
SUBJECT

The existing road narrowing in Balmoral Street was provided in conjunction with the traffic management works around Hornsby Hospital prior to the signalisation of the intersection of Edgeworth David Avenue and Balmoral Street. The installation of the traffic signals, triggered by the new development in Waitara and adverse crash history at the intersection has made the current device obsolete.

Council has received a number of complaints from the public concerned about the confusion of drivers at this location and lack of parking in the immediate area. To address the issues it is proposed to remove the existing traffic device and turning circle and reconstruct the road.

The works are aimed at improving traffic and parking conditions in the area. The proposal will result in additional eight on-street parking spaces being available for residents and retailers. Traffic speeds will continue to be controlled by the narrow street geometry.

A plan of the proposal is attached.

CONSULTATION

Public consultation for the proposed removal of traffic device and reconstruction of the road was undertaken in March 2019. 47 letters were delivered to residents affected by the proposal. Letters were sent to emergency services and service and transport providers. The proposal was also placed on exhibition on Council's website for 14 days.

Seven written responses were received from residents and authorities. A summary of the comments and Council response is provided below. Submissions raising similar issues have been combined into a single comment. Copies of the residents' letters are available upon request:

Submission from Ausgrid - No objection to the proposal.

Response – Comment noted.

Submission from a resident - Concerned about future speeding once the device is removed, pedestrians are using it as a crossing, this will also impact pedestrians. Request to leave it the way it is.

Response – The existing road narrowing in Balmoral Street was provided in conjunction with the traffic management works around Hornsby Hospital prior to the signalisation of the intersection of Edgeworth David Avenue and Balmoral Street. The installation of the traffic signals, triggered by the new development in Waitara and adverse crash history at the intersection has made the current device obsolete. The existing narrow road geometry of Balmoral Street (7.8m) will continue to provide speed reduction when cars are parked on both sides of the road. Council will monitor the location for changes in traffic speeds and volumes. There are no specific pedestrian generators near the current device. Most local streets do not provide dedicated pedestrian facilities mid-block unless there are specific pedestrian desire lines. Majority of pedestrian activity occurs around the intersection of Edgeworth David Avenue and Balmoral Street which is controlled by traffic signals with crossings provided on all legs of the intersection.

Submission from a resident – Concerned that the installation of traffic signals at Edgeworth David Avenue have made things worse for residents. Parking on both sides of Balmoral Street is creating delays. Council should reconstruct the road to increase the road width, make it one way and maintain the nature strips.

Response – As the population of Hornsby and Waitara increases changes to the road network are required to ensure adequate levels of road safety and access are maintained. The increase in traffic is an unavoidable consequence of the recent residential developments and the redevelopment of the Hornsby Hospital. The removal of on street parking from residential areas is not generally supported by Council, as parked cars deter through traffic and reduce speeds. The current width of the roadway results in motorists driving slower and taking care when passing. There are no plans to reconstruct Balmoral Street to increase the width as this would also increase the speeds. Making Balmoral Street one-way is not recommended as it would impact on access to local retail area near the intersection with Edgeworth David Avenue and require delivery vehicles to drive up the residential part of Balmoral Street to complete the journey. Issues in relation to maintenance of the nature strip will be referred to Council's Asset Works Branch for investigation.

Submission from a resident – Agree that there are problems and confusion at the road narrowing devices in Balmoral Street. The traffic device near Burdett Street is a bigger problem as its positioned near intersection. Request to remove both traffic devices, not just the one near No 61 Balmoral Street. Concerned with lack of parking for residents due to 1 hour restriction. Concerned with removal of 'Local Traffic Zone' sign.

Response – The proposal to remove the traffic device near Edgeworth David Avenue is driven by the need for improved traffic flow and parking conditions near the retail area. While there are no current plans to remove the device near Burdett Street, Council will review the location 6 months after completion of the works currently proposed. This proposal will result in a gain of approximately 8 spaces which will be unrestricted and can be used by the residents. 'Local Traffic Zone' signs are no longer used by Council as they are not enforceable. Such information signs can contribute to sign clutter and increased maintenance costs for Council. It is apparent upon entering Balmoral Street that the motorist is entering a local residential area.

Submission from a resident living directly near the device – Thrilled that Council is removing this device as it has caused much angst to motorists and residents in the area. Suggesting that parking be prohibited along one side of Balmoral Street during weekdays.

Response – Supportive comments noted. Suggestion for removal of parking has been addressed above.

CONCLUSION

The submissions from the residents and service providers have been addressed in the report. As the population of Hornsby and Waitara increases, changes to the road network are required to ensure adequate levels of road safety and access are maintained. Some increase in traffic in the area is an unavoidable consequence of the recent residential developments and the redevelopment of the Hornsby Hospital. The removal of the device will improve parking availability and address a number of complaints received by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the removal of traffic device between 60 and 64 Balmoral Street, Waitara and reconstruction of road in Balmoral Street, Waitara be approved for construction in accordance with plan No.100411- 802.12.
 2. That traffic volumes and speeds in Balmoral Street be reviewed 6 months after the completion of works.
 3. That residents who responded to the proposal be advised of Traffic Committee's comments.
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Note for voting Local Traffic Committee members.

Under the RMS' 'Delegation of Functions to Regulate Traffic' (operation of local traffic committees) you are required to comment or indicate your acceptance or objection to the recommendation of this report. Your response must be submitted in writing within 14 days of the date of this notice. Please send your response via return email for the item, or email trafficbranch@hornsby.nsw.gov.au For further information please contact Radek Zarzycki on 9847 6616. Upon receipt of your comments the matter will be referred to Council for action.

Radek Zarzycki
Acting Chairman



Date: 9 April 2019