

MM-1 MAYORAL MINUTE - BOAT TRAILER PARKING

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

Currently boat ownership in NSW is increasing at a rate of 2.9% per year, with around 204,000 boat trailers registered in New South Wales. In Canada Bay, this growth is evident with an increase in usage of our Boat Ramps and parking areas.

For many years, we have been lobbying the State Government to assist in relocating boat trailers that are parked permanently in local streets, taking up valuable “in demand” residential and visitor parking. The boats on these trailers can cause a safety issue as they are often in disrepair and are unseaworthy.

As a result of our lobbying, Council was invited to participate in the State Government “Boat Trailer Working Group”. The subsequent report released by this working group recommended a number of legislative changes to assist Local Government to control the parking of boat trailers permanently on residential streets.

The State Member for Drummoyne has acknowledged this issue, saying:

- *“We need a clear plan in place to manage the current increasing demand for boat trailer parking”* (Source: Minister for Roads & Transport Media Release dated 18 November 2014);
- *“You just have to walk down the local streets of Drummoyne to get a sense of the vast number of boat trailers that are discarded and sit in the street growing cobwebs”* (Source: Minister for Roads & Transport Media Release dated 18 November 2014);
- *“Often boat owners do have the space to store their boats, but it's more convenient to put them out on the street* (Source: ABC 702 Morning Show, 20 November 2014); and
- *“The Government was hoping boat owners would fold up their ping pong tables to fit their boats into their garages”* (Source: ABC 702 Morning Show, 20 November 2014).

To assist in resolving this issue, the State Government, as part of their various boating strategies, has announced that it will:

- Allocate \$5 million for off-street parking facilities in the Sydney Metropolitan Area;
- Authorise Councils to impound boat trailers that are left unattended for more than three (3) months; and
- Authorise Councils to issue fines for unregistered trailers.

This legislation has not yet been enacted and is currently not enforceable. Even if an off-street boat trailer storage facility was built, there would still be no mechanism to manage its use.

Council has been requested by the Roads & Maritime Services (RMS) to investigate the feasibility of a storage facility in the undeveloped area under the Gladesville Bridge. As a result of this feasibility study, a petition has been received, signed by 207 residents, objecting to such a development.

While the facility is possible:

- the cost would be significant;
- the potential for noise to surrounding residents would be great; and
- there would be no guarantee or way of forcing people to move their boat trailers from the street into such a facility.

I ask Council to join me in calling on the State Government to provide legislation that will enable us to successfully manage the issue of boat trailers being parked permanently on our residential streets. Further, I ask Council to decline the RMS offer to build a boat trailer storage facility under the Gladesville Bridge.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT due to the potential impacts and the lack of a “guarantee of use”, Council not proceed with the investigation into a Boat Trailer Storage Facility under the Gladesville Bridge.
2. THAT Council write to the State Member for Drummoyne requesting an update on the timeframes for enacting the appropriate legislation to better manage boat trailer parking.
3. THAT Council notify neighbours and the petitioners of Council’s resolution.