



Waratah Whispers – COVID update 29 July 21

Dear Residents and Owners

I am writing to you with updated information about the lockdown and to bring to attention an internal matter of concern. The pandemic involves many challenges for all of us. Your Committee, aided by our staff and contractors, at all times seeks to act in accordance with the Public Health Orders and other official government guidance to ensure the safety and wellbeing of residents. Regrettably, a small number of owners continue to see fault where the vast majority take pride and satisfaction in the management of the strata. Feedback is always welcome, but voluminous, incorrect, false and trivial interventions that detract from priority tasks are not. During the pandemic, the NSW Government has called on us all to report to the Police breaches that have the potential to impact on others. However, a new low reached in recent weeks has seen false, sometimes anonymous, and today a direct complaint to the Police with no apparent basis. Our decision to reinstate commercial cleaning services was explained in detail in the previous issue of Waratah Whispers. This resulted in Police attendance at the building and caused severe distress to our staff. Naturally, police found no breaches and closed the matter within minutes; they expressed frustration that yet again their limited resources were wasted. The assertions made have all the hallmarks of attempts to harass and intimidate those who work here.

Building Manager Kay, concierges Vince and Ricardo and our long standing cleaning staff, Lucy and Joe, have all gone above and beyond in carrying out duties throughout these difficult times. We thank them for their remarkable efforts and the 99 percent of residents at Waratah for your co-operation and goodwill.

The difficult decision to extend the lockdown beyond 30 July 21 was announced by the NSW Government yesterday. Today 239 cases with 88 cases in the community whilst infectious were announced along with some further restrictions for the LGAs of concern. The current lockdown period is expected to last until 12:01am on 28 August 21. Whilst this decision was expected, I need to acknowledge that the lockdown will continue to present ongoing challenges for both the management of our building and for each and every one of us, in different and very personal ways. If you need any help or support, please send a quick email. We have a number of wonderful residents, who have generously offered their time to provide support to fellow neighbours.

Whilst the Committee continues to keep 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 and Essential Maintenance

I note that in addition to involving the Police as described above, concerns were raised by two owners in regard to safety of the reinstated commercial cleaning services as advised in the Waratah Whispers of 26 July 21. Hiring new cleaners or extending the services of the Building Manager and/or Concierge to perform these tasks, as was suggested, is not only impractical, but it also creates different and much higher risks than engaging the services of our usual, trusted providers in a COVID-19 safe manner and in full compliance with the Health Order. I note again that commercial cleaners are classified as “authorised workers” under [COVID-19 NSW Rules](#). Their services fall under lockdown items 9 “waste resource recovery services (including collection, treatment and disposal services)” and 12 “essential services for the maintenance, safety and upkeep of public and recreational spaces” as confirmed to us via a direct specific enquiry to the COVID-19 hotline. We will closely monitor the situation, and if anything changes, we will take appropriate actions.

Construction, Trades and Residential Cleaning

From 12.01 am on 31 July:

- Construction in non-occupied settings outside of the LGAs of concern (with no residents on-site) will re-open subject to a one person per 4 sq. m rule. These low-risk construction sites must have COVID safe plans in place, and compliance must be strictly enforced.
- Trades people, including residential cleaners, who are able to work with zero contact with residents will also be allowed to resume (no more than two people inside and five outside). If contactless arrangements are not possible, work cannot go ahead.
- The LGAs of concern are: Parramatta, Campbelltown, Georges River, Blacktown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield and Liverpool.
- Workers from the eight LGAs of concern are not allowed to leave their LGA, therefore you must not engage construction workers, trades people and/or cleaners who reside in these LGAs.

Concierge Services

Ricardo Monteiro, our Security-Concierge who works during the hours of 1 pm to 10 pm, resides in one of the listed LGAs and therefore cannot leave home to go to work; residential security/concierges are not listed as authorised workers. As a result, there will be a temporary security/concierge covering Ricardo's hours until the restrictions are lifted. We note that we may have reduced concierge services at certain times if coverage cannot be provided. We appreciate your patience during these difficult times.

Singles Bubble

I am very pleased to highlight that from 12.01 am on 31 July a singles bubble will be introduced, allowing people who live alone to nominate one designated family member or friend to visit for companionship. Restrictions will apply for people in the LGAs of concern. Your designated companion must check into our premises via QR code during each visit.

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 or Updated 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](#)

Useful Resources

[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](#)

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney#stay-at-home-rules-greater-sydney>

[Updated Restrictions as of 17 July 21](#)

Natalie Budovsky, Chair SP38936

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

