

3 UPDATE ON THE BEACONSFIELD PARKING STUDY

FILE REFERENCE INT1921890

RESPONSIBLE GENERAL MANAGER Debbie Tyson

AUTHOR Andrew Barr

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the progress of the actions following the report to the December 2018 General Council meeting regarding the parking restrictions and railway station improvements at the Beaconsfield train station.

Attachments

1 Letters to residents and Ministers 9 Pages

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A petition was submitted at the May 2018 Council meeting requesting Council to install 4 hour parking restrictions in Railway Avenue, Beaconsfield.

Subsequently, Council undertook a parking study around Beaconsfield railway station and reported the findings at the December 2018 General Council meeting outlining a number of recommendations. Following this report to Council, a number of actions have been undertaken.

This report outlines the actions completed to date as well as future actions to be undertaken.

BACKGROUND

A petition was submitted at the May 2018 Council meeting requesting Council to install 4 hour parking restrictions in Railway Avenue, Beaconsfield. Council passed a motion at the July 2018 Council meeting to undertake a parking study of the area around Beaconsfield railway station to further investigate this issue and provide recommendations.

In 2018 Council undertook a parking study around Beaconsfield railway station and reported the findings to the December 2018 Council meeting.

The study found that the station car park is at or near capacity from 7am to 6pm. The local roads near the station also follow a similar pattern for on-street parking occupancy indicating that the majority of this parking is the result of overflow from the station.

The survey found commuters had little appreciation of the existing 4 hour parking restrictions, indicating that similar 4 hour parking restrictions in other local roads would also have limited impact without an increase in parking provisions at the station.

The study identified that there is VicTrack land available for extension of the existing station car park. This would also provide an opportunity to increase disabled parking, which was occupied for the duration of the day with no turnover.

The commercial section of Woods Street was found to have a high turnover rate of 2 hours or less patrons indicating that restrictions in this section of the road may assist business to avoid the impacts from station overflow parking.

Alternative transport modes were also investigated with opportunities available to increase cycling to the station if Public Transport Victoria provides secure bicycle parking at the station. This would reduce the car parking demand.

The following provides an update on the actions undertaken to date to address the resolution from the December report:

Item	Resolution	Action
1	That Council advocate to Public transport Victoria for: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Construction of additional car parking on vacant VicTrack land Increased disabled parking spaces Construction of secure bicycle parking Review bus routes to provide improved connection between bus and train services Update Beaconsfield railway station data to accurately reflect the parking provided. 	Letters advocating for these items have been sent to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister for Transport Infrastructure, Head of Transport for Victoria CEO Public Transport Victoria
2	Council undertake the following actions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with traders to provide parking restrictions within the commercial section of Woods Street still to occur Maintain existing restrictions outside the school along Beaconsfield Avenue Advise impacted residents that Council intends to hold the State Government to its commitment to provide 150 parking spaces at Beaconsfield Station and advocate for additional infrastructure improvements required to provide effective solutions to the current parking issues. - see letter to residents Investigate options to improve pedestrian and cyclist connections to Beaconsfield railway station within the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy which can be implemented following increased secure bicycle parking provisions. 	<p>This consultation is being scheduled and will be undertaken later this year.</p> <p>No changes required</p> <p>Letter dated December 19 2018 was sent to residents advising residents the outcome of the study and the follow up actions.</p> <p>This will be completed as part of annual footpath priority review</p>
3	Council write to all residents in the affected area (all residents south of Old princes Highway) informing them of the results of the survey and council's intended actions.	Letter date 19 December 2018 was sent to residents. See attached.
4	Council urgently seek a delegation/audience with the Minister for Public Transport and local state government MP's (Bass and Narre Warren South Electorates) to highlight the survey results, detail current pressures at Beaconsfield Railway Station and the impacts on neighbouring residents and to get a timeline of the expected construction of the additional car parking spaces at the railway station.	Letter requesting audience with the relevant delegated authorities has been issued. No date has been set at this stage.
5	That a further council report be presented to councillors by April 2019 detailing the results of the state government delegation with the expected timelines of the construction of the additional car parking spaces. This report will further consider the decision of whether or not to install, retain or remove timed limit parking in Railway Avenue, Beaconsfield and other impacted streets in the vicinity of the Beaconsfield	Meeting with relevant government delegations is yet to occur. Follow up actions from this meeting to be considered at that time.

	Railway Station. Dependant on outcome of meeting, suggest CEO or GM are the representatives to attend this meeting	
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POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Actions as part of the initial report are in line with the priority actions in the Beaconsfield Car Parking Precinct Plan and the implementation plan for the Beaconsfield Structure Plan.

