



Waratah Whispers – COVID update 05 August 21

Dear Residents and Owners

As the virus is emerging as even more serious and the Health Order goal posts and guidance continue to change your Committee and Building Management continue to adjust our operational arrangements. I am writing to you with the updated information about the cleaning and gardening services, and renovation matters. You may have come across a Daily Telegraph article a few days ago that implied that we may have been in breach of the Health Orders. This insinuation or any other assertions of this nature are false. Both the person who approached the Daily Telegraph and the journalist had access to all the relevant facts, however, both chose not to use them in order to sensationalise the story.

The Public Health Orders and Guidance issued by the NSW Government and the Department of Health has lacked clarity and led to widespread confusion and uncertainty in strata communities about what is and isn't allowed or affected by the rules. Overnight, the Government website [COVID-19 Rules: Renovations, Repairs, Maintenance, and Cleaning](#) has been updated and is now more helpful than previously.

We seek to follow the Orders and Guidance, contact the COVID-19 Helpline and/or Kings Cross Police (as the Order enforcers) when necessary or appropriate, and also do an internal risk assessment of any particular situation to ensure that we operate in a Covid-safe environment.

There is a general restriction or limitation in force that prevents people from the eight LGAs of concern leaving their place of residence in most circumstances.

We are receiving a lot of general queries from residents and owners, and try to address them in the Waratah Whispers as much as we can. Whilst the Committee continues answering your questions and keeping you informed on all of the important updates as they become available, I urge everyone to consult regularly with the information from [NSW Health Latest COVID-19 News and Updates](#) and comply with these directives.

Commercial Cleaning

As noted in the 31 July issue of Waratah Whispers, advice and guidance about strata commercial and waste management services and those authorised or not allowed to deliver those services have changed over the recent weeks. At one point (to the satisfaction of NSW Police in our case) continuation of this work by our usual providers who reside in an LGA of concern was authorised until a few days later when it was not. We suspended those services immediately. This left us (and many other stratum) in a difficult situation due to the shortage of local cleaning services. While we were trying to come up with a solution Kay, our Building Manager, and Vince, our concierge, went above and beyond their duties by managing our waste and performing the cleaning duties. We are genuinely grateful to Kay and Vince for supporting us during these difficult times. Their loyalty and dedication to the Waratah apartments are commendable.

Guidance on the Government website now is “*Waste management services and cleaning of common property of residential apartment buildings can continue*” as long as workers who reside in the eight LGAs of concern are not involved. Based on this guidance and with the help of T&M Building Management we have now secured a cleaner not affected by this limitation to attend to the cleaning duties on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. They will continue to be supported by Kay and Vince with both the cleaning services and, most importantly, with the waste management.

Essential Maintenance: Gardening

The Guidance has changed allowing workers (including garden work and other preventive maintenance) to work in Greater Sydney with zero contact with residents in areas outside of the eight Greater Sydney Local Government Areas of concern. Work is allowed if “*no more than five workers are working outdoors at the same time*”.

Our gardening services are reinstated effective 9 August. The gardeners have been instructed to stay out of the indoor areas and avoid any contact with residents. We also ask for your cooperation in this regard.

Residential Cleaning

The situation regarding private apartment cleaners has been uncertain but now seems covered by general guidance that allows for work at a place where people are living, subject to no more than two workers attend and, if an occupant is present that person is in a separate room. If contactless arrangements are not possible, work cannot go ahead. Refer: [COVID-19 Rules: Renovations, Repairs, Maintenance, and Cleaning](#).

Concierge Services

Concierge Services continue as normal with the exception of reduced services on Saturdays. Until further notice concierge hours on Saturday will be limited to 12 pm to 12 am (standard services are 9 am to 12 am). We appreciate your patience during these difficult times.

Renovations

Renovations including alterations or additions, repair, and maintenance work are allowed in a home where people are living, subject to the two person rule that applies to cleaning. Refer [COVID-19 Rules: Renovations, Repairs, Maintenance, and Cleaning](#). However, prescribed work does not include renovations at unoccupied homes. Refer separate [Rules for construction apply to renovations at unoccupied homes](#). Importantly, current guidance stipulates a requirement for and registration of a [Covid-19 Safety Plan](#). For more details on how to register and other rules, refer [COVID-19 Construction and Tradespeople](#).

In spite of everything that is going around us, life goes on. As permitted by the Health Orders and with the additional COVID-safe arrangements in place we will continue to approve renovations. Please liaise with the Building Manager.

Unless you observe breaches of the Health Orders, please note that the following renovation works have been approved: Unit 172.

Testing and Vaccination

In response to the NSW COVID-19 outbreak Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) issued a statement urging all individuals aged 18 years and above in greater Sydney to consider getting vaccinated with any available vaccine, including AstraZeneca. The full statement can be found [here](#). Accordingly, we urge everyone in the Waratah community to get vaccinated if you are eligible to do so. You can check your eligibility and make a booking [here](#). Please also help support the containment of community transmission by getting a COVID-19 test if you are feeling unwell with even the mildest respiratory symptoms. You can find a COVID-19 Testing Clinic [here](#).

New Useful Resources

[COVID-19 Construction and Tradespeople](#)
[Rules for construction apply to renovations at unoccupied homes](#)
[COVID-19 Rules: Renovations, Repairs, Maintenance, and Cleaning](#)
[Covid Vaccine Queue Aggregator](#)

Useful Resources

[COVID-19 Disaster Payment](#)
[COVID-19 vaccination registration - RPA](#)
[Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccination appointment service - Sydney Olympic Park](#)
[NSW Public Health Orders and Restrictions](#)
[Restrictions Adjustments published on 28 July 21](#)
[National coronavirus and COVID-19 vaccine helpline](#)
[Healthdirect Australia - Coronavirus Information](#)
[Emergency Assistance and Support Contacts](#)
[Covid 19 Vaccine Information and Booking](#)
[Find a Covid 19 Testing Clinic](#)
[Covid 19 Test for Greater Sydney Workers](#)
[What you can do in NSW - Regional and Rural NSW](#)
[NSW Gov Face Mask Rules](#)
[Disaster Payments and Business Support](#)
[Support Package for Tenants and Landlords](#)
[Search Covid 19 Case Locations](#)
[Greater Sydney Restrictions](#)
[Updated Restrictions as of 17 July 21](#)
[COVID-19 Rules: Renovations, Repairs, Maintenance, and Cleaning](#)

Natalie Budovsky, Chair SP38936

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

