
7 TRAFFIC AND PARKING INVESTIGATIONS - WEST RYDE PUBLIC SCHOOL

Report prepared by: Traffic Engineer, Traffic Transport & Development
File No.: GRP/09/3/17 - BP19/253

REPORT SUMMARY

This report outlines the traffic and parking investigations that have been carried out on the roads that have a frontage with West Ryde Public School. TPE (Traffic, Planning and Environmental) Consulting was commissioned by the City of Ryde in May 2018 to undertake a traffic and road safety assessment.

Their assessment outlines 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.
- Request RMS to review the operation of the midblock pedestrian activated signals on Victoria Road, regarding vehicles exiting service station not stopping at traffic signals.
- Address deficiencies in statutory *No Stopping* signage at all intersections and at formalised crossing facilities.
- *Give Way* signage and line marking to be installed at the following intersections – Mons Avenue/Bennett Street, Bennett Street/Endeavour Street.
- Review on street parking restrictions in Endeavour Street to facilitate additional short term parking requirements.
- Extension of the 'Kiss and Ride' zone in Mons Avenue and re-route of vehicles accessing 'Kiss & Ride' zone away from Bennett Street.
- Provision of After School Care parking zones on Mons Avenue/Bennett Street.
- Investigate provision of zebra crossing on Bennett Street at Mons Avenue.
- Review adequacy of 'Children's Crossing' in Bennett Street and possible removal.
- Driveway delineation lines to be marked on Mons Avenue/Bennett Street and Endeavour Street to assist motorists in parking appropriately.

Proposed Medium Term Works (3 – 5 years):

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- Kerb ramps at all intersections on main routes to school be upgraded to ensure compliance with Councils and RMS standards.
- Review footpaths along major desire routes to/from West Ryde Public School.
- Review of street lighting along pedestrian desire routes.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That Council place the West Ryde Public School 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 West Ryde Public School - TPE Consulting Report
- 2 West Ryde Public School - Community Information Session Q&A
- 3 RMS Warrants for Pedestrian Crossings

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Introduction

TPE (Traffic, Planning and Environmental) Consulting was commissioned by the City of Ryde in May 2018 to undertake a traffic and road safety assessment of all roads that have a frontage with West Ryde Public School, namely Mons Avenue, Bennett Street and Endeavour Street – see *Attachment 1*.

Council engineers expanded on this assessment to also include nearby streets commonly used by parents and carers of children attending the school. It should be noted that the TPE report has been used purely as an aid in determining a short and medium term works program to address traffic and road safety deficiencies on streets surrounding West Ryde Public School.



Figure 1: West Ryde Public School and its Environs

ITEM 7 (continued)**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. provide better outcomes for the local and school community.

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.

The local community was encouraged to provide feedback on what it considered were traffic and road safety issues pertaining to West Ryde Public School 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.

ITEM 7 (continued)



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 mail out to all residences in the catchment area was also undertaken, inviting people to an evening information session at West Ryde Public School on Tuesday 13 March 2018.

Community concerns from the information session were noted and responded to – see *Attachment 2*.

ITEM 7 (continued)**Requirements, Responsibilities and Jurisdictions**

Through the consultation process, the West Ryde Public School 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:

- 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 3*.

Investigations**Signage & Line Marking Audit**

A signage and line marking audit was undertaken by TPE on Mons Avenue, Bennett Street and Endeavour Street 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:

ITEM 7 (continued)**Endeavour Street:**

- Issue 1: Review unrestricted parking spaces along the school's Endeavour Street frontage with additional 1/4P parking during school hours to assist parents during school drop off and pick up times.
- Issue 2: Driveway locations and street build-outs has resulted in some driveways being blocked by parents as they attempt to try and utilise a space that is not long enough to park a car. All driveways to be reviewed with respect to location of the street build-outs, with appropriate delineation installed to ensure that driveways are not blocked by inappropriate parked vehicles.
- Issue 3: Intersection of Endeavour Street / Bennett Street to be formalised with double barrier lines, *Give Way* signage and delineation.

