
11 TRAFFIC AND PARKING INVESTIGATIONS - RYDE SECONDARY COLLEGE

Report prepared by: Traffic Engineer, Traffic Transport & Development
File No.: GRP/09/3/17 - BP19/257

REPORT SUMMARY

This report outlines the traffic and parking investigations that have been undertaken by the Council engineers on the roads that have a frontage with Ryde Secondary College.

The investigations outline the issues raised by the school community and details the proposed recommendations that have been separated into a short and medium term works program.

In addition to continued enforcement and education, Council's traffic section proposes the following actions:

Short Term Works (0 - 2 years)

- All signage and line marking deficiencies that falls under RMS jurisdiction to be reported to that entity for its investigation.
- Address deficiencies in statutory *No Stopping* signage at all intersections.
- Assessment of the extended bus zones on Malvina Street required as to whether this extended length of bus zone is actually required and can it be rationalised to enable additional parking for 'Kiss and Ride' zone parents/ carers.
- Double barrier centre lines required on Forrest Road at Malvina Street to reduce the incidence of drivers cutting the corner.
- Investigate extending the 'Kiss and Ride' zone along the school frontage in Forrest Road.
- Bulb at end of Forrest Road cul-de-sac to be made *No Stopping* to facilitate turning movements.
- The 90 degree parking area on Forrest Road to be made rear to kerb
- Statutory *No Stopping* signage missing at Malvina Street / Forrest Road.
- Assess provision of zebra crossings at intersection of Malvina Street and Forrest Road.
- Conversion of Malvina Street at Buffalo Street to STOP priority control – with STOP characters to be marked on pavement. Centre island to be considered if

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it can be accommodated.

- Consider installing pedestrian fencing on Buffalo Road at park access point to direct pedestrians down to pedestrian crossing.
- Investigate installation of spitter islands on Buffalo Road on either side of Malvina Street to assist in speed reduction/safe area for pedestrians to wait.
- Request School to provide Traffic & Parking Management Plan to address congestion issues associated with events held on school grounds.
- Request School to provide footpath along its side frontage to Forrest Road with gate to be provided on Malvina Street at Forrest Road.
- School to be requested to provide additional on-site parking for its staff.

Proposed Medium Term Works (3 – 5 years):

- Provision of footpath along Malvina Street, north of Forrest Road
- Upgrade of pedestrian access way between Forrest Road and Robinson Street
- Investigate feasibility of footpath along school frontage of Forrest Road.
- Kerb ramps at all intersections on main routes to school to be upgraded to ensure compliance with Councils and RMS standards.
- Review footpaths along major desire routes to/from Ryde Secondary College
- Review of street lighting along pedestrian desire routes.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council place the Ryde Secondary College Traffic and Parking Study on public exhibition for a period of 28 days.
- (b) That following the community consultation, a report be provided back to Council, via the Ryde Traffic Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1 Ryde Secondary College – Community Information Session Q&A
- 2 RMS Warrants for Pedestrian Crossings

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Wayne Rylands

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ITEM 11 (continued)**Introduction**

Council engineers have undertaken a traffic and road safety assessment on all roads that are commonly used by parents and carers of students attending Ryde Secondary School. This assessment has been used to determine a short and medium term works program to address traffic and road safety deficiencies on streets surrounding Ryde Secondary School.

Ryde Secondary School is noted for the number of events that occur on school grounds both in the evening and on weekends which has resulted in significant congestion occurring on nearby local streets. One event in particular the Ryde Eisteddfod is held at Ryde Secondary School every Saturday from 8am – 8pm between July and September each year. This event has grown each year which has resulted in localised congestion on many streets in the vicinity of the school. The impacts that events held at Ryde Secondary School have on local residents is significant and thus the School will be requested to develop a traffic and parking management plan to address these issues.

