

## Mobility Permit Scheme (MPS)

### Councillor Workshop Information and Data

#### **1. MPS Permit holders' conditions**

##### 1.1 Parking concessions

###### **Disability parking spaces**

In NSW, a mobility parking permit allows you to park in spaces showing the [eligible cardholder](#) and [displaying](#) the permit correctly.

For all other vehicles, the symbol of access has the same effect as a 'No Stopping' sign.

If these spaces display a time limit, you must only park for the allowed time. The parking concessions offered with the permit do not apply to these spaces.

###### **Parking concessions:**

###### **Metered, coupon or ticket parking areas**

Permit holders can park in metered, coupon or ticket parking areas at no charge in council and on-street parking areas.

###### **Time-limited parking areas**

If you're a permit holder, you can park in time-limited parking areas for longer time periods.

###### **Signposted time limit**

More than 30 minutes

30 minutes

Less than 30 minutes

###### **Disability parking time limit**

Unlimited

Up to 2 hours

Maximum 30 minutes

###### **No parking areas**

In areas signposted as 'No Parking', permit holders can stop for up to 5 minutes to drop off or pick up passengers or goods. The driver must remain within 3 metres of the vehicle.

###### **Privately operated car parks**

Car parks that operate behind boom gates are privately operated. There are no parking concessions in these areas. To park in a designated disability parking space within a private car park, you must display your valid permit. You also must pay any fees required by the car park operator. Private car parks operate under rules determined by the private operator. Enforcement of these rules is the responsibility of designated authorised officers.

## Where you cannot park

Mobility Parking Scheme permits do not allow you to stand or park a vehicle:

- between 'no stopping' signs
- at taxi stands
- in bus, loading, construction or truck zones
- on clearways.

## Using your NSW permit in another state or country

You can use your NSW Mobility Parking Scheme permit in other Australian states and territories as long as it's current and valid. All Australian states and territories participate in the [Australian Disability Parking Scheme launch](#). The [Australian Disability Parking Scheme launch](#) includes an Australian Disability Parking Permit, which is recognised nationally. Be aware that parking concessions vary between states and territories. You must comply with the rules and concessions in the state or territory you're visiting. Before travelling overseas, we recommend checking that the countries you're visiting recognise international permits.

## Interstate and overseas visitors

As long as your permit is current and valid, you can use your interstate or overseas disability parking permit in NSW. You must comply with the rules and concessions of NSW permit holders.

### 1.2 Conditions of Use

a) The permit must be inserted and displayed in the plastic sleeve on the Australian Disability Parking permit provided to you by Roads and Maritime.

*b) The permit must only be displayed when the vehicle is being used to transport the individual to whom the permit was issued. It must not be used to visit or run errands for an eligible person when that person is not being transported in the vehicle.*

c) The permit should be *displayed unobscured* on the left hand (passenger) side of the vehicle on either the vehicle's windscreen, or on any window. If this is not practicable, it should be placed in an area where the whole of the permit may be viewed from outside the vehicle. The sides marked 'THIS SIDE UP' or 'DISPLAY THIS SIDE' must face out. The permit may be attached to the vehicle by any method that does not obscure any of the permit details or the vision of the driver when the vehicle is in motion.

d) Parking concessions available under the MPS are only valid at on-street or council operated car parks. To park in a designated disability parking space in a private car park, you must display your valid MPS permit and pay any applicable fees required.

e) The permit is valid until the date of expiry, unless it is revoked.

f) The permit can no longer be used once it expires. It must be renewed, and a current permit displayed for any disability parking concessions.

g) The permit must be returned to our registry or a Service Centre on expiry, if it is revoked by Roads and Maritime or as soon as its use is no longer required e.g. the person no longer suffers from the disability that made them eligible for the permit.

h) The permit must not be reproduced, copied, defaced, altered or destroyed.

- i) The permit is not valid if reproduced, copied, defaced or otherwise altered or where one or more of the details on the permit (e.g. card number or expiry date) are illegible.
- j) If the permit is used in another State or Territory, it may be used in accordance with their prevailing parking concessions.
- k) The permit may be confiscated by an authorised officer and/or revoked by Roads and Maritime for misuse or breach of any of these Conditions of Use.
- l) The permit is subject to other such conditions that may be imposed by Roads and Maritime.

## **2. Recent stats on MPS Permit holders in the CBD**

Parking Officers check every permit they come across for validity (not stolen, reported lost or revoked). Each month we check on average 400 to 450 permits for validity. Vehicles with invalid permits are treated as if they have no paid parking ticket (unless the driver can be located) and an infringement of \$117 is issued.

A recent snapshot audit of MPS permits displayed (27 April to 10 May 2022):

Parking Officers counted the number of permits in the most prominent areas in the CBD on daily basis during the above dates to indicate the general use of MPS in the CBD. This count was done once at the commencement of shift for that area.

