

3 PETITION - CARDINIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

FILE REFERENCE INT1979262

RESPONSIBLE GENERAL MANAGER Tom McQualter

AUTHOR Doug Evans

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive and note the petition tabled at the September Council Meeting and respond to the petitioners in regard to signage and parking conditions at the School as detailed in this report

Attachments

1 Petition from Residents - Circulated to Councillors only 3 Pages

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cr Ross tabled a petition at the September Council meeting, this report responds to the petition. Council is the responsible authority for Cardinia Road as a local road under the Road Management Act, while VicRoads are the responsible authority for Ballarto Road as a declared arterial road.

BACKGROUND

At the September Council meeting, Cr Ross tabled a petition, coordinated by the Cardinia Primary School Council and signed by 113 persons, raising concerns with traffic and parking on Cardinia Road at the intersection of Ballarto Road particularly at School pick up and drop times and seeking an upgrade in signage and improvement in parking conditions on Cardinia Road at Cardinia Primary School.

Concerns in regard to traffic and parking issues at school pick up and drop off times at State Government schools, in particular primary schools, is a matter that is prevalent at all schools, especially state schools that do not generally provide any parking for the parents, and is not just an issue at this school or just within Cardinia Shire.

Council is aware of the issues at Cardinia Primary which are exacerbated by its location on a state arterial road and local arterial road intersection, the traffic volumes are not likely to reduce, and the school will likely need to implement measures to adequately deal with these ongoing issues in a suitable manner similar to other schools fronting onto arterial roads.

In response to the request for upgrade in signage and improved parking conditions the following is provided as a suggested response to the petitioners:

Signage

School Speed Zone Signage is installed in accordance with guidelines and memorandum of authorisations issued by VicRoads, and are determined by the permanent speed limit and traffic volumes in a road like Cardinia Road at this location. The static signage on Cardinia Road complies with the current guidelines based on the current 60km/h speed limit outside of school times and the existing volume of traffic along the road. Minor improvements in signage location are being undertaken currently, however when complete, the signage is considered to be suitable for this location and in accordance with current requirements. If the school wish to fund or seek to improve the current static signage over and above normal requirements, to flashing electronic signage, Council will support the school and advocate to VicRoads for the higher level of school speed zone

signage. Initial inquiries with VicRoads indicate that if electronic signage were requested it would likely be approved. However preliminary conversations with the school principal indications are that the school is unwilling to pay for the upgraded electronic school speed zone signage on Cardinia Road.

Parking

Council is not responsible for the provision of parking for this or any other school, if additional parking is required for school use, then the school in consultation with the Department of Education and Training (DET) should be looking at what options it has to create additional parking to manage the demand that the school is creating. Council facilitated the School relocating its eastern fence along Cardinia Road only a few years ago to create more space for parent parking / student access along Cardinia Road. The School Council may wish to consider further changes within the school to accommodate the apparent increased parking being generated by the school.

In consultation with the previous school principal some alterations to the parking on the west side of Cardinia road were made to try to manage the parking and safety issues, however at that time parking on the east side of the road was not prevalent. Recent observation now show that there is substantial parking occurring on the east side of Cardinia Road in a location where there are neither footpath, pedestrian crossings and there are very narrow shoulders – making this an unsuitable area to continue to allow parking to occur. Given the safety concerns with parking on the east side of the road No Stopping signage will shortly be installed to prohibit this unsafe parking. This is being done in consultation with the school.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN

The Council Plan is not relevant to this matter as Council is not responsible for the provision of parking at State schools.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

Council has been in consultation with the current and former School Principal in regard to the ongoing concerns in regard to parking and traffic issues at the school. Topics covered in these discussions have been installation of flashing school speed zone signage on Ballarto and Cardinia Road, additional school crossings, speeding in the school speed zones, parking provision around the school, safety concerns in regard to parking around the school, school bus stop location, potential for installation of traffic lights or roundabout at the intersection, and traffic congestion. It is also understood that the school is continuing discussions with VicRoads in relation to speed zones and traffic on this declared arterial road.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Current estimates are that electronic school speed zone signage would be in the order of \$70,000 for this site. Council is not in a position to fund any major improvements at the School and such improvements over and above the Road Management Act requirements should be the responsibility of the School as the requester, in conjunction with DET.

CONCLUSION

It is appropriate for the Council to receive and note the petition table at the September Council meeting and it is suggested that the petitioners be advised of the potential to assist with speed zone signage and improved parking provisions as detailed in this report