



# ShireBiz

**Building Southern Sydney**  
through Collaboration, Innovation & Partnership



Sutherland Shire Residents Transport,  
Parking and Traffic Issues Survey 2014

## About ShireBiz and the survey

ShireBiz is a Sutherland Shire based organisation, comprising leaders from both public and private sectors, who have a shared vision of developing business enterprises in Sydney's South, based on collaboration, innovation and partnership. ShireBiz see this as being business led with the support of government.

The ShireBiz Sutherland Shire Residents Transport, Traffic and Parking Issues survey (the ShireBiz survey) was developed to help shape future discussion about infrastructure and transport needs in the Sutherland Shire. The survey consisted of multiple choice and open ended questions.

Issues associated with a lack of parking facilities have been regularly raised by business owners in the Sutherland Shire as an ongoing area of concern. At the same time residents and workers who leave the Sutherland Shire each day to commute to work have also expressed frustration about the lack of parking facilities at commuter hubs. Concerns about traffic congestion and traffic safety issues also affect many members of the community on a daily basis.

The Shirebiz survey was developed to ascertain the thoughts of residents and business owners with a view to providing local, state and federal government representatives with a snapshot of community sentiment.

The findings of this report will be presented to the various levels of government and shared with the community with a view to enhancing engagement, driving discussion and prompting action.

Survey findings were analysed by Infodec Communications who compiled this report. Further details about Infodec Communications can be found here: [www.infodec.com.au](http://www.infodec.com.au).

Further information about ShireBiz is available at: [www.shirebiz.net.au](http://www.shirebiz.net.au)

**October 2014**

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## Executive Summary

The ShireBiz Survey was developed as a vehicle to gather the opinion of residents and business owners in the Sutherland Shire.

While all levels of government, and in some instances private enterprise, have a part to play in supporting the development of the local area ShireBiz believes that this survey provides a snapshot of public opinion that will help shape discussion about the future development of the Sutherland Shire as well as infrastructure and transport needs.

The following survey findings can be highlighted:

- 93 percent of respondents indicated that they had trouble parking around railway stations in the Sutherland Shire.
- 45 percent of respondents indicated that they would support marked parking around business locations and transport hubs and 40 percent indicated that they may support marked parking.
- The top three railway stations where residents park their cars when travelling to work were Sutherland at 22 percent, Jannali at 11 percent and Engadine at 10 percent.
- Over 80 percent of respondents felt that roads in the Sutherland Shire were at capacity during peak hour.
- When asked for suggestions to solve traffic issues during peak hour many respondents called for construction of the F6 freeway and the opening of the current fire trail between Woronora and Woronora Heights. Other initiatives included:
  - more multi-level commuter parking stations around various railway stations
  - a pedestrian bridge over Sutherland station
  - increases to speed limits
  - the introduction of bus lanes during peak hour and extension of clearways on weekends

- utilising existing taxi ranks as Kiss and Ride or pick up zones near railway stations.
- Over 80 percent of survey respondents indicated that they would like to see less cars on the road during peak hour and more convenient transport hubs.
- Nearly half of all respondents would support a shuttle bus proposal to transport hubs that would ease peak hour travel congestion. A further 30% were undecided and less than a quarter of respondents felt shuttle buses would not help ease congestion.
- Of those respondents who supported the shuttle bus proposal, the majority indicated that they would be willing to pay \$2 per journey, though a few suggested that up to \$25 per week was reasonable. Some also suggested that the Opal card could be used for payment on shuttle buses.
- 34 percent of respondents indicated that they would be more likely to use the train system if a shuttle bus solution was provided, 26 percent indicated that they may be more inclined to use the train.
- There were a number of letters received from residents who were unable to access the survey online. Their concerns related to lack of bus services, no parking around railway stations and the cost of having to rely on taxis when no public transport options were available.

There is no doubt that future development in the Sutherland Shire will continue to place pressure on the roads and railways that service the area.

Changing demographic and housing needs as well as proposed changes to the Sutherland Shire Local Environmental Plan (LEP) will also affect infrastructure and housing decisions.

