

## 6.2.3 Quinn Road, Gembrook - petition response

**Responsible GM:** Peter Benazic  
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### Recommendation(s)

That Council:

- Note the actions already undertaken to address safety issues along Quinn Road
- Advise petitioner of road safety actions already undertaken by Council and that a Special Charge Scheme would need to be supported by residents and considered by Council in any future Council annual budget process for the road to be sealed.

### Attachments

1. CONFIDENTIAL PETITION CIRCULATED SEPARATELY TO COUNCILLORS - Quinn Road, Gembrook - copy of petition [6.2.3.1 - 4 pages]

### Executive Summary

Council has received a petition from residents of Quinn Road on 15 November 2023 requesting that Council:

1. Increase the width of Quinn Road to improve road safety and sight clearance safety standards.
2. Install speed calming devices to slow speeding drivers so that Quinn Road is no longer a viable high speed short cut.
3. Upgrade Quinn Road drainage to allow efficient and effective drainage of storm water to a safe and lawful point of discharge.

Tree removal has already been undertaken, and concealed driveway signage has been installed, drainage maintenance has been scheduled along with a traffic count (which will also record vehicle speed).

Sealing of Quinn Road would need to be done via a Special Charge Scheme, which would require contributions from abutting owners. For Council to consider placing this road on a future works program there would need to be demonstrated support from property owners.

### Background

Quinn Road is an unsealed local access road on the fringe of Gembrook township with a default speed limit of 50 km/h. It is in hilly terrain with a potential to be utilised as a short alternate route by road users. The road has an approximate length of 500m with a carriageway width of 4m and is currently unsealed.

Given the function and hierarchy of the road, the current default 50 km/h speed limit in Quinn Road is appropriate and in accordance with the Victorian State Speed Zoning Guidelines.

An initial customer enquiry regarding visibility when exiting No.27 Quinn Road, was received from the property owner (the principal petitioner), in September 2023. Council traffic engineers undertook a site inspection to investigate the residents' concerns.

The initial site inspection identified the following:

- There was vegetation along the road that was causing sight line issues from the driveway of No. 27 Quinn Road

- The speed of vehicles travelling along the road was observed to be within the default speed limit of 50km/hr.

A further site meeting was scheduled with Council's arborist, the resident and traffic team. Following this meeting Council's arborists have removed eight trees (in December 2023) - 3 to the north and 5 to the south of No. 27. This has improved the sight lines when exiting the driveway of No. 27, as shown in Figure 1 and 2.

**Figure 1. Before and after photos of tree removal to the north**



**Figure 2. Before and after photos of tree removal to the south**



Council's arborist team have advised that further tree removal would be extremely costly and traffic engineers would need to consider if the removal of additional trees would further improve the road safety significantly.

A 'concealed driveway' warning sign has also been installed on each approach to the driveway crossings along Quinn Road. These signs are intended to warn motorists of the presence of driveways which maybe hidden by trees and other geographical features, allowing them to modify their driver behaviour if appropriate.

To address the issue of speed, a traffic count will be undertaken during school term 1 in 2024 to establish traffic volume on the roadway as well as vehicle speed.

The resident was also advised that a convex mirror could be installed on the opposite side of the driveway of No.27 Quinn Road to improve visibility. As per Council's position, the resident is fully liable for both the initial installation cost and any ongoing maintenance of the mirror. The resident did not agree to proceed with installation.

A drainage inspection was undertaken in November 2023, with maintenance work scheduled for Quinn Road in May 2024.

#### Sealing of Quinn Road

Most of the petition requests have been addressed above, however for the road to be sealed, it would need to be considered under Council's Special Charge Scheme (SCS) policy and would require property owners and Council to contribute towards the scheme.

16 properties abut Quinn Road, and the scope of works could include widening of the road to 5.5m with a sealed pavement, traffic calming devices and open drains.

Total project cost is estimated to be in the order of \$510,000 to \$1.1M depending on scope, and the type of seal used on the road. However, confirmation of this cost would be subject to any future design and specialist investigations needed.

The landowner contributions are estimated to be approximately \$25,000 to \$55,000, however these figures are subject to calculating SCS apportionments for individual properties. It has also been assumed that Council would need to contribute 20% to the overall cost of the road based on the estimates above; this would be subject to Council's annual budget process and would need to be assessed against Council's priorities for its annual capital works program.

Given the low density and usage of Quinn Road, it has not been identified in the past as a priority road for sealing. For a scheme to be successful, the majority of property owners would need to agree to the scheme and a provision in future capital works budget made for Council's contribution.

### **Policy Implications**

The principal petitioner is concerned about safety. However, the petition covers wider liveability and amenity issues and as such, these issues were considered under the following policies, plans and strategies:

- • The Liveability Plan 2017-2029
- • Road Safety Strategy
- • Tree Removal Policy
- • Council Plan 2021-2025
- • Special Charge Scheme Policy
- • Local Traffic Management (LTM) Policy

### **Relevance to Council Plan**

#### **2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places**

2.1.5 Upgrade Council's road network to improve safety and connectivity while considering traffic demand and freight transport needs.

### **Climate Emergency Consideration**

The petition concerns do not fall under climate emergency consideration

### **Consultation/Communication**

Council officers have met with the resident of No.27 Quinn Road, twice to discuss their concerns about site lines and other road safety issues. As outlined above a number of these concerns have been addressed.

No correspondence has been provided to residents regarding a special charge scheme.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- A high-level estimate for the overall capital cost for the widening and sealing of Quinn Road, including the project management and design works is in the order of \$550,000 to \$1.1M - subject to any future design and specialist investigations.
- As part of a Special Charge Scheme, Council would expect residents to co-contribute to this scheme, co-contribution of residents in this location would be approximately \$25k to \$55k, but this figure could be changed depending on the size of the frontage.
- For a SCS to proceed, Council would need to contribute to this scheme with 20% of the overall cost; this would be subject to any future Council annual budget process which assesses Council's priorities for its annual capital works program.

### **Conclusion**

Council acknowledges the concerns raised by the residents of Quinn Road, Gembrook about traffic and road safety, with Council having now completed vegetation removal to improve access sightlines, as well as installing a 'concealed driveway' sign to warn motorists of the presence of driveways which maybe hidden by trees and other geographical features.

Traffic counts will be undertaken during school term 1 in 2024 to establish traffic volume on the roadway as well as vehicle speeds.

Considering the estimated high capital cost associated with the request to seal and widen Quinn Road, further engagement would be required to determine if a future Special Charge Scheme proposal would be supported by the residents of Quinn Road.

If future support was to be provided, Council would then need to consider this as part of the Council annual budget process as the road would be then need to be assessed against Council's priorities for its annual capital works program.

It is recommended a response be provided to the principal petitioner advising of the actions taken, noting the only way for Quinn Road to be sealed is through a Special Charge Scheme, which would require contributions from abutting owners. For Council to consider placing this road on a future works program there would need to be demonstrated support from property owners.