

12 December 2014

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Dear Sir/Madam

Re: PROPOSED SUPERVISED RAISED SCHOOL CROSSING ON CLYDE STREET

Following our letter 3 November 2014 regarding the proposed raised school crossing on Clyde Street in Thornbury, Council received several submissions from the community. This letter clarifies the justification, responds to the issues raised regarding the Clyde Street raised school crossing project and provides an update on the timing of the project.

Council has a proud history of working with schools to improve traffic safety, reduce the negative impacts of congestion, and promote walking and cycling as a safe, healthy and environmentally friendly form of transport to and from school. This proposal to install a raised school crossing with a crossing supervisor at Wales Street Primary School was first identified in a 'safe travel to school audit' that was commissioned by Council in 2012. Wales Street Primary School and the school's safe travel committee have continued to be consulted during the development of this project,

Further investigations showed that the number of pedestrians crossing in the vicinity of the proposed school crossing warranted a school crossing with supervisor. Providing a raised school crossing is the preference at this location as it further improves safety for the Wales Street Primary School students and wider community. Proposals of this nature are a key element of the *Darebin Safe Travel Strategy* which calls for Council and our community to focus on improving conditions for our most vulnerable road users: pedestrians, cyclists, children and the elderly. One of the strategy's actions that addresses this policy is action 31: "Provide safe crossing points in the vicinity of schools."

The safety of our most vulnerable road users is of the utmost importance to Council and has clear priority over the provision of on-street parking spaces. Notwithstanding, Council understands that parking around schools can often get congested, which was highlighted in the submissions received. On this basis, the proposed location was selected to ensure safety for all road users and retain as many car parking spaces as possible. The proposed design has since been reviewed, which has allowed the retention of two of the seven bays marked for removal. The amended design including the removal of five on-street parking spaces can be seen in the layout attached.

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Further to the proposal to install a supervised raised school crossing, Council is undertaking the following to assist with parking demand in Clyde Street before and after school times:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of 'Kiss & Go' signs to assist in a higher turnover of vehicles removing the need for parents to arrive in advance of school finish time.
- Working with the school to educate parents and guardians on the operation of the 'Kiss & Go' signs.
- Working with Wales Street Primary School to promote walking and cycling to assist in the mode shift and assist safe travel to Wales Street Primary School.
- Install parking bay line-marking at the 90 degree angle parking in Clyde Street to the east of Wales Street to ensure the most efficient use of the road space.

Whilst we understand that the loss of five parking spaces within Clyde Street is of concern to the community, surveys of the area indicate that there is sufficient parking vacancies to accommodate the loss of these spaces both during and outside school pick up and drop off times. Furthermore, the improved pedestrian safety offered to school students is considered to more than offset the loss of these spaces.

Once again, we would like to thank you for providing your feedback on the project and wish to advise that a community meeting with Councillors in attendance is proposed in February 2015 regarding the design and construction of a new school crossing on Clyde Street, Thornbury. Another letter will be sent with the details of the meeting time and location in January 2015.

If you have any further queries please contact me via e-mail on allan.middlemast@darebin.vic.gov.au or on the phone 8470 8286.

Yours sincerely



Allan Middlemast
Transport Engineer

Cc: Mayor and Rucker Ward Councillors