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## Waratah Whispers – COVID issue

### Dear Residents and Owners

I wanted to write to you personally as the anxiety around the current COVID situation is on the increase. Our shared desire is that we return to normal life as soon we are able to, however the safety of our staff and residents is foremost in our application of the NSW Government advice. NSW Health issues daily briefings as a part of the Premier's regular press conference and Public Health Orders are updated regularly. Your Committee watches these developments closely, and all our decisions are based upon the Public Health Orders and the official health information available at the time. It is also important to note that, as the trajectory of the current outbreak of the Delta variant of COVID-19 in NSW is still evolving, further adjustments may be necessary. I urge everyone to consult regularly with the information from [NSW Health Latest COVID-19 News and Updates](#) and comply with these directives.

Everyone is aware that the health officials have been providing consistent advice about minimising travel around the city and not leaving home unless one really needs to. At her press conference on 14 July 2021 the NSW Premier announced a further extension to the lockdown for at least another two weeks until 11:59pm 30 July 2021. Our guidance around a number of matters communicated to you previously is, therefore, extended for this period. For your convenience I will reiterate them below in addition to further measures that the NSW Premier introduced on 14 July 2021.

### New Measures Introduced on 14 July 2021

The guidance states that from 17 July Fairfield residents who work in other LGAs must be tested for COVID-19 every three days, even if they do not have symptoms. It is the responsibility of the individuals to get tested and to monitor [Covid-19 Tests for Greater Sydney Workers](#) guidelines as further LGAs may be included in this requirement while the situation continues to evolve. Furthermore, affected workers, including third party contractors, must be able to present proof of having been tested for COVID-19 within the preceding 72 hours if requested by their employer or Police. Those affected workers unable to provide the required evidence will not be permitted to enter or remain on the premises.

### Non-essential Works

The OC has taken steps to postpone/delay any works that are not essential. The workers considered essential, such as Concierge staff, Strata maintenance staff and the Building Manager, shall wear a mask at all times upon entering the building. The OC has limited powers to make mask wearing a condition of entry to the building by trades engaged by an owner or resident, but asks, that you please only engage trades to carry out work that is absolutely essential and advise trades in advance that masks must be worn on the premises, and they must check in via QR code or Reception.

### Gym & Pool

It is with regret that, in compliance with the following NSW Health Order we must close our gym and pool facilities until further notice: "Indoor recreation facilities such as squash courts, indoor swimming pools, gyms, table tennis centres, health studios, bowling alleys and ice rinks must close." We specifically sought clarification to what extent this notice applies to strata communities and were advised that it applies in full. Gym equipment cannot be borrowed at this time.

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## *Visitors and QR Code*

In line with NSW Government Health Order you must not allow a person to visit your home, except for the reasons that can be found [here](#). Socialising isn't a reasonable excuse to have visitors. Effective 25 June 2021 we have registered our building with the NSW Government QR code check-in. Whilst we cannot mandate the check-in, we cordially ask that all visitors to the building scan the QR code before entry. QR codes are posted at every entry. The OC seeks your cooperation by asking your visitors to check-in to Waratah via the QR code. Please note that residents are not required to check-in.

## *Face Mask Rules*

Under the NSW Health Order wearing a face mask in indoor settings is mandatory except in homes. However, there are genuine reasons why some people aren't able to wear a mask. We ask everyone to be respectful to others as these reasons are not always visible or obvious. Some of the exemptions include children under 12 years of age, people with disabilities and/or physical or mental illness/conditions. For full details, please refer [NSW Gov Face Mask Rules](#).

## *Non-compliance with Public Health Orders*

Non-compliance with Public Health Orders are matters for NSW Police, but the OC is prepared to assist them with their enquiries.

## *Testing and Vaccination*

There is clear international evidence that vaccination at scale in the community is the only pathway to protecting individuals and society at large. That evidence includes clear data that the rate of hospitalisation, severity of illness in the community and death rates are all significantly reduced by vaccination. Accordingly, we urge everyone in the Waratah community to get vaccinated if you are eligible to do so and help support the containment of community transmission in NSW by getting a COVID-19 test if you are feeling unwell with even the mildest respiratory symptoms.

## *Help is Here*

Covid-19 is a challenge for everyone, and each of us may need support in different ways at some point in time. Help is available via a variety of channels. [Healthdirect Australia](#) is a trusted go-to government-funded service, providing quality approved health information and advice, including that on [Coronavirus](#). Coronavirus Mental Wellbeing Support Services can be reached on 1800 512 348. For more information on services available in this space, please refer [Mental Health Commission - Pandemic Fatigue](#). If you need any practical help, pandemic-related or not, just drop us a note to [SP38936@71victoriast.com.au](mailto:SP38936@71victoriast.com.au). We will do everything possible to assist. Needless to say, any request will be managed in a strictest of confidence.

## *Thank you*

The overall situation remains a challenging one and it is important that we all stay vigilant and observe NSW Health directives as the fastest and best way to limit the amount of time we face in lockdown. Finally, I thank everyone in our community for playing your role in assisting to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

*Natalie Budovsky*

*Chair SP38396*

*Best wishes to you, your family and friends from the  
members of your Strata Committee.*

