



HORNSBY SHIRE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

MEMBER FOR KU-RING-GAI - Mr Alister Henskens MP
MEMBER FOR KU-RING-GAI - Mr Alister Henskens MP's Delegate Mr David Ross
HORNSBY POLICE – Senior Constable Narelle Tomich
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GENERAL MANAGER - For your information
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE & MAJOR PROJECTS –
For your information
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NSW AMBULANCE SERVICE - For your information
TRANSDEV BUS SERVICE - For your information
HILLSBUS BUS SERVICE – For your information
NSW TAXI COUNCIL - For your information

Road:	Myra Street	Suburb:	Wahroonga
Location:	Waitara Public School		
File Ref:	F2005/00166	LTC No:	07/2020
Electorate:	Ku-ring-gai	UBD Ref:	153 M3
Subject:	Proposed Wombat Crossing		
Date of Circulation:	10 March 2020		

REFERRAL OF TRAFFIC MATTER FOR COMMENT OR OBJECTION, IF ANY

SUMMARY

This report details the traffic and parking implications for the proposed wombat crossing in Myra Street Wahroonga, to improve pedestrian safety around Waitara Public School.

SUBJECT

As the population of north western Sydney increases, changes to the road network are required to ensure adequate levels of road safety and access are maintained. Council in partnership with the Department of Education have identified that a marked pedestrian crossing is required across Myra Street near the southern boundary of Waitara Public School to provide a safe crossing location for children and parents who walk to school from the recently developed Waitara residential precinct.

A traffic study was undertaken on Myra Street Wahroonga in December 2019. The pedestrian and vehicular count results are as follows:

Morning Peak (8.30am – 9:30am)

Pedestrians: 257
Vehicles: 789

Product (P×V): 202,773

Afternoon Peak (3.00pm – 4.00pm)

Pedestrians: 165
Vehicles: 798

Product (P×V): 131,670

Site observations

- During the peak hours of the school, cars travelling along Myra Street often stop and give way to pedestrians at this informal crossing location.
- There are no formal pedestrian crossing facilities on Myra Street between Alexandria Parade and Edgeworth David Avenue. Many pedestrians use the median (approx. 1 metre wide) located between Park Lane and Oleander Road as a refuge.
- 60% of pedestrians were school students being accompanied by adults.
- The proposed wombat crossing will be located within the existing school zone.
- The current speed limit outside of school zone times is 60Km/h.

TfNSW Warrants

Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) guidelines for traffic facilities contain a number of warrants which need to be met. These warrants are based on some of the following:

P – Measured pedestrian flow per hour

V – Measured vehicular traffic flow per hour

Type of road

85th percentile speed

Sight distance

Crash History

TfNSW warrant for a marked foot crossing is the product of P and V, which must equal or exceed a value of 60,000 during three separate periods in a day, or two separate periods at school hours for sites used predominantly by school children.

The application of reduced warrant for school children is appropriate due to high pedestrian movement and majority of pedestrians observed being school children. The traffic data indicates that the site meets TfNSW warrant for a marked pedestrian (Zebra) crossing due to high pedestrian activity and vehicle movements. Council officers have monitored the location and determined that a wombat crossing in Myra Street is warranted.

Key features of the proposal are:

1. Construction of a raised threshold with a marked pedestrian crossing near the southern boundary of Waitara Public School (rear of 42-44 Balmoral Street and 39-43 Myra Street).
2. Installation of Children's Crossing candy posts and provision for display of "Children Crossing" flags.
3. Installation of 24m long "No Stopping" restrictions in Myra Street on the approach to the crossing.
4. Installation of 15m long "No Stopping" restrictions in Myra Street on the departure side of the crossing.

CONSULTATION

In February 2020, Council invited comments on the proposal from the public. The proposal was also placed on exhibition on Council's website for 14 days. 30 letters were sent to residents, tenants and Waitara Public School, as well as regulatory authorities and transport providers. Four (4) submissions were received by Council. A summary of the comments and Council response is provided below. Copies of submissions are available upon request:

Submission from resident – Parking congestion along our street is a big problem especially when the car encroaches upon the private driveway access. Please detail to what house numbers the no stopping restrictions will apply along Myra Street? Will these restrictions only apply during school hours?