Background

The Works and Community Committee Report No. 7/17, dated Tuesday 17 October 2017, recommended that City of Ryde Council adopt a schedule to investigate traffic and parking issues at the 28 schools located within the council area. The school schedule was created in order to:

1. better manage existing staff resources;
2. undertake more in-depth investigations within each school catchment area;
3. budget infrastructure solutions; and
4. Ultimately provide better outcomes for the local and school community.

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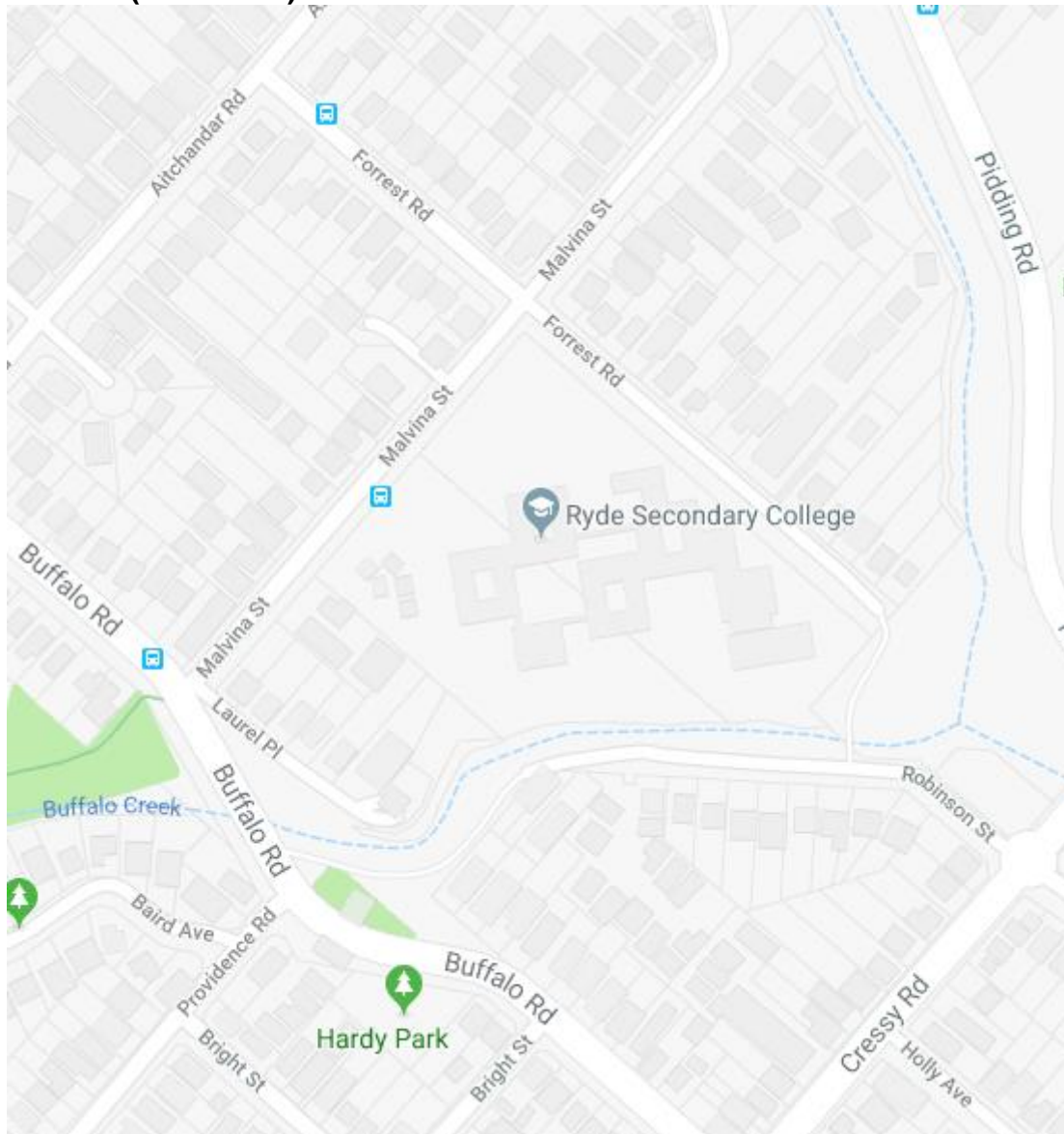


Figure 1: Ryde Secondary School and Environs

Consultation Process

A web page on 'Traffic and Parking Investigations around Schools' was developed, through which Council sought to inform the local community that it was investigating traffic and parking issues around various schools with the aim of improving safety for users in each catchment area.

