



2011 Residents' Association Inc.

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9 February 2022

Dear Councillor,

This week our members noticed that a bus shelter had been removed from the corner of William and Palmer Streets, East Sydney and that other bus shelters have been removed from other locations across the City of Sydney local government area.

Council's website states that the "City of Sydney is replacing 340 bus shelters" in the City of Sydney local government area:

<https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/new-city-sydney-street-furniture-to-revitalise-our-city>

We note with concern that the photo on the above-mentioned page shows a bus shelter incorporating a bench inside with what seems to be seating for only two persons (as against the seating accommodating four persons in each of the previous JCDecaux Australia shelters).

In addition, we cannot see any temporary seating being provided for bus commuters in those locations where the bus shelters have been removed. Bus timetable panels have disappeared.

As you are aware, the City of Sydney Council area has many elderly residents and other residents who are unable to stand for long periods. When those people wait at bus stops, the wait is an average of 10-15 minutes while all the time being exposed to wind and rain and with no protection from the sun when there is no shelter.

If the new shelters are only for two seated persons, this would be totally inadequate and a major step backward. If the new shelters are not to be installed for months, with no temporary seating and shelter installed in the meantime, that would be another step backward for the vulnerable in our community.

We have discussed the disappearing bus shelters this week with numerous residents in our local government area and we can report that there is a level of anger among the locals regarding this issue.

Comments have included: "Council discourages car use by making the streets narrower to negotiate and reducing car parking spaces with cement bollards so people can dine 'in the gutter', and encourages fewer parking spaces and more cycle racks in new developments, all of which push people onto public transport. And what happens? They take away a basic public transport amenity, a safe sheltered space to wait in away from wind and rain, and glaring sunshine and heat, with rising temperatures now the norm. It doesn't make sense."

We remind Council that there are public health and OH&S risks for the many people in our community who suffer from migraines and reflex epilepsy, both of which can be triggered by bright, strobe-like flashing and constantly changing digital displays, including those in bus shelters. Those digitalised displays can also be dangerously distracting for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians as they negotiate roads, cycleways and footpaths.

Referring to its new contract with the City of Sydney, QMS Media stated on 1 February: "QMS' new digital network features bigger, more premium displays with 90% of the advertising inventory being digital..."

<https://www.qmsmedia.com/qms-signs-full-suite-of-launch-partners-for-city-of-sydney-network/>

The Lord Mayor has previously campaigned on a "no street clutter" ticket which is inconsistent with this proposed flood of digital advertising in every bus shelter.

Please provide us with urgent answers to the following questions:

- (1) Will the new bus shelters have space for four persons to sit similar to the previous shelters?
- (2) Will the new bus shelters be facing towards the traffic so that commuters can easily watch for the next bus arriving?
- (3) Can the roof of new bus shelters, described as being made of thermal glass to reduce sun exposure, be upgraded to a solid roof to fully block the sun and be "sun safe"?
- (4) When exactly will the new bus shelters be installed?
- (5) Will temporary seating and shelters be installed while awaiting the installation of the permanent new bus shelters?
- (6) Can you confirm that no bus stops in the bus routes will be removed in the course of the current bus shelter makeover?
- (7) Can you confirm that the new shelters will not incorporate increased digital and conventional advertising as compared with what was in the previous shelters?

Yours faithfully,

Carole Ferrier

Convenor

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<https://2011residentsassociation.org.au/>