

21 March 2022

Our Ref: OLM2022/000782

Ms Carole Ferrier
Convenor
2011 Residents' Association
By email 2011rai@gmail.com

Dear Ms Ferrier,

Plane trees

I refer to your letter to the Lord Mayor regarding pollen from plane trees in Potts Point, and your request for more frequent street sweeping. The Lord Mayor has asked me to respond on her behalf.

Street sweeping

I know you would like the City of Sydney to sweep the streets in Potts Point every day, but unfortunately this is not possible. The City needs to spread its resources evenly across our local area. If City staff manually swept the streets of Potts Point every day, then we would need to take resources from other suburbs, and this would create problems for those residents.

The City regularly cleans the streets of Potts Point. City staff manually sweep the main streets and footpaths two to three times during the week, and we sweep and steam clean the area every Saturday and Sunday morning.

To help clear the pollen, the City has hired some smaller sweeping machines for Potts Point. These will sweep the streets, footpaths and gutters more efficiently and effectively, and City staff will be able to cover more streets than manual sweeping would allow them to do.

If you continue to see areas of Potts Point you think need extra cleaning, please contact the City's 24-hour contact centre on 9265 9333 and staff will respond as quickly as possible.

Should you wish to speak with a Council officer about street sweeping in Potts Point, please contact Matt Morris, Cleansing Operations Manager, on 9265 9333 or at mmorris@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Plane trees

I acknowledge that plane trees may be a problem for some people. The leaf and seed hairs of the London plane trees are known to cause some physical irritation. Grasses pollinate at the same time and can also be the cause of allergy reactions.

When the City of Sydney needs to plant trees, it does so in accordance with our Street Tree Master Plan (STMP). The STMP recommends a diverse range of both native and exotic tree species, with the aim of planting the most suitable tree in each street. The recommended species for Macleay Street and Victoria Streets is the plane tree.

The City limits the planting of plane trees to the main avenues of Potts Point, including Macleay Street and Victoria Street. Plane trees are a prominent feature in Potts Point. The large mature trees form many of the historic and significant avenues of trees and contribute to the sense of place for residents. Plane trees are deciduous, which means they provide valuable shade in summer but also allow sun to filter through in winter.

The number of plane trees as a percentage of the total street tree population has decreased from 14.2 per cent in 2014 to 12.5 per cent in 2022. The City is gradually reducing the number of plane trees as a proportion of our total tree population. We have done so over time as part of ongoing tree removal and replacement programs.

The City will be reviewing its Street Tree Master Plan within the next 18 months and, when we do, we will undertake extensive community consultation. This will give you the opportunity to offer input into the tree species we select.

Should you wish to speak with a Council officer about plane trees, please contact Tony Fisher, Tree Contract Coordinator, on 9265 9333 or at tfisher@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P. M. Barone". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer