

**ITEM MAYORAL MINUTE: BOLD SOLUTIONS NEEDED FOR
DRUMMOYNE'S FUTURE**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

Victoria Road is one of Sydney's busiest and most congested transport corridors, yet it is also the main street in one of this Council's major town centres. Issues relating to traffic and congestion, parking, and noise pollution have confronted Drummoyne for most of its recent history and these issues seem to have almost become insurmountable.

The stretch of Victoria Road through Drummoyne from Iron Cove Bridge to Gladesville Bridge has been a concern for this Council and for our community for decades. It is clear now that bold thinking is needed to ensure Drummoyne's town centre is able to reach its potential.

The time to explore all options for Drummoyne is now. The M4-M5 interchange extension to the Rozelle side of Iron Cove will be completed within years, funnelling more and more traffic from the City and adding more congestion from the new toll road network over the Iron Cove Bridge into Drummoyne and over Gladesville Bridge.

Documentation to support the M4-M5 Iron Cove Link indicates that by 2023, the volume of vehicles passing through Drummoyne and over Gladesville Bridge will reach 89,900 on an average week day. In 2033 once the currently planned tunnelling is complete, the volume is predicated to reach a staggering 98,500. Meanwhile, according to promotional material for the Iron Cove Link, traffic through the Rozelle section of Victoria Road will be 'almost halved'.

This Council cannot sit back and allow the State Government to make a freeway out of what should be, and can be, one of this City's most idyllic town centres. Our residents deserve better and we must fight for Victoria Road to be handed back to our community.

I believe the State Government must investigate the potential for the M4 tunnel extension to Iron Cove Bridge to continue under Drummoyne to the Gladesville Bridge.

The potential benefits for both commuters and for our local community are clear.

Handing back Victoria Road to our community would mean more trees planted along the stretch of road, safe cycling lanes, speed limits could be decreased, parking allowed in front of local businesses, and a transformed pedestrianisation of the precinct.

The potential for a tunnel under Drummoyne was discussed as part of Council's Victoria Road Urban Design Review and was well received, listed as one of the top ideas as determined by the local community.

We have and will continue to collaborate with our residents on local solutions. One of the outcomes of the Design Review was the Drummoyne Shared Spaces Project that will be discussed at tonight's meeting.

Local solutions like the Shared Spaces Project and the other outcomes of the Victoria Road Urban Design Review are important and we will continue to work within our means to build better town centres but, for Drummoyne, local solutions alone will not be enough.

I believe we must urgently call for the bold solution of a tunnel under Drummoyne to be seriously investigated by the State Government.

I hope that both of our local State and Federal members will be supportive of further investigation of this solution and I will be writing to them and inviting them to join Council in advocating to the State Government on this issue.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Nil

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT Council advocate publicly through all means available for the State Government to investigate the option to extend the M4-M5 Iron Cove Link under Drummoyne to the Gladesville Bridge.
2. THAT Council write to the State Minister and Shadow Minister for Transport and Roads requesting a meeting to discuss the issues of traffic and congestion on Victoria Road, the impact on local business and community in Drummoyne and the potential for an extension of the M4-M5 Iron Cove Link to the Gladesville Bridge.
3. THAT Council write to the Local Member for Reid Dr Fiona Martin and Member for Drummoyne John Sidoti to request they join Council in advocating for this bold solution to be investigated.
4. THAT Council inform local businesses, residents and visitors of our position on this matter and our campaign to improve the local amenity of Drummoyne by the extension of the M4-M5 Iron Cove Link to the Gladesville Bridge.