## Recommendations

ShireBiz recommends that the following areas be reviewed as a priority:

- The current marked parking study that is being conducted by the Sutherland Shire Council at Cronulla should be extended to other areas with a particular focus on railway stations.
- Construction of the F6 freeway should be facilitated as soon as possible and not be reliant on the privatisation of the state's electricity poles and wires as indicated by the NSW State Government.
- A shuttle bus service should be trialled taking advantage of the Opal Card technology for payment purposes.
- The current study into traffic congestion around the Cronulla CBD should be extended to other areas across the Sutherland Shire as a matter of priority.
- There should be a feasibility study into opening the Woronora fire trail to through traffic. It has been reported there are no plans to open the fire trail in the 2013 Sutherland Shire LEP.

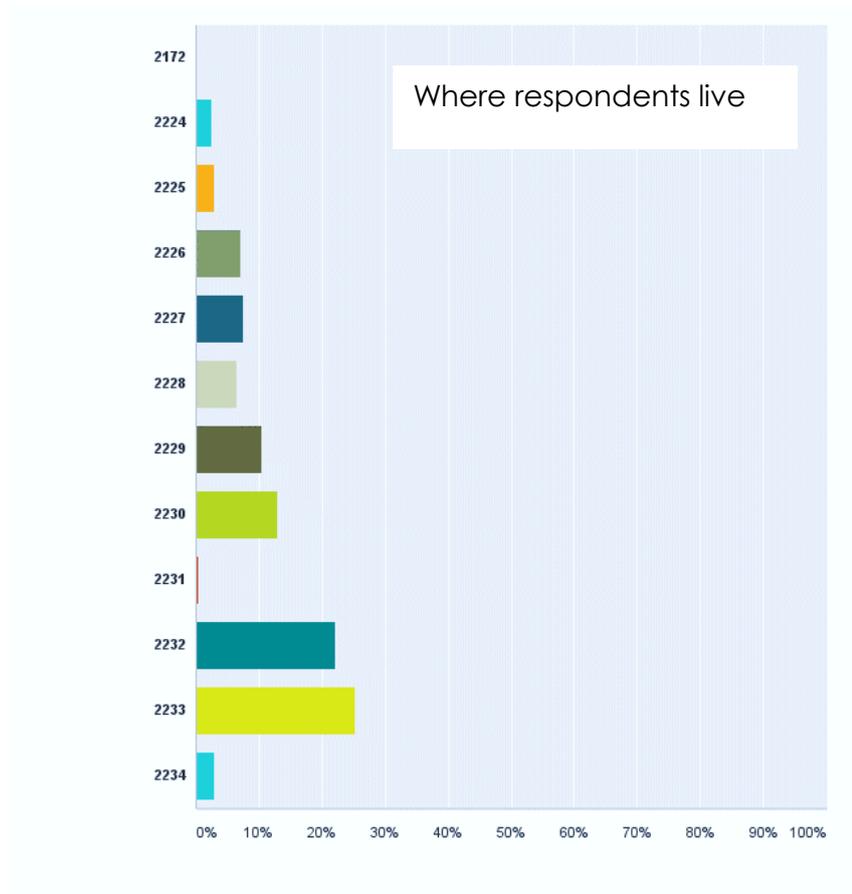
## Where respondents lived by postcode

Where people live often influences their decision about how they will travel to various locations and how they will commute to their place of work.

The ShireBiz Survey asked respondents to indicate where they lived. 910 respondents answered this question.

The largest number of respondents to the survey resided in suburbs with the postcodes 2233 at 25 percent and 2232 at 22 percent respectively. These suburbs include Grays Point, Kareela, Kirrawee, Loftus, Sutherland, Woronora, Engadine, Heathcote, Waterfall, Woronora Heights and Yarrowarrah.

At present some of the suburbs with 2233 and 2232 postcodes could be considered to have limited public transport options. There were no responses from residents at Sandy Point (2172) and a very low response rate from Kurnell (2231).



## Parking around railway stations in the Sutherland Shire

The ShireBiz Survey asked respondents whether they had trouble parking around railway stations in the Sutherland Shire.

