



HORNSBY SHIRE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

ATTENTION **MEMBER FOR HORNSBY – Mr Matt Kean MP**
HORNSBY POLICE – Snr Const Narelle Tomich
TRANSPORT FOR NSW (RMS) – Mr Zakaria Ahmad
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HUTCHENCE – Council’s representative
THE MAYOR AND ALL COUNCILLORS – For your information
GENERAL MANAGER – For your information
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE & MAJOR
PROJECTS – For your information
NSW FIRE SERVICE – For your information
NSW AMBULANCE SERVICE – For your information
TRANSDEV NSW BUS SERVICE – For your information
NSW TAXI COUNCIL - For your information

Road:	Dartford Road	Suburb:	Thornleigh
Location:	Normanhurst West Public School		
File Ref:	F2007/01447	LTC No:	16/2020
Electorate:	Hornsby	UBD Ref:	
Subject:	Proposed changes to parking restrictions		
Date of Circulation:	16 July 2020		

REFERRAL OF TRAFFIC MATTER FOR COMMENT OR OBJECTION, IF ANY

SUMMARY

This report details the traffic implications of proposed relocation of existing ‘Bus Zone’ and set down and pickup ‘No Parking’ in Dartford Road, Thornleigh, at the front of Normanhurst West Public School.

SUBJECT

Council has received a request from Normanhurst West Public School to relocate the existing 'Bus Zone' to improve traffic flow and access to public transport. The current 'Bus Zone' (Stop ID: 212072) in front of Normanhurst West Public School is located on the approach to the pedestrian crossing and its current length cannot accommodate two buses at the same time which often results in buses blocking the road for through traffic.

Following meetings in November 2019 and June 2020 with the school and discussions with the bus operators, Council is proposing to make the following changes to parking regulations in Dartford Road:

1. Relocate existing 'Bus Zone' from its current location to the departure side of the crossing along the school frontage. The new 'Bus Zone' will be extended to 40 metres to accommodate two buses. The area occupied by the former 'Bus Zone' will be converted to 'No Parking, 8am- 9:30am, 2.30pm-4pm, School Days' and operate as a school set down and pickup zone.
2. Remove existing 'No Parking, 8am to 4pm, School Days, Authorised Vehicles Excepted' signs. Convert this area to 'No Parking, 8am to 9:30am, School Days'.
3. Install 6m long 'Mail Zone' at the existing mail box.
4. Install 37m long 'No Stopping' zone along the school side of Dartford Road near the intersection with Milson Parade. This will replace existing 'No Parking' signs in this area.
5. Change existing part time 'Bus Zone' to full-time 'Bus Zone' (Stop ID: 212073) located along property No 7 and 9 Dartford Road.

CONSULTATION

In December 2019, Council invited comments on the proposal from residents, tenants, bus company and Normanhurst West Public School. The proposal was also placed on Council's website. Furthermore, Council has held two site meetings with the School in November 2019 and June 2020.

Five (5) submissions were received by Council. Similar issues raised have been combined into a single comment. Copies of the submissions are available upon request:

Submission from resident – The creation of a full time 40m bus zone is excessive and unnecessary, the changes are being proposed to avoid two buses being backed up and blocking traffic flow during school pickup (and possibly drop-off) time. Suggest to maintaining the existing bus stop for school and public use. An additional part time bus stop could be introduced at the proposed location, to be in operation during school pickup time to act as an 'overflow' bus stop. The bus services do not run full time and thus there is not a need to convert it to a full-time bus zone.

Response – Council has reviewed the school bus timetable provided by Transdev bus company. The timetable shows that 2 school buses can arrive at the same time in PM school hours from 2:30pm to 4:00pm. The proposal has been revised to 22 metres long full time Bus Zone and 18 metres part time Bus Zone (2:30pm to 4:00pm, school days). The time table also shows that current time restrictions on bus zone do not cover bus operation times at Bus Stop ID: 212072 and ID: 212073. Although there are small gaps between bus operation times in a week, a full-time bus zone is recommended to keep consistent with other similar locations in Hornsby Shire. A full-time bus zone enables bus companies to extend their service to cope with the demand in future.

