

CENTRAL SYDNEY

City residents lament installation of small roadside garden instead of car parks

RESIDENTS forced to park 10 minutes away from their homes are outraged that potential parking spaces have been turned into gardens in an area where parking is scarce.

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 Liberals councillor Christine Forster and Craig Chung (centre) with residents of Maddox St, Alexandria.
Picture: Danny Aarons

RESIDENTS forced to park 10 minutes away from their homes are outraged their requests to turn empty street space into car parks has been ignored in favour of installing garden beds.

The empty strip along Maddox St in Alexandria would provide three parking spaces for residents who currently have to park up to 10 minutes away from their homes. They say they are fed up with being forced to pay rates for unwanted neighbourhood projects.

Maggie Aitken, who lives several doors down from the strip, said the council has repeatedly ignored calls to provide much-needed parking in the area.

“There is a lot of money being wasted on projects which people have no say in,” she said.

Ms Aitken, along with other locals, contacted the council at the end of last year when they were - informed of plans to install garden beds along the strip.

In an survey Ms Aitken did of locals, 42 out of 44 people were in support of parking spaces over the proposed garden beds.

Ms Aitken said she would like to see the work halted and torn up in order that the parking spaces could be built.



📷 Liberals councillors Christine Forster and Craig Chung (centre) with residents of Maddox St, Alexandria.
Picture: Danny Aarons

“It is a waste but they have done the wrong thing by the residents,” she said.

Liberal councillors Christine Forster and Craig Chung requested the council halt works while consultation with the community was undertaken – works which Cr Chung said were accelerated after his questions.

Cr Chung said the situation was “bludgeoning people into not having cars” rather than council responding to “the way people actually live”.

“People have cars, they need somewhere to park and so to take away three parking spots is just trying to impose (Lord Mayor Clover Moore’s) ideology on the residents,” Cr Chung said.

Cr Forster said on-street parking was “a very scarce and valuable resource” which was being nibbled away at by the council.

A City of Sydney spokeswoman said the council received only one complaint about the project.

She said consultation was carried out with a letterbox drop of all nearby residents and businesses.

“The City balances the needs of drivers and the provision of parking spaces with its commitment to greening our city streets,” she said.