Investigation into pedestrian and bicycle access to the train station may provide additional information to support the Pedestrian and Bicycle Strategy 2017 and therefore prioritisation of actions.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

This report is in line with Council Plan action 3.2 Transport linkages connecting towns and 3.5 Balancing needs of development, the community and environment.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Advocacy letters have been drafted and sent to the relevant delegated authorities advocating on behalf of the community for improved infrastructure to support the efficient operation of the railway station.

Additional letters have been sent to residents providing information of the findings of the study.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications have been identified in the actions to date.

Any potential future parking restrictions will require officers to undertake consultation and the cost of any signage required can be incorporated into the Traffic Management Devices budget, which funds new signage.

Once secure bicycle parking is provided at the Beaconsfield Railway Station improvements to the cycling links to the station can be incorporated into the Pedestrian Bicycle Strategy program or footpath program prioritisation.

CONCLUSION

Advocacy letters have been sent to the relevant delegated authorities associated with the identified improvements for Beaconsfield railway station. Meetings to determine future works with these delegates has not yet been held and will be pursued to enable further progress.



Our ref: 140-75-12/2

4 February 2019

The Hon Jacinta Allan MP
Minister for Transport Infrastructure
Australian Labor Party
Level 20, 1 Spring Street
Melbourne Vic 3000

Dear Minister,

Beaconsfield railway station

Council is requesting an urgent meeting to discuss options to address infrastructure related to parking at the Beaconsfield railway station.

Council has been receiving a growing number of requests from commuters and from residents impacted by the overflow parking occurring in local streets to provide additional infrastructure to address this issue and improve commuter and resident amenity.

Council is unable to take any actions to address this issue without additional infrastructure being provided at the Beaconsfield railway station.

Council has undertaken a detailed investigation into this issue and determined that currently parking demand is twice the station's capacity. There is state owned land directly adjacent to the current car park that is available to extend the car park that would be able to accommodate this overflow.

The investigation also identified that a lack of secure bicycle parking did not promote alternative active travel to the station, which if encouraged would reduce the car parking demand at the station.

Council seeks a meeting with yourself to outline the issues and discuss options and timelines to deliver the required improvements to improve resident and commuter amenity.

Yours sincerely

Carol Jeffs
Chief Executive Officer

Cardinia Shire Council
ABN: 32 210 906 807
20 Siding Ave, Officer

PO Box 7
Pakenham 3810
(DX 81006)

Phone: 1300 787 624
Email: mail@cardinia.vic.gov.au
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INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE Gold

Our ref: 140-75-12/2



4 February 2019

Gillian Miles
Head, Transport For Victoria

Jeroen Weimar
CEO, Public Transport Victoria

Dear Ms Miles, Mr Weimar

Beaconsfield Railway Station infrastructure:

Council has recently undertaken an investigation of the issues around Beaconsfield railway station created due to under supply of parking at the station impacting resident and commuter amenity.

Council is requesting that Transport for Victoria and Public Transport Victoria investigate the following issues and advise Council of what actions are planned to address them.

1. Construction of additional car parking on vacant VicTrack land:
The investigation found that car parking demand is approximately twice what the station can support. There is VicTrack land available that could be used to extend the existing car park and accommodate this overflow parking.
2. Provide additional disabled parking:
The existing disabled spaces were full for the entire day with no turnover indicating that there is likely an undersupply of disabled parking and commuters with impaired mobility may have difficulty accessing the station.
3. Construction of secure bicycle parking:
There is no secure bicycle parking available at the station. The installation of secure bicycle parking, such as Parkiteer, would promote active travel and make more efficient use of space available compared to car parking.
4. Review bus routes to provide improved connection between bus and train services:
Bus routes within Shire of Cardinia have not been reviewed since before 2015 this leaves many residents in new estates disconnected from the public transport network. The bus and train connections also need to be reviewed to ensure that the timetables match to allow commuters to transition conveniently between modes.
5. Update Beaconsfield railway station data to accurately reflect the parking provided:
The Public Transport Victoria website states that 341 car parking spaces are provided at the station however Council observation only counted 284 spaces (including 4 disabled). The website is overstating the amount of car parking by 57 spaces.

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The following attachments have been attached that provide additional background to the issues at this station:

- Beaconsfield railway station advocacy document
- Beaconsfield Parking Study – Council Report December 2018
- Beaconsfield Station Parking Study report by HDS Australia

Please feel free to contact Andrew Barr, Manager Infrastructure Services on 5945 4312 should you wish to discuss any of these issues.

