

<https://at.govt.nz/about-us/have-your-say/queen-street-changes/>

The City Centre Residents Group (CCRG) fully supports the pedestrian-friendly Central City Master Plan. However we are very concerned about the current "Queen Street Changes" suggested for Queen Street, the practical results of which, will be contrary to the CCMP, and prioritise the movement of traffic over the Place we all want.

This is going to be a retrograde step for Queen Street. Especially for, but not only residents living on the street. The numerous proposed loading zones will become de facto car parks given the lack of enforcement. The current loading zones are free parking at the moment and everyone knows it. So this plan will just become more LZs with more free, non-enforced car parking, and all the circulating traffic associated with this.

The indented bus stops will all become car parking after hours (even if they are said to become LZs). The LZs marked to be 8am-6pm will all become free parking after hours.

Prioritising P 15 loading/ unloading for cars where legitimate goods vehicles have a limit of five minutes is simply promoting and providing free car parking on Queen Street. Especially after hours when there is little or no enforcement. Again, this will just encourage Ubers and others and cars to circulate round and round looking for car parking.

Any proposed spaces must only be sufficient for legitimate services and good vehicles, plus mobility parking, not ordinary vehicles looking for convenient parking. This can only be achieved by proper enforcement to stop congestion, cars and Ubers circulating endlessly looking for parks. The result of these plans will be worse air quality outcomes, noise and much reduced safety for those on foot, bikes, scooters etc. The proposed 15-minute carparks should re-purposed to other interim purposes – scooter/bike parks, tables chairs, planters.

These proposals undermine every council strategy and plan which calls for the city to be more people focused and to get people out of their cars in order to reduce congestion and emissions.

And in addition these proposals will achieve exactly the opposite to the stated aim of "The interim changes focus on prioritising loading, servicing and mobility parking over the provision of general parking".

After hours most of the street will revert to 4 lanes of traffic as well. Air quality, amenity, safety and noise will all certainly deteriorate. It is unacceptable to regress in this way and to sacrifice the health & wellbeing of residents.

The CCMP vision that prioritizes people, especially the thousands of inner-city residents, has to be at the forefront of plans for the city centre, and these proposals prioritise vehicle movement, traffic and 'convenience' car parking.

We also would like to see evidence from AT of a workable and 24/7 enforced plan for any interim LZ/mobility/service vehicle parking in Queen Street.

In light of all this, the current 'Queen Street Changes' plans need to be fully reconsidered, to come up with plans that fulfil the intent and vision of the city centre masterplan, our climate emergency agreements and protects the interests of residents on the street, their health and wellbeing, as well as everyone else visiting and using the street.

We cannot and do not support these proposals.