You will see that most parking is within the 1- and 2-hour parking areas indicating the ability (and probability) of all-day parking. There is negligible parking in most 30 minutes zones in the LGA suggesting that most MPS users require all day parking and those that do use the 30 minutes (for a total time of 2 hours) are for short term parking requirements. The 8 permits in Phillip Street for 30 minutes were in the 1/4P Parking area (allowing 30 minutes) so appear for genuine use.

## **3. The cost of running an MPS Pro-Active Enforcement Blitz, and associated challenges**

In order to determine misuse (*The permit must only be displayed when the vehicle is being used to transport the individual to whom the permit was issued*), the Parking Officer must:

- Speak to the driver and inspect the permit (the photo ID is on the underside of the display)
- If the driver is not the permit holder, ask where the permit holder is
- Attend that location with the driver to confirm the permit holder is in fact being transported
- Seek ID from the driver if they cannot produce the permit holder as requested

Therefore, patrols must be done when the car is being parked or collected from the area. This presents the following challenges:

- Driver sees enforcement being conducted and parks car, does not display permit, buys a parking ticket and returns to car to display permit after 1-hour parking ticket expires (all day parking for 1-hour purchase), they may leave the area if they see enforcement still in progress
- Drivers sees Officers and leaves and park in another area (on parking vehicle)
- Driver sees Officers and does not collect car until patrol is over (on returning to vehicle)

When a permit is not being used correctly (to transport permit holder):

- Permit is confiscated, the permit and misuse are reported/returned to RMS
- Driver is fined (when ID provided, cannot use number plate due to name offence)

#### Human Resource Expenses

Parking Officers must work in pairs for safety reasons and are on active patrol for approximately 2-3 hours depending on start time. For example, 6am to 9am or 4pm to 6pm at the end of day.

There are always at least 2 teams on an area but more often there are 3 or 4 teams (pairs).

There is up to 1 hour of paperwork per confiscated MPS (reporting/returning to RMS/issuing an infringement where applicable).

An MPS operation costs on average \$900 for staff wages for 6 x Parking Officers for (three hours overtime).

#### **4. Data Analysis of Audit Statistics and Costs.**

- (i) Over the 10 business days of auditing the use of MPS permits, officers observed a total of 1,796 on street parking spaces that were occupied, with a daily average of 183 across the 10 days of monitoring. Previous enforcement activity and anecdotal evidence from businesses, strongly suggest that 90-95 percent of the vehicles displaying MPS permits are being misused.
- (ii) The columns 1P Spaces through to 10P Spaces indicated the total number of spaces available in **bold** across the 1, 2, 4- and 10-hour spaces in each street. In cases where streets have multiple time frames, i.e. Campbell Street which has 4 1-hour spaces and 26 4-hour spaces, the 1-hour spaces were occupied in preference to the 4 hours, showing a 100% occupation of the 1-hour spaces. You can see from the data that on average, 76% of all 1-hour spaces are occupied by MPS permitted cars. The 2- and 4-hour available spaces have 31% and 22% respectfully of MPS permitted cars occupying available parking spaces.
- (iii) As such the changing of the 1-hour timed spaces to 30-minute timed spaces, will result in a significant availability of 30-minute timed parking spaces, improving turnover and access to the Parramatta CBD Businesses and Service providers. The 2-hour timed spaces will still allow drivers the ability to park longer with only a small increase in walking distances within the CBD.
- (iv) **The last column shows the estimated revenue lost to the MPS misuse for each street, with a total up to \$50,000 for 2 weeks, or \$1,300,000 per annum, even taking the non-payment of legitimate MPS permit holders parking in the CBD it is estimated that at least 70% of the potential revenue would be realised, \$900,000.**

30-minute parking	Street	30min Spaces (\$2 per 30 min)	Lost income		1-Hour Parking Over 10 days	Daily Average MPS Occupation	1P Spaces Available	2P Spaces Available	4P Spaces Available	10P Spaces Available	Estimated Lost Income over 10 Days
	Anderson				103	10		52 - 20%			\$648.90
	Argus				38	4		6 - 66%			\$342.00
	Campbell				39	4	4 - 100%		26		\$1,404.00
	Charles				136	14	16 - 88%				\$4,896.00
36	Church	12	\$1,296.00		3		0	0			\$4/hour
	Cowper				63	6		46 - 10%			\$396.90
	George				162	16	17 - 94%				\$5,832.00
	Hassall				97	10	16 - 63%				\$3,492.00
	High				35	4				17	\$280.00
	Horwood				196	20	32 - 63%				\$7,056.00
	Hunter				218	22	67 - 33%				\$7,848.00
	Jubilee				14	2		5 - 40%		15	\$77.00
37	Macquarie	8	\$1,332.00		137	14	16 - 88%				\$4,932.00
	Palmer				95	10			18 - 55%		\$855.00
8	Phillip	0	\$288.00		203	20	25 - 80%	26			\$7,308.00
	Pitt				60	6		29 - 21%			\$540.00
	Sorrell				82	8			68 - 12%		\$516.60
	Union				115	12		19 - 63%			\$1,035.00
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,916.00</b>		<b>1796</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>193 –76%</b>	<b>183-31%</b>	<b>112-22%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>\$47,459.40</b>