

The Hon Rob Stokes MP
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Australian Institute of Architects

25 May 2020

Dear Minister,

RE: Managing public space, transport and vehicles to support physical distancing and expanded parklands

On behalf of the Australian Institute of Architects I am writing to recommend several strategies for managing public space, transport and vehicles in support of physical distancing measures and expanded public parklands as people begin returning to workplaces.

We understand that additional temporary carparking is required while public transport cannot be in operation at its typical capacity and we want to see that this is done as appropriately as possible, with minimal encroachment on people's use of public space for active transport and exercise.

As you are aware, City of Sydney parks are being heavily used by residents, 75% of whom live in apartments. We wish to express our support for Lord Mayor Clover Moore's recommendation to Minister Constance to use alternative locations including existing underutilised carparks and other hard surface areas across the City. Like the Lord Mayor, we are concerned by the move to use Moore Park as an overflow commuter carpark but also understand the need for this decision in these circumstances and have been advised of your assurance that this will be a temporary measure only.

We also support the Lord Mayor's forthcoming proposal to convert the 18-hole Moore Park golf course to a 9-hole course. The original bequest of the land was made for the benefit of the city's people; more equitably beneficial use of the expanse of inner-city land currently occupied by the golf course will result from releasing a significant portion for free public access.

We welcome your recent announcement of an additional six 'pop up' temporary cycleways in the City of Sydney, which we hope to see become permanent. To promote greater and sustained uptake of cycling we encourage the NSW Government to support the development of further cycleway networks connecting workers with key employment hubs beyond the Sydney City CBD.

As an additional measure to reduce COVID-19 transmission, we call upon you extend car-free zones through CBD areas to maximise pedestrian space for physical distancing and to reduce crowding.

In the meantime, we will continue to encourage our members to work from home as often as possible and to walk or cycle to work if they can. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely

Kathlyn Loseby FRAIA Architect 6267
President, NSW Chapter
Australian Institute of Architects

CC – Councillor Clover Moore, Lord Mayor, City of Sydney