



HORNSBY SHIRE LOCAL TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

MEMBER FOR HORNSBY – Mr Matt Kean MP

HORNSBY POLICE – Snr Const Narelle Drummond

TRANSPORT FOR NSW – Mr Zakaria Ahmad

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THE MAYOR AND ALL COUNCILLORS – For your information

GENERAL MANAGER – For your information

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For your information**

NSW FIRE SERVICE – For your information

NSW AMBULANCE SERVICE – For your information

TRANSDEV NSW BUS SERVICE – For your information

HILLSBUS SERVICE - For your information

NSW TAXI COUNCIL - For your information

Road:	Laurence Street	Suburb:	Pennant Hills
Location:	Pennant Hills High School		
File Ref:	F2006/00069	LTC No:	27/2021
Electorate:	Hornsby		
Google Map:	https://goo.gl/maps/Qt68DmyCRZM3aEYh7		
Subject:	Proposed Installation of Marked Pedestrian Crossing and Raised Threshold		
Date of Circulation:	9 November 2021		

REFERRAL OF TRAFFIC MATTER FOR COMMENT OR OBJECTION, IF ANY

SUMMARY

This report details the traffic and parking implications for the proposed installation of marked pedestrian crossing and raised threshold in Laurence Street, Pennant Hills, to improve pedestrian safety around Pennant Hills High School.

SUBJECT

Council is proposing to install a raised threshold and a marked pedestrian crossing (Wombat Crossing) to replace current Children's Crossing near Pennant Hills High School on Laurence Street, Pennant Hills. The construction of the Wombat Crossing will provide a safe crossing location for pedestrians, especially school children and act as a speed reduction device to address isolated vehicle speeding concerns raised by residents and reports of cars failing to stop at the crossing. The project will be delivered by Council as part of *the Federal Government Stimulus Commitment - Road Safety Program (School Zone Infrastructure)*.

A traffic study was undertaken on Laurence Street in late October 2021. It is noted that on 11 October NSW Government COVID-19 Public Health stay-at-home orders were lifted across NSW, so students were able to return to the school.

Traffic study summary:
Morning peak (8.00am – 9:00am)

Pedestrians:	155
Vehicles:	483

Afternoon Peak (2.45pm – 3.45pm)

Pedestrians:	215
Vehicles:	298

Average annual weekday total (AAWT) – 1,486 vehicles

85th percentile speed – 42 km/h

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. A reduced warrant can be considered for sites used predominantly by children and by aged or impaired pedestrians:

Reduced warrant for sites used predominantly by children and by aged or impaired pedestrians. If the crossing is used predominantly by school children, is not suitable site for a children's crossing and in two counts of one hour duration immediately before and after school hours: $P \geq 30$ AND $V \geq 200$ a pedestrian (zebra) crossing may be installed.

The application of reduced warrant for school children is appropriate due to the location being directly in front of the school and majority of pedestrians observed being school students. The traffic data indicates that the site meets the reduced warrant for a marked pedestrian (Zebra) crossing.

Key features of the proposal are:

1. Construction of a raised threshold, kerb blisters and a marked pedestrian crossing near Pennant Hills High School (At the side of 1 Wearne Avenue).
2. Removal of existing delineation and signage associated with Children's Crossing and installation of delineation and signage related to a marked pedestrian crossing.
3. Installation of 20m long "No Stopping" restrictions in Laurence Street on the approach to the crossing.
4. Installation of 15m long "No Stopping" restrictions in Laurence Street on the departure side of the crossing.

CONSULTATION

In September 2021, Council invited comments on the proposal from the public. The proposal was also placed on exhibition on Council's website for 14 days. Letters were sent to residents, tenants and Pennant Hills High 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 Transport for New South Wales - Council to ensure that driveway access to 18 Laurence Street is not affected.

Response - Council's Design and Construction Branch has updated the drawing and confirmed that proposed device will not obstruct access to and from driveway of 18 Laurence Street.

Submission from residents - Concerned with the raised threshold and that it may increase speeds in Laurence Street due to drivers accelerating after the crossing. Suggest that a standard at grade crossing be installed.

Response - Raised threshold crossings are a standard treatment at school crossings which has proven to reduce speeds and injury rates to pedestrians throughout NSW. Council has received requests for the installation of Wombat Crossing from multiple residents in the close vicinity in the past. This will also address the future safety issues that may arise as a result of increasing of student numbers at Pennant Hills High School.

Submission from residents - Support the crossing upgrade in general. Concerned about significant illegal driving and parking by parents. Student behaviour near road is poor and requires school's attention. Council to consider installing pedestrian fencing, signalling the crossing and providing a crossing supervisor at the location.

Response - Council's Road Safety Officer has liaised with all public and private schools around the whole shire in multiple topics, including how to cross a road safely. Informative documents have been distributed to schools for achieving a better awareness of pedestrian safety. Council's Rangers and NSW Police are aware of the parking situation around schools during drop-off and pick-up times and actively enforce illegal parking and driving behaviour. Installation of pedestrian fencing is not recommended due to significant number of driveways near the crossing. Signalised pedestrian crossings require much higher pedestrian and vehicular movements which are not met at this location. The School Crossing Supervisor program is a state government program that contributes to the safety of infants and primary school students, not high schools.

Submission from Ausgrid – Council should consider the need to illuminate the pedestrian crossing to meet Australia Standards.

Response – The street lighting upgrade will be investigated and considered for implementation in conjunction with other street lighting projects.

CONCLUSION

These changes are aimed at improving safety of pedestrians by reducing the speed of vehicles approaching the crossing near Pennant Hills High School. This upgrade is considered essential given the predicted increases in student numbers at the school.

RECOMMENDATION THAT

1. Installation of a raised threshold, kerb blisters and a marked pedestrian crossing in Laurence Street near Pennant Hills High School (At the side of 1 Wearne Avenue) along with associated signs and marking be approved as per plan No LTC 27/2021.
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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: Tuesday, 9 November 2021

Comments Close Date: Wednesday, 24 November 2021, at 5:00pm