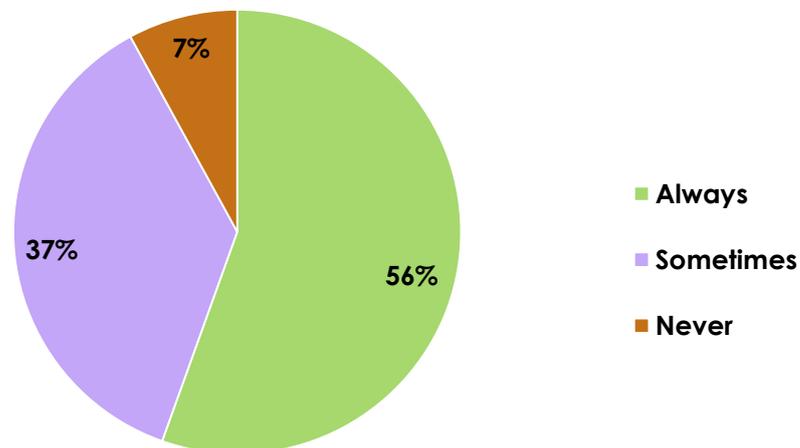
93 percent of respondents noted that they had trouble parking around railway stations.

The number of CityRail defined untimed parking spaces varies from a few hundred at Sutherland to a modest few at stations like Woollooware.

The NSW State Government is currently funding the development of a new multi-storey commuter car park on the corner of Robertson and Oxford streets, Sutherland that will contain 340 untimed commuter car spaces.

It could be suggested that the implementation of paid parking at Westfield Miranda will impact parking in the surrounding streets near Miranda railway station as people will no longer be able to park their cars for free for an extended period, though survey findings suggest that only a low number of rail commuters park at Westfield Miranda.

### ***Do you have trouble parking around railway stations?***



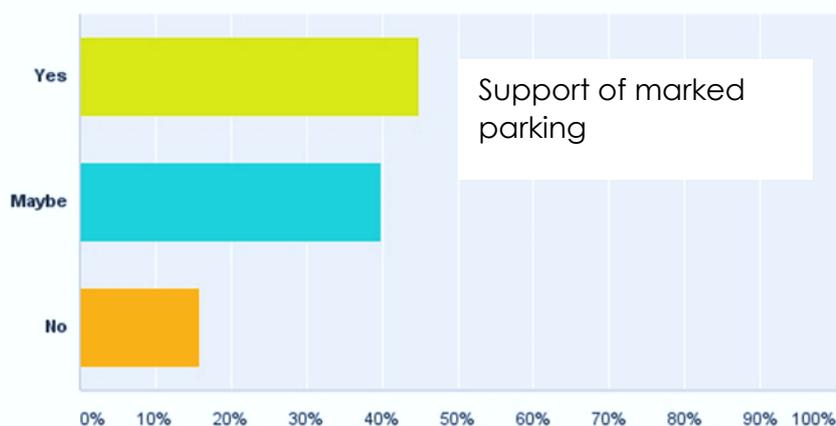
## White lined marked parking around business locations and transport areas

While lined marked parking spaces are currently available at designated Cityrail parking areas, it is the streets that surround these areas that often accommodate the vehicles of Sutherland Shire residents as they commute to work and study by train.

45 percent of survey respondents indicated they would support marked parking around business locations and transport areas and a further 40 percent indicated that they would consider the proposal.

In 2013 ShireBiz engaged the services of Bitzios to conduct a study into marked white line parking in the Cronulla area. As part of their report Bitzios noted that potential benefits provided by marked parking included:

- A reduction in the chance of vehicles parking across driveways. It would also assist in the enforcement of parking within allocated parking bays.
- Additional car parking spaces would be found.
- Marked parking lanes have been used to encourage drivers to park their vehicle closer to the kerb. This would provide more road space and would be of benefit to cyclists.
- The distances afforded by the Australian Standards would allow vehicles to manoeuvre into and out of car spaces in a more timely manner. This may reduce some of the traffic congestion caused by vehicles reverse parking into smaller spaces. It reduces the perceived inefficiencies of parking<sup>j</sup>.



