

HORNSBY SHIRE

LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE



ATTENTION MEMBER FOR EPPING – Mr Damien Tudehope MP
EASTWOOD POLICE – Sgt Leonie Abberfield
HORNSBY POLICE – Snr Const Narelle Tomich
ROADS AND MARITIME SERVICES – Mr Zakaria Ahmad
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL HUTCHENCE – Council’s representative
THE MAYOR AND ALL COUNCILLORS – For your information
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE &
RECREATION – For your information
NSW FIRE SERVICE – For your information
NSW AMBULANCE SERVICE – For your information
SHORELINK BUS SERVICE – For your information
HILLSBUS SERVICE – For your information
NSW TAXI COUNCIL - For your information

Road: New Line Road **Suburb:** West Pennant Hills
Location: Between Castle Hill Road and Boundary Road
File Ref: F2004/09785-02 **LTC No:** 02/2019
Electorate: Epping **UBD Ref:** 152 C15
Subject: Proposed traffic safety improvements –
National Black Spot Programme
Date of Circulation: 8 January 2019

REFERRAL OF TRAFFIC MATTER FOR COMMENT OR OBJECTION IF ANY

SUMMARY

This report details the traffic implications and outcome of public consultation for the installation of traffic safety improvements in New Line Road between Castle Hill Road and Boundary Road in West Pennant Hills. The State Government has offered to fund the improvements under the National Black Spot Programme. Projects funded by the Black Spot Programme are very effective as the crash reductions save the community many times the cost of installing the road improvements.

SUBJECT

New Line Road between Castle Hill Road and Boundary Road is classified as a regional Road under the care of Hornsby Shire Council. A study of crash data has identified that New Line Road qualifies as a Black Spot under the Australian Government Black Spot Programme. A proposal to improve road safety has been developed in accordance with Austroads 'Guide to Road Safety Part 8: Treatment of Crash Locations'.

The proposal consists of a parking lane treatment with kerb blisters to separate parked vehicles from through traffic and raised median islands along side streets to improve safety at intersections. Changes to parking restrictions and line marking are also proposed.

Key features of the proposal are:

- Parking lane treatment with kerb blister median to separate parked vehicles from through traffic
- Median islands in side streets at key locations
- Changes to parking restrictions and line marking
- Left turn lane into the West Pennant Hills sporting club
- Upgrade of street lighting at key locations

Plans of the proposed traffic signals and associated traffic management are attached.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

In November 2018 Council invited comments on the proposal from residents and authorities. Letters were sent to 156 affected properties. The proposal was also placed on Council's website. Letters were sent to regulatory authorities and transport providers.

10 submissions were received by Council. Summary of the issues raised is provided below (*in italics*) with Council's response. Similar issues have been grouped together. Copies of the submissions are available upon request:

Resident's comment – More safety improvements are required especially near Castle Hill Road. The road is like a race track, Police presence required, no safe crossing near Castle Hill Road, cars doing illegal U-turns, require separation from vehicles to parked cars.

Council's reply – The proposed edge line approaching Castle Hill Road intersection has been extended in line with current parking restrictions which allow for formation of two approach lanes during peak times extending 80m from the intersection. Due to the demand for traffic flow at the intersection further traffic calming at this location is not recommended. Council works closely with NSW Police to ensure the problem locations are regularly patrolled. Site observations indicate that pedestrian movement in this section of New Line Road are low and that installation of a crossing is not warranted.

Resident's comment – Provide dedicated right hand turning lanes at New Farm Road, Cedarwood Drive, WPH sports club and Cherrybrook Public School. Provide left turning lanes into Valda Street, New Farm Road, Cedarwood Drive and Cherrybrook Public School. Extend the left turn lane from New Line Road into Castle Hill Road.

Council's reply – The installation of turning lanes at intersections is determined by the demand for that turning movement. The current demand for the turning movements at these intersections does not warrant provision of dedicated turning lanes. The left turn lane proposed at the WPH sporting club is proposed to address identified crash problem at this location. A roundabout at the intersection of New Line Road and Cedarwood Drive has been included in conditions of consent for future development stages of the WPH sporting club. A separate report will be presented to the LTC once the club acts on relevant approvals triggering this condition.

The extension of the left turn lane in New Line Road on approach to Castle Hill Road has been investigated. Council is aware that due to deficiencies in the state road network traffic is using New Line Road as an alternative access to Pennant Hills Road. Removing parking from New Line Road to provide additional travel lanes as suggested will make the local road more attractive to non-local traffic, shifting the cost of managing non local traffic to Council. In addition, residences and child care centres will suffer from increased traffic disturbance and loss of residential amenity. Notwithstanding, adjustments have been made to the times of operation of the existing 'No Parking' zone near No 10 to align with traffic peak times.