Yours sincerely



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Our ref: 140-75-12/2



4 February 2019

Ms Gary Maas MP
Member for Narre Warren South
Suite 4, 418 Princes Highway
NARRE WARREN VIC 3805

Dear Mr Maas,

Beaconsfield Railway Station infrastructure

Council has recently undertaken an investigation of the issues around Beaconsfield railway station created due to under supply of parking at the station impacting resident and commuter amenity.

Council is requesting that Transport for Victoria and Public Transport Victoria investigate the following issues and advise Council of what actions are planned to address them.

1. Construction of additional car parking on vacant VicTrack land:
The investigation found that car parking demand is approximately twice what the station can support. There is VicTrack land available that could be used to extend the existing car park and accommodate this overflow parking.
2. Provide additional disabled parking:
The existing disabled spaces were full for the entire day with no turnover indicating that there is likely an undersupply of disabled parking and commuters with impaired mobility may have difficulty accessing the station.
3. Construction of secure bicycle parking:
There is no secure bicycle parking available at the station. The installation of secure bicycle parking, such as Parkiteer, would promote active travel and make more efficient use of space available compared to car parking.
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Our ref: 140-75-12/2



4 February 2019

Ms Jordan Crugnale MP
Member for Bass
9 McBride Avenue
WONTHAGGI VIC 3995

Dear Ms Crugnale,

Beaconsfield Railway Station infrastructure

Council has recently undertaken an investigation of the issues around Beaconsfield railway station created due to under supply of parking at the station impacting resident and commuter amenity.

Council is requesting that Transport for Victoria and Public Transport Victoria investigate the following issues and advise Council of what actions are planned to address them.

1. **Construction of additional car parking on vacant VicTrack land:**
The investigation found that car parking demand is approximately twice what the station can support. There is VicTrack land available that could be used to extend the existing car park and accommodate this overflow parking.
2. **Provide additional disabled parking:**
The existing disabled spaces were full for the entire day with no turnover indicating that there is likely an undersupply of disabled parking and commuters with impaired mobility may have difficulty accessing the station.
3. **Construction of secure bicycle parking:**
There is no secure bicycle parking available at the station. The installation of secure bicycle parking, such as Parkiteer, would promote active travel and make more efficient use of space available compared to car parking.
4. **Review bus routes to provide improved connection between bus and train services:**
Bus routes within Shire of Cardinia have not been reviewed since before 2015 this leaves many residents in new estates disconnected from the public transport network. The bus and train connections also need to be reviewed to ensure that the timetables match to allow commuters to transition conveniently between modes.
5. **Update Beaconsfield railway station data to accurately reflect the parking provided:**
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Our ref: 140-75-12/2



19 December 2018

Dear Resident,

Parking issues in local streets near Beaconsfield railway station

Council has recently undertaken a study of the parking issues around Beaconsfield railway station and investigated potential solutions to address the issues. This report was presented to the December Council meeting. The report confirmed a number of issues previously identified by the community regarding parking in the residential area surrounding the railway station:

- The station car park is at capacity from 7am to 6pm weekdays
- The streets surrounding the station are near on-street parking capacity from 7am to 6pm weekdays, primarily due to overflow parking from the station
- There is limited unsecured bike parking available at the station
- There is state owned land available to provide additional station parking

The investigation looked at a number of solutions, primarily around restrictions and parking demands as well as improvements to capacity. To make significant improvements, Council is reliant on additional infrastructure being provided at Beaconsfield railway station to be able to adequately address the current parking issues. Any actions around limiting existing parking at this time will only spread the issue further throughout the residential area.

As part of the recent state election, the State Government made a promise to deliver an additional 150 spaces at the Beaconsfield railway station for commuters. This would make a considerable improvement to parking in this area and would remove a significant number of cars from the residential streets.

In response to this election promise as well as these findings Council will:

- Seek an audience with the Minister for Public Transport and local state government minister to outline the issues around the station and the impact it is having on residents. This meeting will seek to obtain timelines associated with the election commitments for more parking as well as determine timing around delivery.
- Present a report at the April 2019 Council meeting detailing the results of the meeting with the State Government and advising further actions for Council to undertake including recommendations for the provision of parking restrictions in the local streets.

In the short-term, Council will be maintaining the existing signage and parking restrictions and undertaking enforcement. Consultation will occur with traders at the Princes Highway end of Woods Street to determine parking restriction improvements and to ensure their operation is not significantly impacted.

Council understands that many resident are frustrated with the current parking issues around the Beaconsfield railway station and ask that you are patient whilst we work with the state government to provide an effective long-term solution.

For more in-depth information regarding this matter, please visit the Council website and view the minutes of the December 2018 Council meeting.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Barr". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname "Barr".

Andrew Barr
Manager Infrastructure Services