



THE CITY OF NEWCASTLE



PUBLIC VOICE COMMITTEE

Councillors,

In accordance with section 367 of the Local Government Act, 1993 notice is hereby given that a Public Voice Committee will be held on:

DATE: Tuesday 18 September 2018

TIME: 5.30pm

VENUE: Council Chambers
2nd Floor
City Hall
290 King Street
Newcastle NSW 2300

Jeremy Bath
Chief Executive Officer

**City Administration Centre
282 King Street
NEWCASTLE NSW 2300**

Tuesday 11 September 2018

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PUBLIC VOICE COMMITTEE
18 September 2018

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PUBLIC VOICE SESSIONS

ITEM-1 PV 18/09/18 - MOORE STREET BIRMINGHAM GARDENS

**REPORT BY: INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY
CONTACT: DIRECTOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROPERTY /
MANAGER ASSETS AND PROJECTS**

PURPOSE

A representative of the Regal Cinema will address Councillors at Public Voice regarding the Moore Street Birmingham Gardens Village Centre Public Domain and Traffic Plan (PDP). A copy of the PDP is at **Attachment A**.

BACKGROUND

The PDP includes proposals to address the following issues:

- i) traffic, cyclist and pedestrian safety;
- ii) traffic, cyclist and pedestrian connectivity;
- iii) poor and non-compliant infrastructure; and
- iv) lack of human comfort such as shade and seating.

A major driver for the project is the provision of a missing section of the R6 shared pedestrian and cycle path between Blue Gum Road and the underpass beneath Newcastle Inner City Bypass. This is from the Newcastle Cycling Strategy and Action Plan 2012 and is a priority under Council's Cycleways Program.

The University Drive/Newcastle Inner City Bypass (NICB) roundabout has a high degree of informal pedestrian movements (jaywalking) to and from the university. A pedestrian/cyclist count conducted by Council during a weekday afternoon peak hour, found that a third of pedestrians were jaywalking rather than using the tunnel. Providing the missing section of the R6 with appropriate fencing will help to divert potential jaywalkers to the existing underpass.

The existing un-formalised parking area can hold approximately 37 cars parked in an ad-hoc manner. If it was line marked to Australian Standard it would fit 19 car spaces without a shared path. To provide the shared path the PDP proposes formalising the car park to maximise parking spaces with the most efficient design resulting in 17 parking spaces, including 1 disabled space.

The PDP was endorsed by the Newcastle Council Traffic Committee (NCTC) on 21 May 2018 and placed on public exhibition from 28 May to 25 June 2018.

Council received 1,884 submissions in total. Of these 1,450 were standard emails from Regal Cinema customers objecting to the loss of parking spaces. Regal Cinema representatives also sent in a petition with over 400 signatures. The Regal representatives advised Council that customers come from far afield, are often elderly and infirm and are reliant on cars. Without convenient parking Regal representatives believe it will lose customers and close down.

Council undertook a parking survey on Saturday 23 June 2018 and Sunday 24 June 2018 during cinema showings. Results showed that there was sufficient on-street parking availability within 400m of the Regal Cinema to absorb the proposed reduction in parking spaces. Options 1 and 2 for additional parking were developed as follows (refer to **Attachment B**):

- i) Option 1 - 90 Degree Angle Parking on Wilkinson Avenue; and
- ii) Option 2 - Proposed New Footpath to Connect to Existing On-street Parking.

Options 1 and 2, as shown in **Attachment B**, were tabled to the Newcastle City Traffic Committee (NCTC) on 16 July 2018 seeking comments and in-principle support pending additional investigation and consultation. It was noted that Option 1 maintains compliant road width and stopping sight distance in accordance with Australian Standards and Austroads. The NSW Police representative however did not support Option 1 because of safety concerns relating to high peak hour traffic volumes and the bend in the road. NCTC provided in-principle support for both options and recommended referring the two options for discussion in the Council Workshop.

A Council officer met with representatives of the Regal Cinema on 21 July 2018 to discuss Options 1 and 2 for additional parking. The Regal representative preferred Option 2 (extra footpath connections) over Option 1 due to concerns over the impact on neighbours, however the Regal representatives written position in an email dated 30 July 2018 requests that there is no change and that the plan does not go ahead.

A workshop on these issues was presented to Council on 14 August 2018. A report will be considered at the Ordinary Council Meeting on 25 September 2018.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Moore Street Birmingham Gardens Village Centre Public Domain Plan and Traffic Plan

Attachment B: Option 1: 90 Degree Angle Parking on Wilkinson Avenue
Option 2: Proposed New Footpath to Connect to Existing On-street Parking

Attachment A

Attachment A

**Moore Street
Birmingham Gardens
Village Centre**

Newcastle City Council have prepared plans to revitalise Moore Street, Birmingham Gardens with a focus on improving traffic safety, upgrading the village centre carpark and improving cycle and pedestrian safety and amenity.