Bennett Street:

- Issue 1: Request STA to review the location of its bus stop on Bennett Street immediately west of Endeavour Street.
- Issue 2: All residential driveways located within the 40kph school zone to be considered for additional driveway delineation to raise awareness of their presence and reduce the incidence of them being blocked.
- Issue 3: Intersection of Bennett Street and Mons Avenue to be formalised with *Give Way* signage and delineation. Centre line double barrier line marking to be provided at intersection.
- Issue 4: Investigate provision of zebra crossing on Bennett Street at Mons Avenue and possible removal of children's crossing on Bennett Street.
- Issue 5: Investigate provision of an additional time restricted parking zone in Bennett Street to cater for the after school care community
- Issue 6: On-going issue of parents queueing in Bennett Street to access the *Kiss and Ride* zone in Mons Avenue thereby impacting on operation of the intersection of Bennett Street and Mons Avenue. Education program to be developed to advise parents that access to the Mons Avenue Kiss and Ride zone will not be permitted from Bennett Street.

ITEM 7 (continued)**Mons Avenue:**

- Issue 1: Large vehicles, while legally parked, currently obstruct the view to on-coming traffic when egressing from Bennett Street onto Mons Avenue. An extension to the statutory *No Stopping* restrictions is required on Mons Avenue at Bennett Street
- Issue 2: The statutory approach and departure *No Stopping* restrictions associated with the pedestrian crossing on Mons Avenue are excessive and can be reduced in accordance with RMS technical directions. The additional space can be used to extend the adjacent 'Kiss and Ride' zone preceding the crossing and create a new 'Kiss and Ride' zone after the crossing.
- Issue 3: There are a number of driveways located along the school frontage that require clarification as to whether they are redundant or not. If still active they will need to be delineated to raise awareness of their presence.
- Issue 4: The *No Stopping* associated with the McDonalds access driveway is excessive in length and can be reduced to enable the adjoining 1/2P parking zone to be extended.
- Issue 5: The kerb ramps on Mons Avenue at Victoria Road are misaligned and require adjustment. Centre line double barrier lines required on Mons Avenue at Victoria Road.

Crash Analysis

The roads surrounding West Ryde Public School have been assessed using the 2013 - March 2018 RMS crash dataset. This dataset is populated by crashes where the NSW Police were in attendance and does not include self-reported crashes that are required for insurance claims.

This analysis indicated that there has been only one reported crash located on a street with an active school frontage, with this injury crash located on Bennett Street at Mons Avenue. The crash occurred on 26 September 2017 at 6:52 am whereby a vehicle turning right from Bennett Street was struck by a vehicle travelling south on Mons Avenue.

ITEM 7 (continued)



Figure 3: Crash Analysis

While there have been a number of crashes on Victoria Road in close proximity to West Ryde Public School, these crashes fall under RMS jurisdiction for investigation and remediation. Crashes are not related to the school zone.

Proposed Actions

Enforcement

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 West Ryde Public School throughout the school year. In particular, they will be requested to target individuals who are undertaking the following illegal practices:

Works and Community Committee, dated 23 May 2019, submitted on 14 May 2019.

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- blocking resident driveways
- double parking
- parking in *No Stopping* zones or within 3m of double barrier lines
- dropping off children within pedestrian / children crossing zones

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.

Proposed Short-Term Works

- All signage and line marking deficiencies that falls under RMS jurisdiction to be reported to that entity for its investigation.
- Request RMS to review the operation of the midblock pedestrian activated signals on Victoria Road, regarding vehicles exiting service station not stopping at traffic signals.
- Address deficiencies in statutory *No Stopping* signage at all intersections and at formalised crossing facilities.
- *Give Way* signage and line marking to be installed at the following intersections – Mons Avenue/Bennett Street, Bennett Street/Endeavour Street.
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- Driveway delineation lines to be marked on Mons Avenue/Bennett Street and Endeavour Street to assist motorists in parking appropriately.

Proposed Medium-Term Works:

- 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 West Ryde 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.