

Questions asked and Council's answers St Philips Primary School, 8 June 2011

1. Westfield Kotara

Q: Why aren't Westfield centre management here?

A: Council made several attempts to secure centre management's attendance at the workshop, including direct invitations to Newcastle and Sydney management. Their development application was not the purpose of this meeting.

Q: What has happened to the trial of paid parking at Westfield Kotara – it was meant to be a three month trial?

A: The parking was introduced as a permanent measure. There are no provisions for a trial period in any documentation held by Council. A paid parking trial was not suggested in the development application by Westfield nor was it a condition of consent suggested by the RTA (who were consulted because the development adjoins classified roads), nor Council in the consent issued to Westfield. When paid parking was introduced, 250 spaces were allocated as staff spaces. With respect to Westfield's new development application, Council is currently awaiting more information before it can be assessed.

Q: How many car parks do they currently provide for shoppers, and how does this compare with what they should be providing at a development of this size?

A: The developer has provided all the car parking that has been required by the development consents issued by the Court and by Council. Currently, there are 3080 spaces, with a further 138 spaces due once the bowling alley is constructed (totalling 3218 spaces).

Q: What are the requirements for staff parking?

A: Council's Development Control Plan (2005) and the RTA's Guide to Traffic Generating Development do not have staff parking requirements for retail developments, but include this consideration into the general rate of retail development by area and carparking spaces required. There are currently 250 staff carparking spaces.

Q: How many individual shops are in the centre?

A: According to the Westfield website, there are currently 266 retailers in the centre. Council's assessment of carparking demand relates to **floor space** rather than the number of shops in a centre.

Q: Tuesdays are less busy than Thursdays or Christmas time – staff numbers would have to vary during the week?

A: True. Traffic reports measure peak demand to determine the appropriate parking rate.

Q: What about the addition of a cinema and a bowling alley – we would like Westfield to adhere to their original conditions of consent.

A: The current application relates only to the 250 staff carparking spaces. The addition of a cinema and/or a bowling alley was as a separate development application and an additional 138 car spaces are required to be provided to the total currently within the centre.

2. Traffic Management

Q: What about specific concerns on my street, or out the front of my house (sequencing of lights, speed humps, signage for trucks, merits of one device over another)?

A: A submission form was distributed to all participants of the session for the compilation of specific details for correction in the proposed traffic management plan. On the evening, 71 forms were submitted. Submissions are welcome until 30 June 2011. Information on public exhibitions is available at Council's website.

Q: There is just no way to get out of Joslin into Park Street, Westfield has made it impossible to get out.

A: A traffic light is proposed at this intersection. With community support, it could become the first priority item for construction of all those included in the documents currently on public exhibition.

Q: Why not close Joslin and send the traffic down Seaview instead?

A: The impact of any traffic management change must be considered for all affected residents, not just those attending a meeting. It is a difficult balancing act, and Council will always try to gain the most benefit from a change with the least inconvenience to residents. The suggestion of a roundabout at the intersection of Seaview and Park will also be investigated.

Q: At the crossing of Grayson and Vista, a four-way stop sign would be better than what's proposed, why can't that be installed?

A: The RTA does not support the installation of additional four-way stop signs across the state, until a policy is developed. There are 42 of these in Newcastle, and they do work well to prevent accidents.

Q: About 3000 cars use Vista Parade every day to get children to school, and to get to the church over the road. What can be done to keep the children safe?

A: This is a specific issue we will discuss with the school. A meeting was held on 15 June between the school principal and council representatives and proposed changes will be incorporated into the revised traffic and parking report.

3. Parking Management

Q: What about specific concerns on my street – for removal or addition of parking restrictions?

A: A submission form was distributed to all participants for the compilation of specific details for correction in the proposed parking management plan. On the evening, 71 of these were submitted, and submissions are welcome until 30 June 2011.

Kotara/Adamstown Heights Traffic and Parking Study Information Session



Q: Who's in favour of 2hour timed parking in any of our streets – it's a ridiculous suggestion!

A: A show of hands indicated that there was very limited support for the introduction of 2 hour parking areas in the study area.

Q: Saturdays are the busiest days, with sport in Hudson Park too! This parking scheme should be 7 days a week!

A: Any parking scheme will need to be considered for its impact on residents. If residents indicate that they have visitors to their homes during the week and at weekends, this will be considered in the final recommendations of where to put the 'green' timed 2-hour parking signs.

Q: What about changing the parking along Hudson Park to 'nose in'? That would gain about 100 spaces – especially useful on sporting days.

A: We will consider that in the final recommendations, weighing it up against the potential loss of park green space.

Q: Council should be sticking up for residents on this issue.

A: Any development application is assessed on its merits, no matter who is lodging it. Shopping centres such as Westfield are important community and economic assets.

Q: Could there be a working party, made up of a small group of residents, council staff and a few councillors, to work this through?

A: This is an option and the working party could report to Council's Transport Advisory Committee. Expressions of interest were noted on the submission forms, and others should contact Jocelyn Cardona on ph: 4974 2666 so she can forward your details to the resident representative who has volunteered to form the working party.