The proposal includes a new formalised carpark, threshold treatment at the laneway exit, improved pedestrian and cycle connectivity, trees and resting spaces including seating, bins and bike racks. Traffic calming will also be introduced to Moore Street and Wilkinson Ave.

The character of the heritage cinema is enhanced with character style paving and the introduction of formal and informal seating.

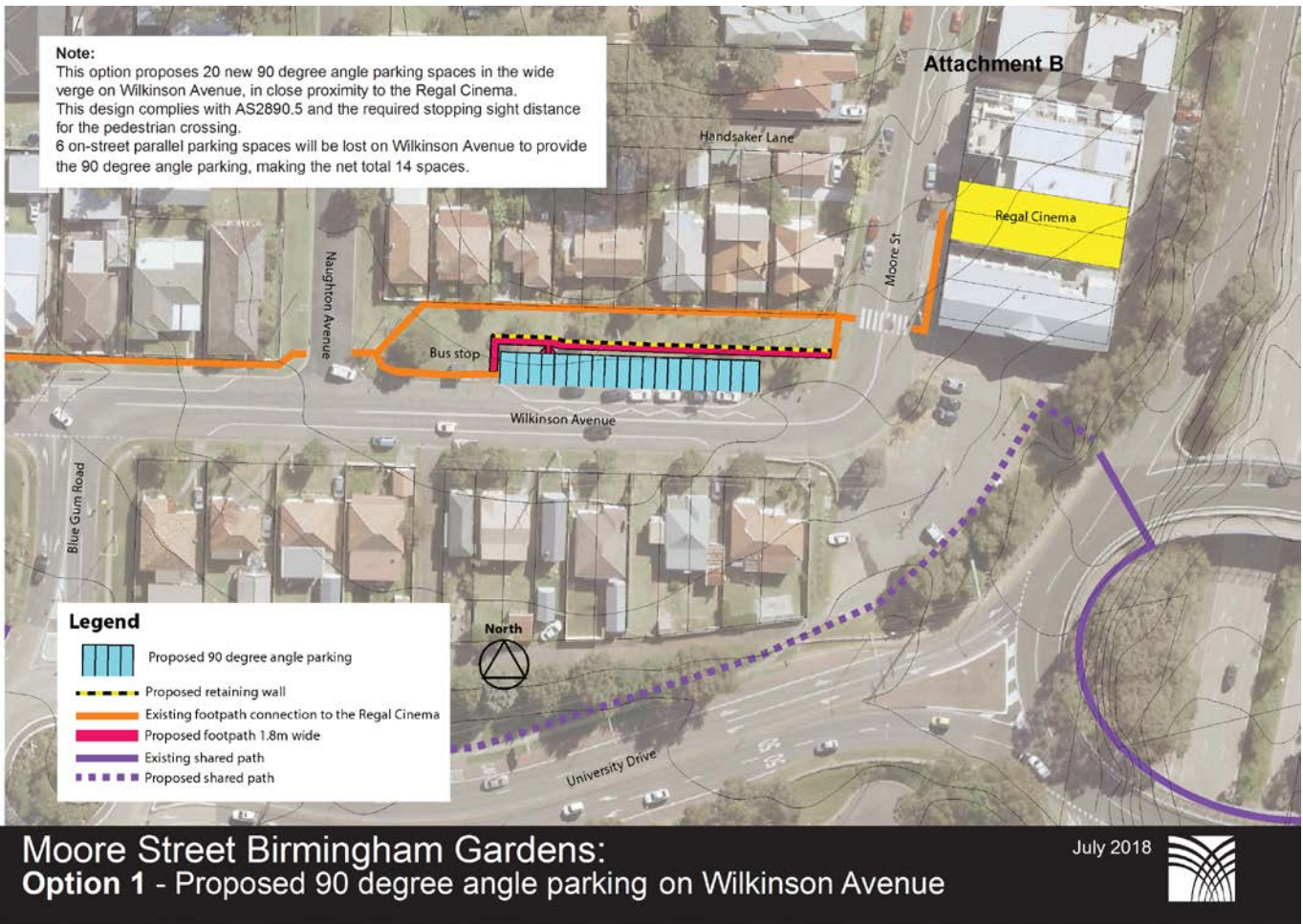
LEGEND

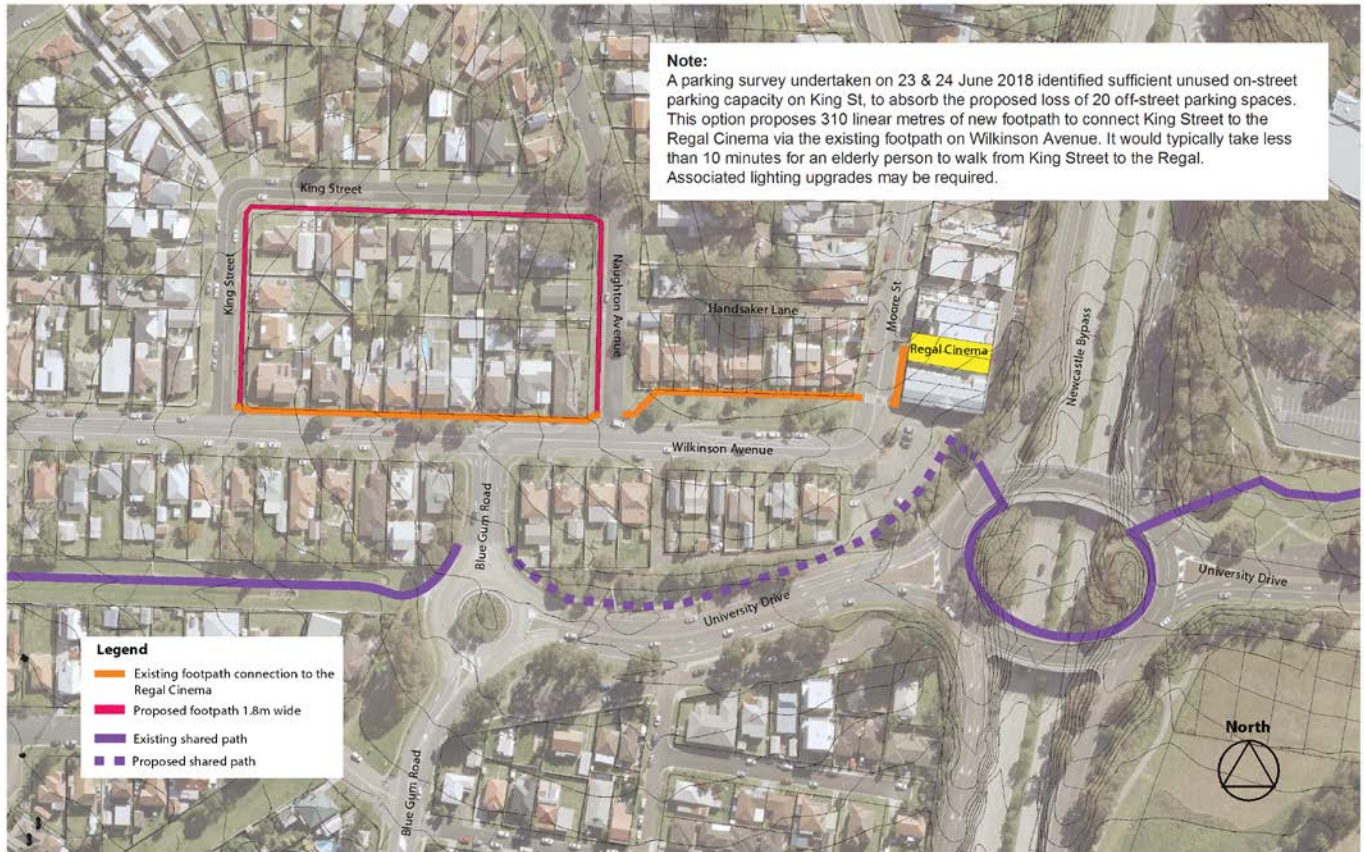
- 1 Existing Trees
- 2 Proposed Evergreen Trees
- 3 Proposed Large Shade Trees
- 4 Feature Paving to Cinema
- 5 Raised Pedestrian Crossing
- 6 Pedestrian & Cycle Priority Raised Threshold
- 7 Shared Path (3-3.5m wide)
- 8 Pedestrian & Cycle Underpass
- 9 Pram Ramp
- 10 Palms in raised planter wall incorporating seating
- 11 Mini plaza space with shade, seating and bin
- 12 Street Light
- A Relocated Bus stop & Bus Zone
- B Reorientated Post Box & Post Zone
- C One Way Laneway
- D Disabled Parking Bay
- Indicates site boundary



CONCEPT PLAN [1:250]
 These plans have been produced for communication purposes only at concept level and are not detailed civil designs. Final layout will be subject to a detailed design process and investigation of all service and technical requirements.

Attachment B





Moore Street Birmingham Gardens:
Option 2 - Proposed new footpath to connect to existing on-street parking

July 2018

