

5.1**Mayoral Minute No 32/2011
Trial Park and Ride Facility at Melwood Avenue, Forestville****BACKGROUND**

Recently, Council resolved to take up the offer of controlling and enforcing parking restrictions at the Coles Car Park in Forestville. This followed a number of complaints by local businesses that there was not enough turnover of parking for customers given the regular usage by all-day commuters parking. With enforcement action in place, the commuters will be forced onto the street or other areas around Forestville which will present traffic issues to those local residents in the surrounding areas and issues for those travelling to the city to work.

Council has ownership of a large car park located in Melwood Avenue, adjacent to the Forestville RSL. Some 140 plus marked spaces are available. There is a Forest Coach Lines bus stop located outside the car park. While the car park sits largely empty for most of the week, there is still regular usage of the War Memorial Playing fields throughout the week.

Both Cr Falinski and myself, as members of the Forestville RSL War Memorial Playing Fields Community Committee, have discussed the park and ride concept with the committee. There appears to be broad support to trial a park and ride at this car park, however we would need to allow approximately two rows of parking to be made available for regular park users. Following this discussion with the committee I consulted with Forest Coach Lines, who are also supportive of the concept.

Specifically, if we consider that the car park has approximately 120 spaces that could be made available, there would be around that number of cars no longer parking in the Coles Car Park and surrounding streets. It would be envisaged that an empty bus would pick up directly from the bus stop outside the car park and would travel directly to the city without stopping. The success of this would rely on the take up by passengers of this option and we would require feedback from Forest Coaches during the trial period.

It would provide alternative all-day parking for commuters who will no longer be able to use the Coles carpark and ultimately provide them with a premium direct bus service to the city.

Basically, we as Council can't wait for the State Government to build a BRT or any other desperately needed infrastructure to deal with our congested roads. Public transport and the lack of it in our area constantly rates the number one issue raised by our residents in our community surveys. If we as a Council can provide some solutions at no cost to the ratepayers, I feel it is our duty to put these options in place now.

RECOMMENDATION

- A. That Council request Forest Coach Lines to undertake a survey of its passengers and potential passengers in regards to use of the site as a potential Park and Ride and report back to Council.
- B. Subject to the results of the survey and consideration of all the issues for the local community in the surrounding area, that Council, in partnership with Forest Coach Lines, undertake a 12 month trial of the park and ride facility at the car park located in Melwood Avenue, Forestville.
- C. If the trial goes ahead, that Council assist Forest Coach Lines in promoting the concept to the Warringah community.



**Michael Regan
MAYOR**