

**Item No:** C0721(1) Item 8

**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: CANOE LAUNCH RAMPS - MACKEY PARK

Council at its meeting on 29 June 2021 resolved that the matter be deferred to the meeting to be held on 06 July 2021.

**From:** Councillor Colin Hesse

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Notes the urgent need for repair works (and potential upgrades) along the Cooks River wall at Mackey Park canoe launch steps,**
- 2. Notes the public safety risks and lost opportunities for recreational activities and amenity for the local community due to the current state of the canoe launch space,**
- 3. Priorities the upgrade of the launch steps through an easing of the graded access to the river, and the provision of handrails in consultation with The River Canoe Club of NSW,**
- 4. Works with Sydney Water, Crown Lands and any other relevant body to carry out these works,**
- 5. Seeks grants funding from relevant sources and considers direct commitment of Council funds to ensure these works are carried out.**

**Background**

The sandstone rock wall on the Cooks River at Mackey Park is showing significant signs of deterioration, including water coming in behind the wall at various places, the decline of the wall, and regular inundation of the land behind the river wall.

The launch steps immediately adjacent to the River Canoe Club of NSW are similarly showing decline, with the corner stones loose.

Entry and egress to and from the steps and into a canoe are difficult at high tide, and worse at low tide. The steps are slippery, and cause canoeists to slip and injure themselves.

Safer entry to the river could be arranged by an easier grade and the provision of handrails.

In recent years the River Canoe Club of NSW has engaged significantly with the local community through regular sunset and sunrise paddles open to all at a very small cost, and their strong commitment to cleaning up the river through their engagement with the Cooks River Alliance, Inner West Council, and community organisations. The Club has demonstrated a genuine community focus.

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Director Infrastructure:**

It is important to ensure that recreational assets are maintained for safe and effective use by the community. Staff have inspected the wall. The deterioration of the river wall is significantly less than comparative sea walls which experience wash from powered vessels and tidal forces. Whilst the river wall is in poor condition in sections, staff are of the view that there is no imminent risk of failure or safety risk to the public.

Council has a Cooks River Parklands Plan of Management and Masterplan which incorporates the area occupied by the River Canoe Club. The Masterplan incorporates an Implementation Plan which prioritises works in the Cooks River Parklands. At this time, there is no proposal to undertake improvement works for access by canoes.

Land ownership at this location is complicated. The tidal part of the Cooks River is the responsibility of TfNSW (previously Maritime Services) and other land is owned by Crown Lands. Moving forward, staff will arrange a survey of the area to determine the location of assets in relation to the property boundaries and provide assistance and support to the River Canoe Club for grant applications.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.