



2011 Residents' Association Inc.

ABN 78 862 101 665

PO Box 1513
Potts Point NSW 1335

1 May 2021

Dear Lord Mayor,

Earlier this week two massive concrete barriers were erected on the roadway in Victoria Street, Potts Point, apparently as "dining extensions" to footpath licences for several cafes and restaurants currently operating in Victoria Street.

The first barrier was erected at 142, 144, 146 and 148 Victoria Street. It encloses an area previously used as FOUR car parking spaces and its bare concrete material is decorated with garish graffiti-inspired designs. (See attached IMAGE 1.)

The second was erected at 195, 197 and 199 Victoria Street. It encloses an area previously used as TWO car parking spaces and its bare concrete is partly covered with ever-repeated children's stick figure designs and slogans. (See attached IMAGE 2.)

The 2011 Residents Association notes that the number of car parking spaces in our area has already been greatly reduced by the City of Sydney reserving dozens of car spaces for the exclusive use of GoGet clients -- and now six more car spaces have been removed from Victoria Street (and quite likely more from other streets). Where will residents, visitors, and service delivery and trades people park their vehicles?

In addition, the designs of these barriers are garish, amateurish and downright ugly. They do not beautify the streetscape, nor are they in sympathy with the terrace houses and magnificent trees of this heritage street.

Council's encouragement of more diners by day and by night into a residential street and within easy earshot of nearby residents (who live as close as five metres away) could be done more sensitively and with minimum impact, after proper consultation, planning and design. But these ugly concrete barriers and the outdoor dining areas that they enclose (with, obviously, no sound insulation) represent an attack on residential amenity and on residents' right to peace and quiet in their own homes. This is unwanted "vibrancy creep" from defined entertainment zones into residential areas.

We did not notice any DAs being advertised for this major change of use. The locals that we have spoken to find these unannounced changes most unwelcome.

The Committee for Sydney, whose current members include the City of Sydney, has

announced it believes "Sydney can have a vibrant 24-hour economy without sacrificing people's safety and wellbeing".

(<https://sydney.org.au/news-events/media-release/cfs-statement-significant-movement-in-support-of-sydneys-24-hour-economy/>)

We ask, how does the introduction of such ugly and bulky eyesores that are taking up precious public space and facilitating more noise in an overwhelmingly residential street - which has always been home to thousands of residents including shift workers, elderly people, and everyone who expects the "peaceable enjoyment" which is the right of every resident in their own flat or house - not seriously impact "people's safety and wellbeing", as well as having an obviously detrimental impact on the hard-won heritage landscape of our neighbourhood?

We note that, overarching all these concerns, there is the real potential for serious Occupational Health and Safety Risks for both patrons and wait staff who are exposed to noxious car fumes just inches away from tables and food, and to cars moving at speed just centimetres away on the shared road.

Yours faithfully,

Carole Ferrier
Convenor
2011 Residents Association

Attachments:

IMAGE 1: See below

IMAGE 2: See below



