



## Pedestrianisation and Greening of QED and Park Drive – Fact Sheet

As part of a long-term plan to address the dominance of vehicles and to provide more green space, the Plan of Management proposes to work towards the long-term goal of pedestrianising Queen Elizabeth Drive (QED) Car Park.

### WHY IS COUNCIL LOOKING AT PEDESTRIANISING QED AND PARK DRIVE?

The proposal is long-term and subject to further feasibility studies and funding. If implemented, it would create 15 per cent more green and recreation space, and make Bondi Park and Bondi Beach safer and more enjoyable for pedestrians.

It would involve pedestrianising Queen Elizabeth Drive and relocating the current parking spaces to a new underground car park at the rear of the Pavilion (along Park Drive). The top of the underground car park would be roofed over with green space.

### WHAT HAS FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY BEEN?

In the first round of consultation in late 2012 people told us that the Queen Elizabeth Drive Car Park was an eyesore and needed to be safer for pedestrians. There was also a call for more green space and shade. In collaboration with independent design experts, Council established that replacing the Queen Elizabeth Drive and Park Drive car parks with an underground car park could address this feedback. The proposal was incorporated into draft concepts and directions.

Approximately 800 people participated in the second round of consultation in mid 2013. 60 per cent (of the 610 online respondents) said they supported the idea, with only 22 per cent in opposition. The remaining 18 per cent of people were neutral or did not indicate an opinion.

In August / September 2014, after the final round of consultation, there was increased opposition to the underground car park. This feedback is contrary to previous feedback and due to this discrepancy; Council believes that the questions raised may be addressed with further studies and design.



An artist's impression of the green roof over the underground car park.

### WHAT WERE THE CONCERNS RAISED ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND CARPARK? AND, HOW DOES COUNCIL PLAN TO ADDRESS THEM?

There were a few main concerns:

**Location inconvenience and views:** The proposed car park will be located at the rear of the Pavilion. Access to and from the car park will be provided by a lift, large enough to accommodate surf board and prams, or stairs. There will be easy access from the car park to the beach or park.

There will be access for emergency vehicles and there will be 'drop off' locations on QED.

**Price:** At this stage a feasibility study, to determine if the car park has merit to proceed, will cost Council \$100,000. A broad estimate of costs to build the car park is about \$30 million. This would be subject to funding and Council will be seeking assistance from the state and federal governments.

**Safety:** It is anticipated that the car park will not be open all hours at night. The design will also ensure that safety is not compromised.

**Disruption during construction:** Should construction go ahead, Council will work with contractors to minimise disruptions. Regular communication with businesses, residents and visitors will occur in the lead up and during construction.

**Environmental impact:** The environmental impact of the car park will be assessed and evaluated prior to it being built.

**Impact of sea level rise:** Council undertook a Coastal Risks and Hazards Vulnerability Study (2011). The study found that the current sea all along the promenade protects Bondi Park and Bondi Pavilion.

**Traffic congestion:** At this stage, Council believes there is no reason traffic will increase. The final car park will possibly have more than one entry and exit.

## WHAT WOULD THE CAR PARK LOOK LIKE?

The proposed underground car park could be approximately two to three storeys. It would be built utilising the existing slope behind Bondi Pavilion, with a green roof concealing it. This would ensure there would be no reduction in parking at Bondi Beach, where demand for parking is high. Some surface parking (on ground) would be kept towards the northern end of Park Drive to allow mobility parking or people staying for shorter periods, with direct access to the park.

Council would also investigate the feasibility of incorporating the Works Yard into the underground car park. The Works Yard currently exists as temporary buildings and structures behind the Bondi Surf Bathers' Life Saving Club building. The Works Yard is where Council staff and equipment are currently based for the essential work of cleaning and maintaining Bondi Beach and Bondi Park.

In the Interim Plan, Council's Works Yard remains in its current location (at the back of the Surf Club) and is upgraded to accommodate the beach rake and improved staff amenities. The building provides a small footprint, limited approximately to that of the present Parks Yard.

## WHEN WOULD THE CAR PARK BE BUILT?

Pedestrianising Queen Elizabeth Drive, replacing parking on Park Drive with green space and building an underground car park is a long-term project, which is subject to further investigation and funding.

Council will undertake a detailed feasibility study in approximately five years, including costings and design works with geotechnical and engineering advice. If deemed feasible, funding would then be sought and we will decide whether to progress the proposal.

## WOULD THE UNDERGROUND CAR PARK INCREASE CONGESTION AT BONDI?

There is no reason why congestion should increase. The plan would enable the area currently occupied by the Queen Elizabeth Drive Car Park to be pedestrianised and the width reduced to give back more green space to the park.

It is reasonably likely that the final car park would end up with more than one entry/exit, or an entry in one place and an exit elsewhere. The location of the entry and exit points are not at all decided yet. There are a number of options which would be considered in the detailed studies.

## WILL THERE BE CHANGES IN THE MEANTIME?

In the interim, Council is proposing to keep Queen Elizabeth Drive open for car parking but the area in front of Bondi Pavilion will be pedestrianised, as a trial.

To facilitate this, Council will conduct a trial by providing two-way travel on each side of the Pavilion, with turning areas to allow access into and out of Queen Elizabeth Drive to Campbell Parade. If the trial is successful this arrangement will be made permanent. The trial is expected to run at the end of summer 2014/2015.

## WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR MORE INFORMATION?

More information can be found at [www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bondipom](http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/bondipom).

You can also contact Council on **(02) 9369 8000** or email [bondipom@waverley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bondipom@waverley.nsw.gov.au)



Concept section through the Pavilion showing the 'opening up' of the building