

CENTRAL SYDNEY

# Illegal truck rat-running in Alexandria ‘beyond a joke’

**Residents in Alexandria are fed up with dozens of trucks illegally using their street each day, years after the issue was brought to the attention of City of Sydney — with no end in sight.**

Heath Parkes-Hupton, Central Sydney

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Clover Moore has been accused of playing a “blame game” with Roads and Maritime Services by “stonewalling” a reprieve for a street under siege from illegal truck use.

Dozens of massive trucks zoom through Maddox St in Alexandria every day, according to residents, despite a three-tonne weight limit being imposed on the narrow road.

The council has proposed closing the rat run between Euston and Mitchell roads, two arterial thoroughfares in Sydney’s inner south, a move that has been denied by RMS.

But determined resident John Askew — who has documented at least 4500 trucks illegally using the road since he first contacted council two years ago — isn’t convinced the council is acting in good faith.



 A massive truck snakes its way through the narrow street.

“We’re going in circles, the cops tell us it’s a council issue, the council tells us it’s an RMS issue and they say, ‘No that’s a council road’,” he said.

“There’s always an excuse, they don’t want to deal with the problem. It’s gone beyond a joke.

Since August 2016 the council has installed two roundabouts on Maddox St, narrowed the road, planted trees and positioned electronic signs around nearby streets in an attempt to tackle the issue.

Police and council rangers intermittently patrol the street, with the authority to hand out \$183 fines.



📷 L to R: Neighbours Aleks Strikis and John Askew in Maddox St. Picture: John Appleyard

“As a result of a thorough traffic management ... the city believes a full road closure is the best way to resolve overweight vehicles breaching the weight-tonne limit on Maddox St, but RMS does not support this,” a spokeswoman said.

Footage captured by Mr Maddox — and posted to the [‘Trucks of Maddox St’](#) Facebook page — show actions so far have done little to stop the trucks.

“Why can’t they just do their job?” he said.

He said residents overwhelmingly support closing Maddox and the adjacent Harley streets between Euston and Mitchell roads, but believed RMS had made it clear that was going to happen.

Liberal councillor Craig Chung claimed Cr Moore was “stonewalling” a quicker solution by dragging the issue out until just before the next council election in 2020.



📷 Liberal councillor Craig Chung said residents were tired of ‘political games’. Picture: Craig Wilson

Cr Chung moved a motion at August’s council meeting to have chicanes installed in the street to block trucks from entering.

It was voted down in favour of an amendment by Clover Moore Team councillor Jess Miller who instead suggested speed bumps should be considered.

“Clover and the city are playing with people’s lives,” he said. “The residents have had enough.

“They’d love to close the street but the reality is the RMS won’t allow it.

“They (the council) can absolutely do something now, and reduce heartache for residents and the risk for children in that street.”



📷 Lord Mayor Clover Moore put the onus back on the State Government. Picture: Toby Zerna

Cr Moore hit back saying Cr Chung was “ignoring” expert advice from council staff, who are examining “every possible measure” to find the most effective option.

“Cr Chung knows the best outcome for Maddox St is a full road closure,” she said.

“It would be helpful if he contacted his Liberal colleagues and asked them to reconsider approving this course of action.”

A council spokeswoman said chicanes would not be viable as they would prevent emergency vehicles accessing the street and cause a loss of parking spaces.

A spokeswoman for Roads and Maritime Services said several roads would be upgraded and widened near the St Peters WestConnex interchange.

She said a performance review of roads around the WestConnex project would be carried out one and five years after each stage was completed.

“Until these performance reviews are carried, Transport for NSW does not support the partial or full closure of Maddox St,” she said.



📷 The issue has dragged on for two years. Picture: John Appleyard



📷 A model showing the WestConnex New M5 St Peters interchange. Picture: AAP Image/Joel Carrett