

MANAGEMENT OF MOBILITY PARKING IN INNER WEST

BACKGROUND

At the Council Meeting held on 2 November 2021, Council resolved the following:

THAT Council receive a report back on its management of disability parking spaces:

- a) *number of disability parking spaces in the Inner West, new applications and closed permits (over time);*
- b) *how people can apply for these spaces;*
- c) *renewal processes for disability parking spaces;*
- d) *what process is in place when these spaces are no longer needed;*
- e) *whether there is a process to open up use of these spaces if the permit holder is away for extended times; and*
- f) *Has the disabled parking policy been harmonised*

DISCUSSION

Council provides Mobility Parking spaces for people with Mobility Parking Scheme Permits throughout the local government area and monitors its usage.

It is acknowledged that many residents in the LGA do not have access to off-street parking and so residents can also apply for an on street Mobility Parking space outside of their residential address to provide improved opportunities to park near their property.

Note that these spaces are not reserved for private use and anyone with a Mobility Parking Scheme permit may also use these spaces.

Council has approximately 650 Mobility Parking spaces in operation across the LGA. In the last 12 months, 41 new spaces have been approved and installed with 28 redundant spaces removed.

Application process

Council considers the installation of Mobility Parking spaces in a residential area through resident submitted applications.

The application process was harmonised following amalgamation of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils and the application process is outlined for the applicant on Councils [webpage](#) and outlines the conditions and requirements of application.

The applicant must:

- Have a Mobility Parking Permit
- Not have access to off-street parking at the property
- Have a signed Medical Certificate
- Indicate that the parking space is to be used for parking of the permit holders vehicle or another occupants vehicle when regularly used (i.e. parked overnight)

Council officers assess the application which includes an on-site inspection to review any off-street parking and to determine feasibility of installing the Mobility Parking Space.

Should all conditions be met, the application is submitted for approval as a delegated item to the Local Traffic Committee. If a review of a decision is requested, an additional report is submitted to the Local Traffic Committee and Council.

Review and Removal

Council reviews the need for Mobility Parking spaces based on advice from the applicant, spouse of applicant, carer, or new owner of the property, and during periodic audits.

Audits are initiated either by Council as part of a periodic review (every 1 to 2 years) or when another resident advises that the space appears to be poorly utilised.

Council undertakes validation of the request during the audit which may include having supporting documents resubmitted.

Should it be determined that an application is no longer required, the matter is submitted for approval as a delegated item to the Local Traffic Committee. If a review of a decision is requested, an additional report is submitted to the Local Traffic Committee and Council.

Due to the time to process requests and arrange signage works, Mobility Parking signs are not removed for temporary absences such as if the permit holder is on holidays.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the implementation of the proposed recommendations outlined in the report.