Response – Council is aware that the section of Myra Street close to Waitara Public School is in high demand of on-street parking spaces. The Installation of a wombat crossing will reduce the number of on-street parking spaces due to the crossing and associated parking restrictions. The 'No Stopping' restrictions will apply along the rear of 42-44 Balmoral Street and 39-43 Myra Street on western side of Myra Street and 46 Myra street on eastern side. Although Council considered to reduce the length of parking restrictions to minimise the loss of on-street parking, TfNSW practice does not permit variations to 'No Stopping' distances. These restrictions will be 24/7 according to TfNSW Technical directions and Australian Standards.

Submission from resident – Parents have no way to adequately drop off and collect their children, there is rampant double parking, parents parking in driveways and considerable aggression from motorists that are simply trying to get through but are heavily delayed by this. I would like you now to picture how much worse that will be when a 45m stretch of space with which to park has been removed from both sides of the road.

Response – Waitara Public School redevelopment will provide a Green Travel Plan to encourage a reduction in car-based trips to the site and reduce parking demand over time. The provision of the crossing by the Department of Education will also encourage parents and carers to walk their children to and from school. Existing set down and pick up area (No Parking) is provided at the front of the school in Myra Street and accommodate up to 6 cars (37m long), a 15 minute drop off zone is also provided allowing for up to 10 cars (60m long). These restrictions were approved by LTC 24/2015.

Submission from resident – The proposed wombat crossing is too close to the intersection and is likely to impact on the operation of the traffic signals and result in extensive delays.

Response – Council has conducted multiple site inspections to determine the best location of the wombat crossing. The proposed crossing will be located 100 metres away from the intersection of Edgeworth David Avenue with Myra Street and situated near the school gate. It will provide a simple and direct connection between school and residential areas. While it is

CONSULTATION continued

likely that some disruption to traffic flow will occur as the result, It is recommended that in order to reduce constant stream of pedestrians disrupting traffic flow Transport for NSW consider providing a school crossing supervisor at the location from commencement of operation of the crossing in Myra Street.

Submission from resident – ‘Happy to see a pedestrian crossing, but please – no bumps.’

Response – A raised pedestrian crossing (Wombat Crossing) is an elevated pedestrian crossing used widely throughout NSW in particular near schools. Studies show that wombat crossings reduce road related pedestrian casualties.

Submission from Ausgrid - Ausgrid has no objections to the proposal. Ausgrid recommends Council consider the need to upgrade the pedestrian crossing lighting to required standards.

Response – The review of street lighting will be referred to ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd for investigation and upgrade if necessary.

Submission from resident – ‘Suggestion: To appeal to the state government to add in a green arrow to allow a better flow for the traffic. This is needed as Myra Street is now equal to or even more of a thoroughfare than Edgeworth David Avenue than it was when the lights were initially sequenced.’

Response – Alterations to traffic signals at the intersection of Edgeworth David Avenue and Myra Street are outside the scope of this proposal. The suggestion will be forwarded to TfNSW for consideration.

Submission from resident – ‘If a crossing MUST be put in, it should be put as close to Park Lane as possible as (when construction in the school is finished) there are less cars parked down the South end of Myra Street. This is where the least amount of disruption to parking will occur and the pedestrians would gain the most benefit.

Response – The location of the proposed crossing has been established in consultation with the Department of Education and Council’s Tree Management officers. The location near Park Lane was considered however it is not suitable due to its impact on heritage trees and geometrical constrains. Furthermore, the location near Park Lane is beyond the ‘School Zone’ where it would be likely impacted by higher speeds.

CONCLUSION

Site visits and consultation with the Principal of Waitara Public School, the Department of Education, local residents and Council's traffic rangers confirm the necessity for a wombat crossing at this location. The Planning Minister's approval for the upgrade of Waitara Public School was subject to conditions including the installation of the wombat crossing.

RECOMMENDATION THAT

1. Construction of a Wombat Crossing, associated parking restrictions, delineation and warning signs in Myra Street near the southern boundary of Waitara Public School (rear of 42-44 Balmoral Street) be approved as per Plan No 18380_CCEX00.
2. Transport for NSW be requested to consider reducing the speed limit on Myra Street to 50Km/h.
3. Transport for NSW be requested to consider providing a school crossing supervisor at the location of the new crossing from its completion date.
4. That Waitara Public School display the "Children Crossing" flags in accordance with TfNSW guidelines.
5. A review of street lighting at the location be conducted by ADCO Constructions Pty Ltd and any changes to street lighting implemented.

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
Acting Chairman



Date: 10 March 2020