## Where residents park their car when travelling to work

In 2006, Sydney had the highest level of public transport use among the capital cities, with over one-quarter (26%) using public transport as their main method for travel to work or study.<sup>ii</sup>

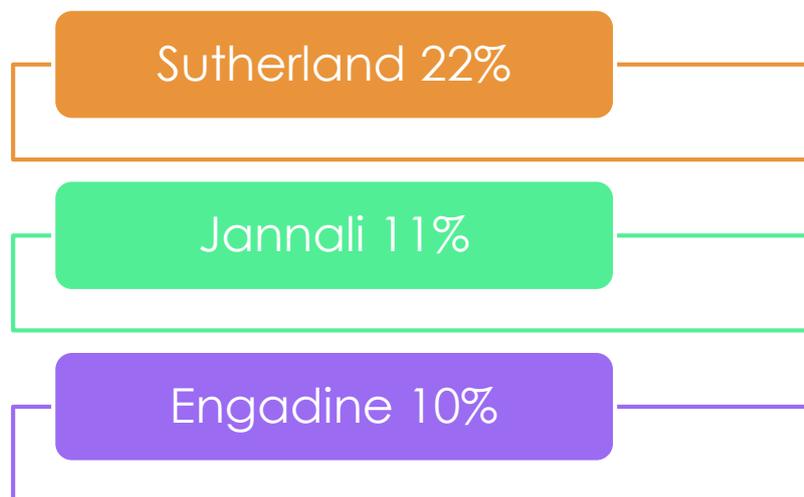
While there are some bus services that connect with trains in the Sutherland Shire, a large number of residents drive their cars to the station and park for the day outside residential properties.

A large majority of respondents who replied to this survey parked their car at Sutherland at 22 percent.

11 percent parked their cars at Jannali and 10 percent at Engadine.

36 percent of the respondents who replied to the survey do not travel by train to work.

While there is a perception within the community that a significant number of people park their cars at Westfield Miranda and catch the train to other locations, the findings of the survey do not support this. Only six respondents to the survey indicated that they parked their car at Westfield Shopping Centre when travelling to work by train.



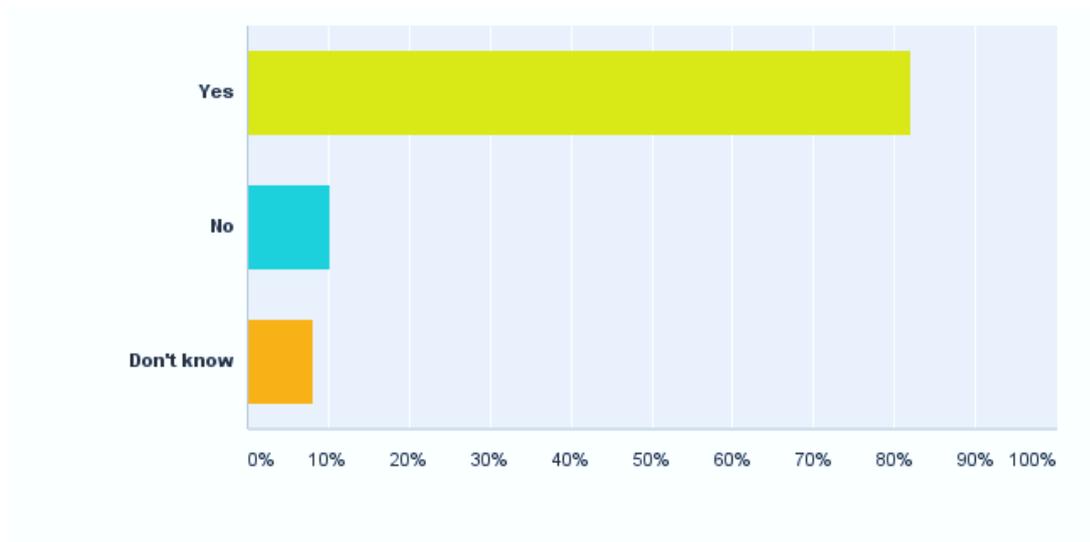
## Sutherland Shire roads at capacity during peak hour

Over 80 percent of respondents believe that roads are at capacity during peak hour in the Sutherland Shire.

A number of respondents to the ShireBiz survey identified the opening of the road between Woronora Heights and Woronora as a solution to solve traffic congestion in the Sutherland Shire, yet there are no plans to accommodate this in the 2013 Sutherland Shire LEP.

Many also called for the development of the F6 freeway as a priority.

### ***Are roads at capacity during peak hour?***



## Resident suggestions for solving traffic issues during peak hour

The ShireBiz survey asked for suggestions from respondents in relation to solving traffic issues during peak hour. Over 650 respondents put forward ideas.