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The local community was encouraged to provide feedback on what it considered were traffic and road safety issues pertaining to Ryde Secondary College and its environs. These issues were then mapped using an online mapping tool. Council also requested information on how people were travelling to and from the school through a short travel to school survey.

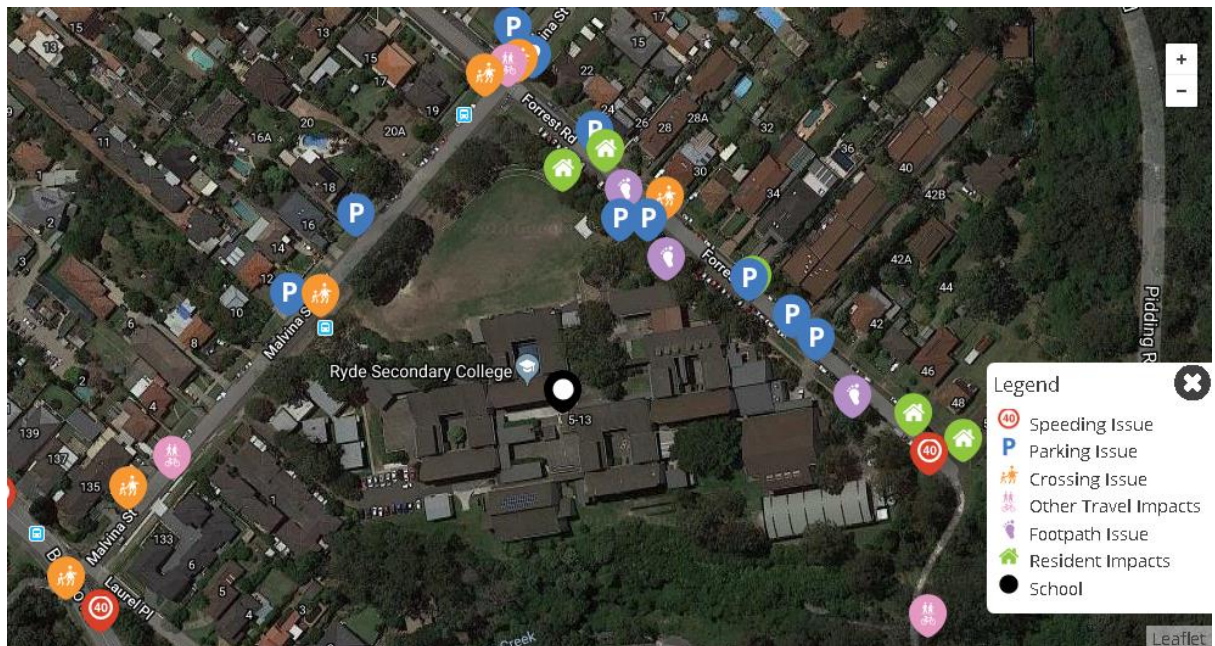


Figure 2: Mapping Tool Identification of Issues

The community was encouraged to provide any further comments or concerns on how Council could improve traffic flow and safety in the area through an online submission form.

A mailout to all residences in the catchment area was also undertaken, inviting people to an evening information session at Ryde Secondary College on Wednesday 16th May 2018.

Community concerns from the information session were noted and responded to – see *Attachment 1*.