Submission from resident – 'Implementing the proposed changes will result is property owners of No 1 to No 9 lose up to 9 (3 spaces in front of property No 7 & 9 and 6 spaces around the proposed bus stop location) parking spaces that are currently used for second car or visiting family members. Also, closest parking for the visiting members will have to walk at least 100m down Dartford road.'

Response – The proposal has been amended to maintain maximum on-street parking and pick-up area for the school. Residents and their visitors will be able to park their cars outside restricted times of no parking areas and the bus zones. It is noted that 47m section of parking will remain unrestricted outside No 3 and 5.

CONSULTATION continued

Submission from resident – *‘OOSH Staff currently park their vehicles in the proposed bus zone. These people will be required to park further down the road, well beyond the school boundary and will be at least 150 meters of walk. Similarly, parents of the preschool who pick up their children from preschool at 2:30, before the primary school ends its day at 2:50, will be required to park further along the street. This will impact on parents arriving to collect primary school children, as the additional walking time will result in a later departure from the area, therefore coinciding with the primary school pick up.’*

Response – The proposal has been developed in close consultation with the School which supports the changes noting that it will have an impact on staff parking directly outside the school. Staff who generally arrive before the school starts can find parking away from the school’s frontage. Parking and walking is considered a safe alternative when available road space is limited and there are many competing needs.

Submission from resident – *‘The proposed changes to expand and relocate the school side bus stop pose a danger to children’s safety.’*

Response – One of the key reasons for relocating the bus zone to the departure side of the pedestrian crossing is to maximise school students’ safety, as parked school bus will not obstruct drivers’ sight line to pedestrians on the crossing. The proposal has been instigated by the school to specifically address this issue.

Submission from Normanhurst West Public School – *In view of the post Covid-19 traffic conditions school’s principal has requested to change the northmost pick-up and drop-off area to ‘No Parking, 8am to 9:30am and 2:30pm to 4pm, School Days’ to allow operation of organised pickup. The school has also requested to extend this area from 25 metres to 38 metres.*

Response – Council’s experience with afternoon pickup zones near primary schools that if they are not supervised they can generate significant queueing and congestion impacting on other road users and residents. It is recommended that a trial of organised pickup be conducted (min 3 months) and reported back to the LTC if adverse issues are identified.

CONCLUSION

The issues raised by the school and residents have been addressed in the report. The changes to the parking restrictions in Dartford Road including a 3-month trial of afternoon pick up zone are recommended subject to monitoring and reverting to drop off zone only if issues are identified.

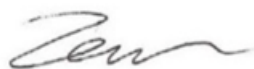
RECOMMENDATION THAT

1. Existing 'Bus Zone' in Dartford Road be relocated from its current location to the departure side of the pedestrian crossing along the school frontage. The new 'Bus Zone' will be a 22 metres long full-time bus zone with an 18 metres PM school times bus zone (2:30pm-4:00pm, School Days).
 2. The area occupied by the former 'Bus Zone' will be converted to 'No Parking, 8am to 9:30am and 2:30pm to 4pm, School Days' and operate as a school pickup and drop off zone. This area has been extended to 38 metres in total. The afternoon operation of the zone be subject to the school organising formal pickup activity and monitoring by Council staff for at least 3 months.
 3. Existing 'No Parking, 8am to 4pm, School Days, Authorised Vehicles Excepted' signs be removed. This area is to be converted to 'No Parking, 8am to 9:30am, School Days'.
 4. 6m long 'Mail Zone' be installed at the existing mail box in Dartford Road.
 5. 37m long 'No Stopping' zone be installed along the school side of Dartford Road near the intersection with Milson Parade. This will replace existing 'No Parking' signs in this area.
 6. Existing part time 'Bus Zone' (Stop ID: 212073) near No 7 and 9 Dartford Road be changed to full-time 'Bus Zone' and reduced from 25 metres to 20 metres.
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Note for voting Local Traffic Committee members.

Under the RMS' 'Delegation of Functions to Regulate Traffic' (operation of local traffic committees) you are required to comment or indicate your acceptance or objection to the recommendation of this report. Your response must be submitted in writing within 14 days of the date of this notice. Please send your response via return email for the item, or email trafficbranch@hornsby.nsw.gov.au. For further information please contact Radek Zarzycki on 9847 6524. Upon receipt of your comments the matter will be referred to Council for action.

Radek Zarzycki
Chairman



Date: 16 July 2020