

## **8 WINDERMERE BOULEVARD**

FILE REFERENCE INT1831789

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That:

- Council note the recent installation of a pram crossing on Windermere Boulevard near the Coles car park within the shopping strip,
- A school crossing at this location be considered and addressed by Council Officers as part of the development of the new school on Atlantic Drive, and
- The implementation of a future pedestrian crossing at this location and the associated required infrastructure be considered as a part of the 2019/20 capital works funding considerations.

### **Attachments**

*Nil.*

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

A petition was tabled at the January Council meeting requesting pram crossings be installed on Windermere Boulevard, Pakenham, between Princes Hwy and Superior Waters and a location be identified for a controlled pedestrian crossing in the shopping strip.

Council Officers have programmed the installation of a pram crossing on Windermere Boulevard near the Coles car park within the shopping strip to be completed this financial year.

Additional pram crossings will be provided at Bonneville Parade in the future following the connection of Ivory Drive to Windermere Boulevard, however the delivery of these works are dependent on a developer and timing of completion at this point is uncertain.

The location of a future controlled wombat-style flashing zebra crossing has been identified for this location, however it does not currently meet the VicRoads requirements for pedestrian numbers and car speeds at this period in time.

A new primary school will be opening in 2019 on Atlantic Drive that is likely to increase pedestrian volumes across Windermere Boulevard during the school peaks. As this increase in pedestrian volumes from the school is during discrete times it will be addressed through the school crossing program and a school crossing will be installed over Windermere Boulevard if required.

### **BACKGROUND**

A motion was passed at the February Council meeting to investigate the requests of a petition tabled by Cr Schilling at the January Council meeting.

The petition had two requests:

- 1 As a matter of high priority identify and provide areas where pedestrians with access issues or prams can cross with provisions of ramps, preferably at all intersections in the road section of Windermere

Boulevard between the Princes Hwy and the Superior waters Round about. Within 2 months of receipt of this petition

- 2 Identify the best location and provide a safe pedestrian crossing as close as practicable to the Windermere Boulevard Shops. Provision of crossing within 6 months of receipt of this petition.

Windermere Boulevard, Pakenham, is a major local collector road and the main entry into the Cardinia Lakes and Cardinia Views estates. There are shops located on both sides of the road between Atlantic Drive and Bonneville Parade forming a small strip shopping centre. The shops on the east side have recently been constructed and are not yet fully occupied.

A traffic count was undertaken on the 20th February 2018 with an average of 7,981 vehicles per day and an 85th percentile speed of 51 km/h recorded. A review of previous traffic counts at this location indicates that the speed has been reducing as the volume of traffic has been increasing.

There are currently pram crossings across Windermere Boulevard at the intersections of Superior Waters and Princes Highway but none between these intersections. Pram crossings are likely to be provided in the future at Bonneville Parade after Ivory Drive is extended to connect to Windermere Boulevard. The completion of Ivory Drive will be undertaken by a developer. Based on the current situation, it is not possible to provide a timeline for this construction, however this is a project that Council officers have been advocating for a number of years with the developer and are hopeful of its delivery this calendar year.

Council officers have arranged the installation of a pram crossing near the access of the Coles car park on the west side of Windermere Boulevard to be completed this financial year. This will provide an accessible crossing point for pedestrians within the shopping strip.



Figure 1 Windermere Boulevard crossing locations

A controlled wombat-style flashing zebra crossing has been considered in this vicinity. A wombat-style zebra crossing is one where the crossing is provided on top of a flat top hump to increase pedestrian visibility and reduce speeds and provide a safe low speed environment for both pedestrians and vehicles with priority for pedestrian movements across a road. The ideal location

for this crossing is on the north side of the Coles supermarket car park access to provide direct access between the shops on both sides of the road. This location will require relocating the current bus stop and bus shelter on the eastern side of Windermere Boulevard including consultation with Public Transport Victoria.

As a major traffic control device under the Road Safety Regulations 1999, a zebra crossing requires a VicRoads Authorisation. Consideration requires the crossing to have 60+ pedestrians in any peak period in a low speed environment.

Previous discussions with VicRoads officers about this location have indicated that additional traffic management would be required to reduce the traffic speeds. This traffic management could include the installation of a roundabout at the intersection with Bonneville Parade to ensure a safer low speed environment for pedestrians.

Council has recently reviewed and prioritised 16 potential pedestrian crossing locations across the municipality which included this location. The review prioritised these crossings based on their strategic value, safety, recorded pedestrian usage and community requests. The proposed crossing site on Windermere Boulevard currently averages 16 pedestrians crossing per hour with a peak of 28 pedestrians and is ranked outside the top 10. Furthermore, the VicRoads warrants for a flashing zebra crossing require a peak of at least 60 pedestrians in a single hour and as such does not currently meet the VicRoads warrants at this point in time. It is therefore not considered suitable to provide a pedestrian crossing at this point in time.

This site will however continue to be monitored, as it is expected that pedestrian numbers will increase as development occurs into the future. It is noted that a new primary school will be opening in 2019 on Atlantic Drive that is likely to increase pedestrian volumes across Windermere Boulevard during the school peaks. As this increase in pedestrian volumes from the school is during discrete times it will be addressed through the school crossing program and a school crossing will be installed over Windermere Boulevard if required. Any school crossing considered for Windermere Boulevard would consider potential for a future flashing zebra crossing on Windermere Boulevard and, if required, be designed to accommodate a future upgrade.

## **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This relates to the following actions within the Road Safety Strategy 2016-25:

4.3 Improve pedestrian linkages including the installation of street lighting at identified locations

## **RELEVANCE TO COUNCIL PLAN**

3.2.1 Upgrade Council roads to improve safety while considering the traffic demand of the community

3.2.4 Prioritise multi-use pathways, where practicable, to create networks that connect destinations.

## **CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION**

Council's traffic engineers have met on site with the chief petitioner to discuss the options presented in this report and explain the investigations that needed to be undertaken to provide this report to Council.

Preliminary discussions have been held with VicRoads previously to get an indication if they would support a zebra crossing in Windermere Boulevard - the response was subject to appropriate traffic management being undertaken to mitigate vehicle approach speeds, however in this location it could be considered an appropriate location should council be able to achieve this and warrants are met.

Consultation would occur with Public Transport Victoria and the bus operator, as the bus stop / shelter would have to be relocated (at Council cost), and the bus operator would need to consent to the proposed traffic management (roundabout and flat top hump).

Traders adjacent to the proposed crossing would also be consulted during the design phase of the crossing to minimise any disruption to parking and accessibility for the shops.

### **FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

The installation of pram crossings is estimated to cost under \$5,000 and can be incorporated into the current financial year's footpath program.

The works required to provide a wombat-style flashing zebra crossing is estimated to cost approximately \$190,000 (including roundabout provision, kerb outstands, flashing lights, floodlights and bus shelter relocation). This will require budgeting in future year's programs.

The installation of the School Crossing at this location is estimated to cost around \$45,000 which can be facilitated within the 2018/19 capital works if required

### **CONCLUSION**

Council has programmed the installation of pram crossings to be installed on Windermere Boulevard within the shopping strip to provide accessible crossing points for pedestrians. Provision of pram crossings at Bonneville Parade will be provided in the future as part of improvements to the intersection however the timing is dependent on developer works being completed.

Windermere Boulevard has been identified as a potential candidate for a future wombat-style flashing zebra crossing; however there are other locations throughout the municipality that are currently considered a higher priority due to pedestrian and vehicle numbers that already meet VicRoads warrants.

The installation a school crossing at this location will be considered and addressed by Council Officers as part of the development of the new school on Atlantic Drive.