lighting at:

- Dowling Street, south of Cowper Wharf Roadway;
- McElhone Street, south of Cowper Wharf Roadway;
- Brougham Street, south of Cowper Wharf Roadway;
- Nicholson Street, west of Dowling Street;
- Dowling Street, south of Nicholson Street

As part of these changes, it is proposed to convert McElhone Street between Cowper Wharf Roadway and Hackett Street to southbound one way.

Comments

McElhone Street runs between Pring Street and Cowper Wharf Roadway and is currently a two-way road.

The proposal will reduce conflicts between vehicles and pedestrians at the planned pedestrian crossing by changing the road to one-way southbound.

As part of the design, kerb extensions will be installed on both sides of McElhone Street north of Harnett Street. This will narrow the southern end of the one-way section to prevent vehicles entering in the wrong direction. There is a loss of one parking space associated with the proposal.

As part of Transport for NSW's Authorisation and Delegation Instrument, the City is required to refer proposals which restrict or prohibit passage for longer than 6 months to the Forum.

Consultation

The City consulted local residents and businesses in the area. There were 687 letters sent out with 9 responses supporting the proposal and 1 response opposing the proposal.

One responder did not support the proposal due to the loss of parking associated with the changes. Other responses supported the proposal because it would improve safety for pedestrians.

Despite the parking loss, the proposal is justified because it will deliver significant improvements to pedestrian safety and accessibility, contribute to traffic calming, and enhance the overall streetscape quality.

Financial

Appropriate funding for the proposal will be secured once greater certainty on the construction timeline is reached.

WILL BEVERN, ENGINEERING TRAFFIC OFFICER