Some of the ideas that were highlighted include:

- Opening the Northern Access road from Woronora Heights.
- Increasing car parking spaces at railway stations and the development of more multi-level parking stations.
- The introduction of bus lanes during peak hour and the extension of clearways to weekends.
- The introduction of new bus routes.
- Construction of the F6 freeway as a priority.
- Look into utilising industrial areas at Taren Point to build new car parks with a shuttle bus connection to railway stations.
- Widening roads at bottlenecks around Sutherland station.
- Changing traffic lights to facilitate smoother traffic flow during school pick up times and peak hour. Also adjust traffic light phasing for peak hour traffic.
- Building a second storey above existing car parks in the Sutherland Shire.
- The encouragement of more flexible work hours.
- Increases to the speed limit, specifically around the Heathcote area.
- A pedestrian bridge over the railway line near Sutherland Station.
- Use brown field sites for parking while they are awaiting re-development.
- Encouragement of carpooling in the area.
- Regulate parking within CBD areas through the installation of parking with metres.

- More commuter parking around Sutherland Station.
- Building a bridge from Kurnell to Malabar.
- Bicycle lockers at railway stations, folding bikes on commuter trains and designated bike lanes.
- Build and promote professional and cost-effective teleworking facilities.
- Utilising existing taxi ranks as kiss and ride/pick up zones near railway stations.
- A high frequency shuttle bus service from Cronulla to Menai and Cronulla to Kurnell.
- A ferry service from Kurnell to La Perouse.
- Paid parking for non-residents around Cronulla beach areas.
- The removal of boats parked on streets.
- Changing the train timetables to implement more express trains to the city from an increased number of stations.

There were a large number of comments about parking around Engadine. Congestion around Sutherland station was also highlighted as an issue. There was also a lot of support for the development of more multi-level car parks around railway stations.

The issue of increased congestion and lack of parking due to development was also mentioned by a significant number of respondents.

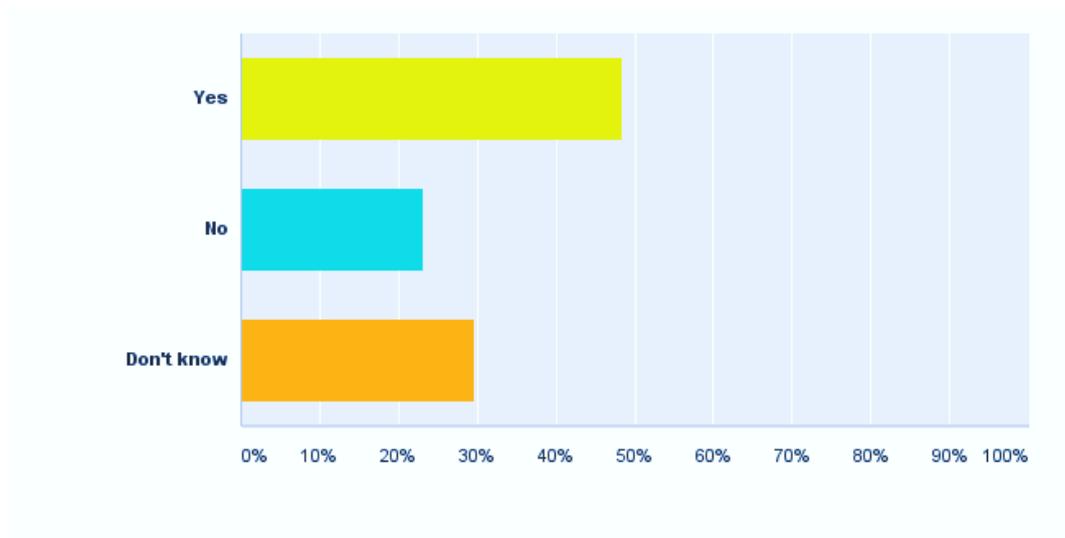
## Cars on the road during peak travel times and convenient connections to transport hubs

Survey respondents were asked whether they would like to see less cars on the road during peak travel times and more convenient transport hubs. The overwhelming majority supported this proposal at over 80 percent.

## Shuttle buses to help with commuter parking at transport hubs and peak hour congestion

Nearly half of all respondents would support a shuttle bus proposal to transport hubs that would ease peak hour travel congestion. A further 30% were undecided and less than a quarter of respondents felt shuttle buses would not help ease congestion.

