



THE PADDINGTON SOCIETY Inc.
For Community and Heritage
Est 1964

The General Manager
Woollahra Municipal Council
PO Box 61, Double Bay NSW 1360

Attention: Ms Joanna Tanus & Mr Roger Faulkner, Open Space & Recreation 5 December 2024

Dear Joanna & Roger,

Your Say - Gugara Park Paddington - Public toilet proposal

Thank you both for the opportunity to meet on site with Paddington Society committee members John Richardson, myself and (by useful chance) Sally Snow and Steve Alchin.

All of us have been and continue to be regular users of and visitors to the park; we were actively involved with the very successful upgrade, from concept proposals in 2020 to completion in 2022. It's always a pleasure to see how well the park is loved and used by local community members.

That said, the Society questions the need for a public toilet, and it was interesting to learn that of the 70+ Your Say submissions received to date, opinions for and against were evenly divided.

We await the consultation outcome with interest, but note that we share concerns with those against the toilet installation in this small park, noting public nuisance, safety and cleanliness during usage.

We are advised that, if it proceeds, it will be a Stellar Washrooms toilet, closed from sunset to sunrise, and will be cleaned twice daily.

Two options for locating the toilet have been suggested. Option 1 is adjacent to The Terraces on the south side of the open lawn area; Option 2 is adjacent to the Stephen Street entrance.

For the following reasons we believe that neither option is suitable in this context.

We confirm our objection to Option 1 - it will be

- Highly visible from the lawn, the centre piece of the park
- In the centre of the axis of the original Scottish Hospital building on Cooper Street, the last remnant of the 1849 Bradley Villa, now flanked by the two new wings of The Terraces
- Highly visible from the 'entry lawn' within The Terraces site
- Highly visible from the entrances to The Terraces buildings
- Requires a significant path extension that reduces the lawn area

We confirm our objection to Option 2 - it will be

- Highly visible from Stephen Street and internally from the park; totally inappropriate to the public domain of Paddington
- Disruptive of views into the park from Stephen Street
- Remote from the play area for younger children

If Council determines to proceed with a toilet in the park, we have discussed several alternatives and recommend the following locations:

Preferred: Option 3 - Brown Street north - it will be

- Located north of the path at the Brown Street entrance
- Defined by shrubbery at the point where the public enters the park at the northern boundary
- Unobtrusive and difficult to see from Brown Street, minimal impact on the public domain
- Option with the least visibility from The Terraces
- Outside the 'curtilage' of the park and lawn
- Closest to the younger children's playground

Option 4, Brown Street south - it will be

- Located south of the path at the Brown Street entrance
- Shielded from Brown Street by the planting along the western boundary
- More visible from within the park than Option 3
- Distant from Brown Street beyond the entrance road to The Terraces

Option 5, south boundary, west of The Terraces lawn - it will be

- Located west of the alignment of The Terraces lawn, outside the eucalypt drip line
- Off the axis to the original Scottish Hospital building
- Less visible from The Terraces than Option 1 - and Option 2
- Still requires a path extension.

We understand that Sydney Water proposes to take part of the site as a construction site for relining the Bondi sewer that runs beneath the park. Sydney Water timing is completely beyond the control of Council.

If the preferred and best toilet location were to require eventual demolition, Sydney Water would be required to replace the toilet, with no cost to Council.

Council should therefore locate any toilet in the best possible place.

The recommendation of The Paddington Society is Option 3.

Yours faithfully



Esther Hayter

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