Public Lighting provider comment – Ausgrid has reviewed the proposal and has no objections or concerns. Hornsby Council is the Public Lighting customer responsible for street lighting illumination levels. It may be appropriate to ensure the current New Line Rd street lighting meets the requirements of AS1158 at the road category defined by the standard.

Council's reply – The crash analysis has identified the need for upgrade of street lighting at key location along New Line Road. A review of street lighting will be undertaken by Council and upgrades implemented where warranted.

Resident's comment – Concerned that there are no safety improvements proposed for the intersection of Castle Hill Road and New Line Road. There are regular accidents at this location. Urge Council to develop a plan to address the Blackspot at this intersection.

Council's reply – The signalised intersection of Castle Hill Road and New Line Road is under the jurisdiction of RMS. Upgrades to the intersection are beyond the scope of this proposal. Council works closely with RMS to ensure that key intersections along the state road network are reviewed and upgraded as required.

Resident's comment – Concerned about impact on access at 4 New Farm Road due to the proposed median island, request that Council review the design to maintain current access to property.

Council's reply – The proposed traffic median in New Farm Road limits access to the property to left in and left out movements. The design of the island has been reviewed. The island will be upgraded to a pedestrian refuge island to align with future footway along the eastern side of New Line Road. The islands cannot be shortened due to mandatory RMS technical direction requirements.

Resident's comment – Object to the proposal, no objective, measurable evidence that the proposal would improve safety, kerbside islands will create hazard. Projects like this are wasting money.

Council's reply – Road crashes are a major cost to Australians every year. Black Spot projects target those road locations where crashes are occurring. By funding safety improvements at dangerous locations such as New Line Road, the program reduces the risk of crashes. Programs of this sort are very effective, saving the community many times the cost of the relatively minor road improvements that are implemented. The Black Spot Program makes an important contribution in reducing the national road toll under the National Road Safety Action Plan 2018–2020. The design has been developed in accordance with Austroads 'Guide to Road Safety Part 8: Treatment of Crash Locations'.

Resident's comment – Propose that a longer parking restriction be posted near the driveway to 81-83 New Line Road (Cherrybrook Pre-school Kindergarten). It is difficult to see when leaving the driveway. Also parking lines should be painted.

Council's reply – The Australian Road Rules permit vehicles to park up to the edge of the driveway. Notwithstanding, the site is located near an existing pedestrian refuge and a 'No Stopping' zone is already posted along the site's frontage extending 10m beyond the driveway to the north. Further parking restrictions at this location are not warranted. Parking lane delineation is proposed at this location.

Resident's comment – Propose that a longer parking restriction be posted near the driveway to 25 New Line Road (Adventure Pre-school and long day care). It is difficult to see when leaving the driveway due to the curve.

Council's reply – The Australian Road Rules permit vehicles to park up to the edge of the driveway. Notwithstanding, providing 8m long 'No Parking 7am-9am, 3pm-6pm Mon-Sat' restriction at both sides of the driveway is recommended as it will improve visibility for parents exiting the kindergarten and assist with set down and pick up at the location.

Resident's comment – Concerned with loss of parking and car parking near driveway blocking vision to residential property at No 20.

Council's reply – Parking restrictions are not proposed at this location. The Australian Road Rules permit vehicles to park up to the edge of the driveway. Site evaluation confirmed that this is typical to all residential driveways along New Line Road.

Cherrybrook Uniting Resident's comment – Please consider relocating the 'No Stopping / No Parking' sign near our exit driveway by 2m to the east to improve manoeuvrability around the traffic island in New Line Road.

Council's reply – Request supported. The relocation of the sign will improve manoeuvrability for large vehicles exiting the church.

Council's Natural Resources comment – Please consider Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) in traffic islands.

Reply – Design and construction branch will consider installation of WSUD traffic kerb blister islands where possible.

Resident's comment – Concerned with impact on property corner at No 1 New Line Road. Existing sandstone fence will be impacted by the proposal.

Council's reply – A title search has confirmed that road widening has occurred on the property (dealing X228551, road widening plan DP 43716). Council's Design and Construction branch will negotiate the realignment of the existing sandstone fence with the owner.

CONCLUSION

The responses to the public consultation show that most residents are generally supportive of the treatment with some specific comments addressed in the report. The proposal has been developed in accordance with the Austroads Crash Reduction Guide and the works are funded by the National Black Spot Programme. The attached plans reflect the amendments adopted following public consultation.

RECOMMENDATION THAT

1. The proposed traffic safety improvements in New Line Road between Castle Hill Road and Boundary Road in West Pennant Hills be approved as per plan No 486.43 attached.
2. Review of street lighting be undertaken of New Line Road focusing at locations identified in the crash analysis and upgrades implemented where warranted.

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 28 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: 8 January 2019