

\$20,000 program to remove Bondi Junction rats working but dead ones left in street for up to a week

By Sean Thompson, May 31 2016, Australia

A \$20,000 Waverley Council program to eradicate vermin from Bondi Junction is already at work, but residents claim the dead rats are being left in the street up to a week.

The funds were set aside in the 2016/17 budget to remove the growing number of rats appearing in streets around Oxford St Mall.

Council has received four official complaints about rats in the area in the past six months, with a spokeswoman saying the problem was “widespread on both public and private land throughout Sydney.”

Bondi Junction resident Nick Andronicos said he made a number of inquiries with council about the rat problem and was glad to see it getting results.

But he said council needed to remove the dead vermin as quickly as possible to ensure community safety.

“It’s not safe for them to be left dead in public spaces for as long as council has allowed it. They spread disease and it’s irresponsible,” he said.

“I’m happy to see council is taking the issue seriously and will spend \$20,000 to get rid of them. But a week is too long before they’re picked up.”

The council spokeswoman said the funds were used to hire specialist technicians who also monitored vermin activity.

“The technicians used various methods for extermination based upon the level of rodent activity,” she said.

“During the period of contract, the contractor monitors movement detection from powder placement, and through recording the number of carcasses. In periods outside of contract, evaluation of activity is undertaken by staff.”

Waverley Liberal Cr Angela Burrill said the public place cleansing team was responsible for removing dead rats.

“If residents see dead rats in the area it’s important for them to call our customer service staff immediately so the message can be passed on to those cleaners,” she said.

“The sooner they know about the problem the quicker they can deal with it. One would hope the rats would be removed quicker than a week later, but that’s why the first call is important.”