**Would you support a shuttle bus solution?**



## Payment for utilising a shuttle bus service

The ShireBiz Survey asked respondents to nominate the amount that they would be willing to pay for a shuttle bus service for a return trip from nearby their homes to their selected railway stations.

The majority of respondents indicated that they would be willing to pay around \$2, though some felt that paying up to \$25 per week was reasonable.

Many respondents felt that the service should be complementary to or included in the price of the train ticket.

## Using a shuttle bus service to train stations and train travel

Survey respondents were also asked whether a shuttle bus service would make them more likely to use the train system. 34 percent of respondents indicated that they would be likely to use the train, 26 percent indicated that they may be more likely to use the train and 40 percent indicated that they would not be more likely to use the train. Some respondents suggested that the use of Opal cards could help facilitate this process.

## Next steps

The results of the ShireBiz survey will be made available on the ShireBiz website.

Copies of the report will be presented to local government representatives including Sutherland Shire Councillors and executive staff.

The report will also be presented to state and federal government representatives.

As the Sutherland Shire continues to develop as a place to work and live there needs to be ongoing discussion and planning to support both businesses operating in the area and residents and Shirebiz will continue to engage with policy makers and community members in this area.

## Methodology

The ShireBiz survey was developed utilising the online survey platform Survey Monkey. A series ten of closed and open ended survey questions were available through this platform.

Respondents were invited to answer the questions that they considered applicable to them. Over 900 respondents completed the survey and several also wrote letters expressing their opinions.

A link to the ShireBiz survey was located on the website [www.shirebiz.net.au](http://www.shirebiz.net.au).

This link was shared with business owners and the general public in the following ways:

- Via email to associates of committee members.
- Through local networks including Chambers of Commerce, EDC, Parliamentary representatives in the local area.

A flyer was developed to promote the survey and it was distributed in the following ways.

### **Shops and retailers**

Shire Gossip Advertising Distributors delivered the flyer to shops and retail outlets of varying size in the following suburbs:

- Engadine
- Jannali
- Sutherland
- Cronulla
- Caringbah
- Southgate
- Miranda
- Gymea

In addition, some ShireBiz committee members distributed the flyers to shops and retailers in the suburbs of Sylvania Waters, Sylvania, Woolooware Rd, Lilli Pilli, Port Hacking Road, Woolooware North, Wanda shops, Kirrawee, Heathcote, and Burraneer Bay Road.

Letterbox deliveries were conducted in the following suburbs:

- 2224 Kangaroo Point, Sylvania, Sylvania Waters, Gwawley Bay
- 2225 Oyster Bay
- 2226 Jannali, Como, Bonnet Bay
- 2227 Gymea and Gymea Bay
- 2228 Miranda and Yowie Bay
- 2229 Taren Point, Caringbah, Caringbah South and Lilli Pilli
- 2230, Cronulla, Woolooware, Burraneer, Gunnamatta Bay.
- 2232 Sutherland, Kirrawee

- 2233, Engadine, Heathcote, Waterfall, Woronora Heights, Yarrawarra

A total of approximately 57,000 flyers were delivered during this time.

The survey did not cover Bundeena, Menai or Kurnell, on the basis that there are no railway stations there.

Flyers were handed out by ShireBiz committee members during June at the following railway stations:

5<sup>th</sup> June , Cronulla, 6<sup>th</sup> June Woollooware, 11<sup>th</sup> June Caringbah, 12 June Gympie, 13 June Miranda, 17 June Kirrawee, 18 June Janilli, 19 June Sutherland, 20 June Como, 24 June Loftus, 25 June Engadine, 26 June Heathcote, 27 June Waterfall.

While the majority of respondents utilized the survey a number directly emailed comments to ShireBiz and wrote letters expressing their opinions about this topic.

## Thank you

ShireBiz would like to thank the residents who contributed their thoughts to this survey and those without computer access who took the time to write to us with their thoughts and opinions.

ShireBiz will represent your suggestions to the decision makers because we remain dedicated to ensuring that residents and business owners have voice when it comes to improving our transport, traffic and parking conditions within the Sutherland Shire.

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### References:

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<sup>i</sup> Cronulla Parallel Parking Study, Bitzios, 18 June 2013

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/4102.0Chapter10102008>