Requirements, Responsibilities & Jurisdictions

Through the consultation process, the Ryde Secondary College community requested a variety of traffic facilities and remedial works to be investigated and provided. Council in general is responsible for all matters that are situated on local roads. However, there are a number of facilities which, while located on local roads, fall outside Council's jurisdiction and which are the sole responsibility of Roads and Maritime Services (RMS). RMS is responsible for the following matters:

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- The installation, operation and management of all traffic signal sites;
- Any changes to the phasing arrangement at traffic signal sites;
- The installation, operation and management of all urban speed zones;
- The installation, operation and management of all 40kph School Zones including maintenance of 40kph pavement patches and dragons teeth delineation; and
- All matters associated with the operation and management of State Roads i.e. Victoria Road, which includes all associated parking signage and line marking.

School communities generally perceive that pedestrian crossings are the safest method for children to cross a road carriageway. However, before a location can be considered for a pedestrian crossing it must meet minimum warrants set by the RMS which are based on pedestrian and vehicle numbers – *see Attachment 2*.

InvestigationsSignage & Line Marking Audit

A signage and line marking audit was undertaken by Council engineers on Malvina Street and Forrest Road to identify deficiencies where primarily statutory *No Stopping* restrictions were either missing or not signposted appropriately. The line marking audit identified a number of locations where additional delineation is considered appropriate and where existing line marking needs to be upgraded. Where improvements are of a purely maintenance nature, associated works instructions are issued. Deficiencies associated with RMS works have been referred directly to that entity, with proposed new parking zones or extensions to *No Stopping* zones to be referred to the Ryde Local Traffic Committee for endorsement and subsequent resolution by Council.

The following issues were identified through this audit:

- Issue 1: RMS is responsible for the installation and maintenance of all urban speed limit and school zone delineation. This includes speed signage/ pavement patches/ and dragons teeth line marking. Audit revealed that many of these facilities are in a poor state of maintenance. RMS will be advised of these deficiencies.
- Issue 2: The majority of the Malvina Street school frontage is taken up with bus zones. Assessment whether this extended length of bus zone is actually required and can it be rationalised to enable additional parking for 'Kiss and Ride' zone parents / carers.

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- Issue 3: Double barrier centre lines required on Forrest Road at Malvina Street to reduce the incidence of drivers cutting the corner.
- Issue 4: Investigate extending the 'Kiss and Ride' zone along the school frontage in Forrest Road.
- Issue 5: Statutory *No Stopping* signage missing at Malvina Street / Forrest Road.
- Issue 6: Assessment whether the warrant for pedestrian crossings can be achieved at the intersection of Malvina Street and Forrest Road.
- Issue 7: Malvina Street at Buffalo Road to be converted to STOP priority control with STOP characters to be marked at the intersection. Centre island treatments to be considered at this location if they can be accommodated.
- Issue 8: Consider installing pedestrian fencing on Buffalo Road at park access point to direct pedestrians down to pedestrian crossing.
- Issue 9: Investigate installation of spitter islands on Buffalo Road on either side of Malvina Street to assist in speed reduction/safe area for pedestrians to wait.
- Issue 10: The 90 degree parking in Forrest Road to be made rear to kerb to provide a safer road environment.
- Issue 11: *No Stopping* restrictions to be installed in the bulb on Forrest Road to assist with vehicle movements.
- Issue 12: Review whether driveway delineation lines or 'park in bay' signage are warranted along Forrest Road and Malvina Street to promote responsible parking behaviour by motorists.
- Issue 13: School to be requested to either dedicate land in Forrest Road to enable a footpath to be provided, or else install a footpath inside its property boundary on Forrest Road up to the intersection with Malvina Street with an additional gate to be provided at this location.
- Issue 14: Footpaths are required on both sides of Malvina Street north of Forrest Road. Robinson Street is used as an alternative drop off and pick up point by parents as there is a pedestrian access way linking it to the cul-de-sac end of Forrest Road. This access way needs an upgrade to improve its usage by all sections of the community.

