

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM

MEDIA RELEASE

22 May 2013

De Luca welcomes Government moves on Boat Trailer Parking

Warringah Councillor Vincent De Luca has welcomed the report and announcement of Minister for Roads and Maritime Services, The Hon Duncan Gay, that a number of options are being explored about concerns over boats and trailers parking in suburban streets.

Cr De Luca has continually pursued the issue since 2011 when residents of Richmond Avenue Dee Why complained of trailers and boats dominating their street.

On 26 March 2013 Cr De Luca was successful in having his Notice of Motion unanimously passed which called on the NSW Government to reform legislation so as to give Councils power to move boats and trailers on in local streets

See the motion at: www.warringah.nsw.gov.au/council_then/documents/Agenda-OrdinaryCouncil-20130326.PDF

“I am delighted Minister Gay has responded to my and the community’s calls that boats and trailers in local streets are a major problem and that the issue needs to be addressed”.

“Duncan Gay is a Minister who I greatly admire as he listens to the people and acts”.

“The problem is getting out of hand in Warringah, particularly with trailers and boats parking in sports ground car parks, along Abbott Road sports fields and in our local streets. These trailers and boats take up parking spaces that our community needs and have an adverse impact on residential amenity”.

“I appreciate that a practical solution must also be found for boat owners and the great majority of boat owners respect residents’ and don’t park in streets and car parks but it is that small rogue element that need to realise the impact they are having on the community”.

“Yesterday, Minister Gay encouraged the community to comment on the Draft Report on the issue and the public have the opportunity to do so by 28 June 2013”.

“I encourage the community to have their say on this important issue.

*** For further information please call Cr Vincent De Luca OAM on 0408 650 651 ***

21 May 2013

BOAT TRAILER PARKING

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: My question is directed to the Minister for Roads and Ports. 24 Tuesday

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: Will he update the House on the management of boat trailers being parked on residential streets?

The Hon. DUNCAN GAY: The New South Wales Government is aware of concerns raised by councils and the community about boat trailers being left on streets for excessively long periods. This is a particular issue on congested residential streets near popular waterways, such as Sydney Harbour. In 2012 I referred this matter to the Maritime Advisory Council. A working group was established to consider available options. The working group comprises representatives from the Office of Boating Safety and Maritime Affairs, the Woollahra Municipal Council, the City of Canada Bay Council and the division of local government in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. The working group found that councils can partly address the problem through the introduction of parking restrictions and permit schemes, but that that simply relocated the problem to nearby streets.

Options identified in the report of the working group include giving council rangers the power to impound boat trailers that have been left parked in the street for long periods and allowing councils to take direct action against unregistered boat trailers. A survey of trailers parked on streets in the Woollahra and Canada Bay council areas found that up to 18 per cent of the trailers were unregistered and should not have been on the road at all. Before progressing any regulatory changes, the Government is seeking the views of other councils and communities so that a broader range of opinions and ideas can be canvassed. The feedback from councils is that not all trailers are the subject of complaints: It is mainly trailers that are left unattended on the street, sometimes for months on end, which cause problems.

The objective is to strike a balance between the right to legally park boat trailers on streets for reasonable periods and improvement in parking access on congested roads. The boat trailer working group report has been released for public comment until 28 June 2013 and is available on the Transport for NSW website. Since boats must be stored somewhere, the other part of the solution is to identify options to increase boat storage capacity. The Draft Sydney Harbour Boat Storage Strategy, which already has been released for public consultation, is examining the best ways in which to accommodate the growth in boat storage requirements on Sydney Harbour. It is pleasing to see local government authorities working with this Government to identify practical solutions to this challenging issue. I encourage interested parties to participate in the consultation process.