



HORNSBY SHIRE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

MEMBER FOR HORNSBY – Mr Matt Kean MP
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NSW FIRE SERVICE – For your information
NSW AMBULANCE SERVICE – For your information
TRANSDEV NSW BUS SERVICE – For your information
CDC HILLSBUS SERVICE - For your information
NSW TAXI COUNCIL - For your information

Road: Quarter Sessions Road Suburb: Westleigh / Thornleigh
Location: South of Duneba Drive
File Ref: F2005/00947 LTC No: 06/2021
Electorate: HORNSBY
Google Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/jEBjqKFRwnWmxs5R9>
Subject: Proposed Installation of Raised Threshold and Children’s Crossing
at Existing Marked Pedestrian Crossing near Thornleigh West Public School
Date of Circulation: Monday, 29 March 2021

REFERRAL OF TRAFFIC MATTER FOR COMMENT OR OBJECTION, IF ANY

SUMMARY

This report details the traffic implications, design and outcome of public consultation for the proposed installation of a Raised Threshold and Children’s Crossing at an existing marked pedestrian crossing in Quarter Sessions Road near Thornleigh West Public School.

SUBJECT

Council has reviewed the existing pedestrian crossing and traffic conditions in Quarter Sessions Road, following a number of requests (including from Thornleigh West Public School) to improve safety at the crossing due to excessive speed and reports of drivers failing to stop at the crossing. It is proposed that a Raised Threshold and Children's Crossing be installed at the existing marked pedestrian crossing to reduce the speed of vehicles approaching the crossing location. The project will be delivered by Council as part of the Federal Government Stimulus Commitment - Road Safety Program (School Zone Infrastructure).

Key features of the proposal:

1. Installation of a raised threshold and kerb blisters at the existing pedestrian crossing.
2. The installation of the threshold will improve safety of pedestrians at the crossing by reducing the speed of vehicles near the crossing.
3. Existing parking restrictions will be retained. There will be no impact on parking.

Plans of the proposal are attached.

CONSULTATION

In March 2021, Council invited comments on the proposal from residents and occupiers. The proposal was also placed on exhibition on Council's website for 14 days. Sixteen (16) letters were sent to nearby residents and occupiers, as well as regulatory authorities and transport providers.

Fifteen (15) written responses were received. Fourteen (14) providing support and additional comments, and one (1) objection. A summary of the submissions and Council responses is provided below. Similar issues raised have been compiled into a single comment. Copies of submissions are available upon request:

Submission from Thornleigh West Public School - We welcome the proposed raised pedestrian crossing at Quarter Session Road Westleigh. Thank you to the council for considering this safety measure. We have had many near misses our students are too precious.

Response – Comments noted.

Submission from Ausgrid - Ausgrid has no objections to the proposal. For Council's reference, It is noted that there is no pedestrian crossing lighting at this location.

Response – The upgrade of street lighting will be investigated by Council. However, it is noted that the crossing is predominately used during school hours.

CONSULTATION continued

Submission from resident – Strongly oppose to the raised crossing / speed hump. Council should investigate the number of injuries at the crossing before wasting ratepayer's money. The drivers disobeying the crossing rules are mostly school parents. Don't need another speed hump. Not many people use the crossing after hours.

Response – While the crash data does not show any recent injury crashes at the location, Council has been receiving reports of incidents at the crossing via the school and parents' community for a number of years. Many near miss incidents have also been reported by the school crossing supervisor. NSW Police have also received ongoing complaints about speeding in this section of Quarter Sessions Road. Raised threshold crossings near primary schools are widely used in NSW and have been proven to reduce injuries to pedestrians at these locations. The Federal Government Stimulus Commitment - Road Safety Program (School Zone Infrastructure) is a proactive funding model that does not require injuries to occur before funding is provided to councils.

Submission from Councillor – General support for road safety improvements, concerned with the squeeze point for cyclists created by the proposed kerb blisters.

Response – The provision of bicycle by-pass has been investigated and the design revised to provide a bicycle by-pass at this location. Revised plan is attached for LTC consideration. It is also noted that the Draft Walking and Cycling Strategy identifies an off-road shared path to be provided along Quarter Sessions Road as priority 2 (6 to 10 years) which also will provide another option for cyclists in the future.

Submission from resident – Support the crossing upgrade. On at least three occasions have witnessed cars almost hitting pedestrians through the zebra crossing at quarter sessions road. Council should also consider moving it to the north along Quarter Session Road.

Response – Comments noted. Moving the crossing away from the school would result in reduced use of the crossing and is not recommended.

Submission from School P&C – 100% support for the crossing upgrade. Please implement asap. This will address speeding in the school zone.

Response – Comments noted.

Submission from resident – Support the crossing upgrade. It will reduce speeding and improve safety in the area. Also assist people accessing Oakleigh Oval.

Response – Comments noted.

Submission from resident – Excellent proposal, much needed for the area. Speeding is an issue.

Response – Comments noted.

CONSULTATION continued

Submission from resident – Support the proposal. Vehicles often speed in mornings afternoons. Some drivers don't observe the crossing rules.

Response – Comments noted.

Submission from resident – Yes, this is much needed.

Response – Comments noted.

Submission from resident – I think this is a great idea and I support the proposal. It can help to make the road near the school safer, with little negligible disruption to those around.

Response – Comments noted.

Submission from resident – Council should consider part time parking restrictions along the northern side of Duneba Drive between Quarters Sessions Road and Nabic Place. Children are in danger when crossing Duneba Drive. School Zone should also be extended in Duneba Drive to Nabic Place.

Response – The existing 12m long 'No Stopping' restrictions in Duneba Drive near Quarter Sessions Road are considered adequate for the operation of the intersection and for sight lines for pedestrians crossing near the intersection. Extensive removal of parking from local roads is not recommended as it can lead to increased speeds and impact on residential amenity. While the extension of the School Zone is a matter for TfNSW, Council is aware that the existing zone has recently been reviewed by TfNSW and its location is considered appropriate.

Submission from school parent – I thank Hornsby Shire Council for considering installation if a raised pedestrian crossing. We regularly use this crossing and it is scary how frequently cars do not slow down, even when people are waiting to cross and more frighteningly when people are on the crossing.

Response – Comments noted.

Submission from school parent – As a parent strongly support the raised crossing as it will make it a lot safer for Thornleigh West Public School students to cross safely and the community.

Response – Comments noted.

Submission from school parent – I am just writing to support the proposed raised pedestrian crossing and also suggest a No U-turn sign at Timbarra Road, many drivers perform unsafe turns at this intersection. Numerous cars disregard the 40km/h school zone and speed down the hill.

Response – Comments noted. Review of crash data at intersection of Quarter Sessions Road and Timbarra Road shows no recorded crashes in the past 15 years.

CONCLUSION

These changes are aimed at improving safety of pedestrians by reducing the speed of vehicles approaching the crossing near Thornleigh West Public School. The responses show significant support for the improvements. Issues raised in the submissions have been addressed in the report resulting in minor amendments to the original proposal.

RECOMMENDATION THAT

1. Installation of a raised threshold and Children's Crossing at the existing pedestrian crossing in Quarter Sessions Road, Thornleigh near Thornleigh West Public School be approved in accordance with Plan No. 628.21
2. Council's Assets Branch review the lighting levels at the location to ensure they comply with Australian Standard AS1158.

Note for voting Local Traffic Committee members.

Under Transport for NSW '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 6524.

Upon receipt of your comments the matter will be referred to Council for action.

Radek Zarzycki
Chairman



Issued Date: Monday, 29 March 2021

Comments Close Date: Wednesday, 14 April 2021, at 5:00pm