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Issue 15: There are a significant number of events occurring at the School each evening and on most weekends. Currently attendees at these events use all available on-street parking. The School will be requested that it needs to provide a traffic and parking management plan to address the impact that these events are having on the local community and local road network. The Eisteddfod activities at the School every weekend from July to September each year is of particular concern to local residents due to the inappropriate parking behaviour and practices of people attending the event.

Crash Analysis

The roads surrounding Ryde Secondary School were assessed using the 2013 - June 2018 RMS crash dataset. This dataset is populated by crashes where the NSW Police have been in attendance or where crashes have been reported to them.



Figure 3: Crash Analysis

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This crash analysis indicates that over the latest 5 ½ year period, there have been only 2 crashes of a minor nature, neither of which involved pedestrians and none have occurred during school zone operation hours.

- 23 June 2017 at 7:45am - located on Forrest Road 10m west of Malvina Street - single vehicle accident.
- 18 November 2013 at 13:20pm - located on Malvina Street 20m north of Buffalo Road - single vehicle accident.

Proposed ActionsEnforcement

Feedback from residents and school community indicate that some parents and carers continue to undertake unsafe practices despite being regularly informed of the penalties and risks. Therefore, Council's new dedicated School Zone Enforcement Officers will be requested to undertake additional patrols of Ryde Secondary Public School throughout the school year. In particular, they will be requested to target individuals who are undertaking the following illegal practices:

- blocking resident driveways
- double parking
- parking in No Stopping zones or within 3m of double barrier lines
- dropping off children within the Children's Crossing zone

Education

Education is regularly delivered to students through the Department of Education curriculum on road and pedestrian safety. Council's Road Safety Officer works with the RMS, police and schools to target information and programs at parents and carers with the aim of improving driver behaviour in school zones.

Each year Council distributes updated fact sheets to schools in English, Chinese and Korean languages on various road safety topics which are then distributed through the school to parents and carers. Council will also continue to provide road safety signage and resources to schools and from 2019 will be developing and distributing a quarterly road safety newsletter in different languages to all primary schools as an additional reminder of safe practices, road rules and penalties.

ITEM 11 (continued)**Proposed Short-Term Works**

- All signage and line marking deficiencies that falls under RMS jurisdiction to be reported to that entity for its investigation.
- Address deficiencies in statutory *No Stopping* signage at all intersections.
- Assessment of the extended bus zones on Malvina Street required as to whether this extended length of bus zone is actually required and can it be rationalised to enable additional parking for 'Kiss and Ride' zone parents/ carers.
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- Request School to provide footpath along its side frontage to Forrest Road with gate to be provided on Malvina Street at Forrest Road.
- School to be requested to provide additional on-site parking for its staff.

ITEM 11 (continued)**Proposed Medium-Term Works**

- Provision of additional footpath on Malvina Street, north of Forrest Road.
- Upgrade of access way between Forrest Road and Robinson Street.
- Provision of footpath along Forrest Road school frontage either on School grounds or through dedication of land.
- Kerb ramps at all intersections on main routes to school to be upgraded to ensure compliance with Council's and RMS standards.
- Review footpaths along major desire routes to/from Ryde Secondary Public School.
- Review of street lighting along pedestrian desire routes.

Community Engagement

Recommendations that require the approval of the Ryde Traffic Committee will, as part of the associated report, contain results of consultation with the local community and school if directly impacted.

Where changes are necessitated to ensure compliance with NSW Road Rules, only directly impacted residents will be advised about minor works to be undertaken i.e. statutory No Stopping restrictions at intersections, pedestrian facilities or signposting of bus zones. While the opinions of residents will be considered in all proposals, it should be noted that road safety will be of paramount importance in all cases.

Funding

The maintenance of signage and line marking and provision of associated new minor delineation works is generally catered for through the annual Block Grant that Council receives each year from Roads and Maritime Services.

New works such as enhanced street lighting / provision of traffic calming devices / pedestrian refuges or enhanced pedestrian crossings all must be funded by Council directly or through funding submissions to the Federal or State Government via road safety programs.