

6.2.5 Response to Petition Requesting the Closure of Pinehill Drive at the end of Ryan Road, Pakenham

Responsible GM: Peter Benazic
Author: Tracey Cooke

Recommendation(s)

That Council:

- Notes the requests, through the submission of a petition by the residents of Pinehill Drive Pakenham for:
 - the permanent closure of Pinehill Drive at the end of Ryan Road, Pakenham
 - the permanent closure of two driveways from the compulsory acquired properties no: 38A and 44 Pinehill Drive
 - the total re-development of Ryan Road, including the closure of Pinehill Drive, to be funded by Level Crossing Removal Projects (LXRP) and the Victorian Government.
- Investigate and work in conjunction with the residents of Pinehill Drive, and LXRP to ensure residents of Pinehill Drive are not adversely affected through the level crossing removal project which includes the construction of the new East Pakenham Railway Station.

Attachments

Nil

Executive Summary

Council has received a petition of 52 pages in total. 51 pages of this petition comprised signatures of residents of Pinehill Drive requesting - the permanent closure of Pinehill Drive at the (southern) end of Ryan Road, Pakenham, the permanent closure of two driveways from the compulsory acquired properties no: 38A and 44 Pinehill Drive, the total re-development of Ryan Road, including the closure of Pinehill Drive, to be funded by LXRP and the Victorian Government.

Background

A new railway station, 'East Pakenham Station' is proposed west of Ryan Road near Pinehill Drive.

At the 13 December 2021 Council meeting, a petition from residents of Pinehill Drive, Pakenham was tabled. The letter prepared by Adrian and Elisabeth Wood of 23 Pinehill Drive, and attached to the petition, states the new East Pakenham Railway Station will be in the wrong location and thus create traffic which will adversely affect the 'unique ambience' of Pinehill Drive.

The petition letter also states that LXRP is not funding any works to Ryan Road and this cost will most likely be passed on to local residents or the Victorian and Australian Government by Cardinia Shire.

Policy Implications

Road Safety Strategy 2016-2025 - Cardinia Shire Council is committed to providing an environment for residents and visitors that promotes health, safety and wellbeing. Council, along with the Victorian and Australian Government, community groups, businesses, and all community members, have a role in encouraging road safety.

Relevance to Council Plan

2.1 We support the creation of liveable spaces and places

2.1.1 Advocate, plan for and deliver accessible community infrastructure and services that address community need.

2.1.2 Plan and maintain safe, inclusive and connected open spaces, places and active travel routes.

Climate Emergency Consideration

All new facilities, including renovations, refurbishment, additions, renewals, etc. consider materials, supply chains, methodologies that mitigate climate impact and prevent or minimise the impacts on Council and its community.

Consultation/Communication

Pinehill Drive is currently located within the LXP 'declared project area' for the Victorian Government project. The full scope of works that is to be delivered and what is to be included in the LXP project remains unknown, with Council continuing to work with LXP as the scope is developed.

Until this occurs, it is not clear what implications this may have for Pinehill Drive, and any proposal to pre-maturely close the road could have further impacts for property owners.

Considering this, it is proposed Council undertakes a traffic and parking assessment of Pinehill Drive in the immediate future, followed by a further assessment after development is complete and the new station is opened to determine if traffic and the demand for parking has increased, and what impact there has been on residents.

Residents of Pinehill Drive will be advised of these assessments which will also guide any subsequent works Council's Traffic and Transport Team deems necessary. At the time of writing Council officers have not seen details of the railway car park i.e., how many car spaces will be provided, where pedestrian and vehicle access will be located etc. Accordingly, it is too early to say whether a permanent closure of Pinehill Drive, at the end of Ryan Road, will be supported or warranted.

LXP will be advised of the residents' petition and asked to consider resident concerns in their design and management of construction works.

As with all proposed road closures, the emergency services will be contacted and asked for their view.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Department of Transport, in conjunction with LXP, made an application to the Victorian Government for funding for the upgrade of Ryan Road. Ryan Road is currently a narrow, gravel road without underground drainage and kerb and channel. Given the anticipated increase in traffic in Ryan Road that the new railway station will generate, it is considered reasonable that the upgrade of Ryan Road be included as part of the LXP project. Accordingly, Council has advocated and will continue to advocate for the support of external funding of this upgrade.

Pinehill Drive does not provide access to any other road. It forms a loop with Ryan Road. Therefore, current traffic volumes would not be high and would consist almost entirely of resident's movements.

The need for traffic management/calming in Pinehill Drive needs to be established before costs can be attributed to the types of traffic management devices deemed suitable for this road/environment. Treatments that can be considered include flat top speedhumps (vertical deflection devices), blister treatments (horizontal deflection devices), and road narrowing's. A full road closure at one end is also likely to discourage speeding.

If warranted, the provision of parking restrictions in Pinehill Drive, to discourage railway commuters from parking in the street, can be considered. Parking signs and poles are relatively inexpensive and can be installed on short notice providing there is resident support. As with all parking restrictions enforcement will be required. It must be kept in mind however that properties in Pinehill Drive are large and all have off street parking. Therefore, allowing on-street parking near a railway station might be beneficial for the greater community.

Conclusion

The petition submitted by the residents of Pinehill Drive, Pakenham will be investigated further by Council's Traffic and Transport Team and also raised with LXP.

Council will continue to advocate to LXP for the upgrade of Ryan Road, the provision of car parking (where needed) and to minimise impacts of the project to local residents.

Council will undertake a traffic and parking assessment of Pinehill Drive in the immediate future, followed by a further assessment after the train station development is complete. Recommendations as a result of the assessments will be discussed in consultation with the residents of Pinehill Drive.