

ORDINARY MEETING 5 MAY 2015	5.6
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MAXWELL STREET SOUTH ROAD CLOSURE
Jenny Elphinstone: Senior Planning Officer #438732
Michael Kriedemann: Manager Infrastructure

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. That Council require officers to prepare a proposed design to improve the road safety at the intersection of Maxwell Street and Forest Glen Road, undertake community consultation with local residents regarding this design and implement necessary improvements.
- B. That Council officers enter into discussions with the Department of Transport and Main Roads regarding the following traffic operations issues:
 1. The existing intersections of Maxwell Street (North) and Alchera Drive;
 2. The lack of connectivity for the pedestrian / bicycle path on the eastern side of Alchera Drive with the residents on the western side of Alchera Drive and the lack of suitable pedestrian connectivity along the western side of Alchera Drive from Maxwell Street to the new Woolworths Supermarket land; and
 3. The proposed closure of Maxwell Street (South) as set out in the conditions for the Development Approval for the future stages of the Shepherd Valley estate and the impacts on safe movement of vehicles and bus turning needs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 4 November 2014 Council resolved to approve a Development Permit to reconfigure land for stages 4 and 5 of the Shepherd Valley residential estate. It was also resolved that Council, *“inform the residents of Maxwell Street in relation to the closure of one section of Maxwell Street as imposed by the Department of State Development Infrastructure and Planning.”*

A condition of the approval, as imposed by the Department of State Development, Infrastructure and Planning required the upgrade of the Alchera Drive and Maxwell Street (North) intersection and also the closure of the Alchera Drive and Maxwell Street (South) intersection.

Following a meeting with residents a review has identified the need for localised intersection improvements. This report recommends road safety improvements be designed, community consultation undertaken and if the community agree with the proposal the traffic management improvements are implemented.

This report also recommends Council direct officers to enter into discussions with the Department of Transport and Main Roads in respect to these specific matters and to establish an improved working relationship with the Department in respect to State-controlled roads in the Shire.

BACKGROUND:

Residents were informed by Council, in writing, regarding the traffic management conditions imposed by the State Government in the Maxwell Street area. Council received four written responses from the residents, detailing their concerns with the traffic management proposal and ongoing traffic management issues in the area. Council officers and the Mayor met with the residents. The written responses and further discussion identified the following issues:

1. Excessive speed of vehicles travelling both east and west along Maxwell Street (North) and Forest Glen Road;
2. Excessive speed of vehicles turning left onto Maxwell Street (north) from Alchera Drive;
3. Buses using Maxwell Street and Forest Glen Road to turn around when collecting and dropping off elderly passengers from the adjacent facility;
4. Parking of vehicles in the vicinity of Maxwell Street (North) and Forest Glen Road intersection that hinders clear views and traffic movements;
5. Issue of vehicles travelling east – west along Maxwell Street (North) and Forest Glen Road that do not adhere to the road alignment and the lane line markings;
6. Difficult sight distance for vehicles turning from Maxwell Street onto Alchera Drive. It was noted that this has improved since the removal of large trees in the front yards of the Department of Education houses (Alchera Drive properties);
7. Concerns with the bus stop location and the speed and number of vehicles travelling along Maxwell Street (North) and Forest Glen Road;
8. Lack of safe pedestrian crossing facilities across Alchera Drive (from the western side of the road, in particular Maxwell Street (North));
9. Lack of a formalised pedestrian and bicycle path along the western side of Alchera Drive from Maxwell Street into the town centre; and
10. There is a need for short term parking at, or close to, the senior citizens facility at 11 Forest Glen Road.

Concern was also raised with:

- a. The future intent of the Department of Transport and Main Roads to close the intersection of Maxwell Street (South) and Alchera Drive;
- b. the use by buses of Maxwell Street (South) to gain turning access to Maxwell Street (North); and
- c. the expected increase in traffic using Maxwell Street (North) and Forest Glen Road in the event that the Shepherd Valley estate is extended and the internal link road through the Daintree Horizon estate has not been completed.

COMMENT:

Concerns regarding the existing traffic conflicts are acknowledged. Council will investigate the implementation of traffic calming measures around the Maxwell Street (north) and Forest Glen Road intersection. The design must be undertaken by a Registered Professional Engineer of Queensland having regard to road safety design standards. Once a preliminary design has been completed, Council will consult with the local community and if there is sufficient support for the proposal, the detailed design will be completed and the project implementation.

In developing a preliminary sketch of one traffic management proposal, Council reviewed the community feedback, contacted Coral Reef Coaches and FNQ Bus Lines to determine the type of bus travelling into the precinct and the frequency of service. More consultation is required before Council settles on a preferred layout as the bus companies both indicated they do not travel into this precinct. An indicative traffic management layout is attached for discussion purposes and will be refined in the future.

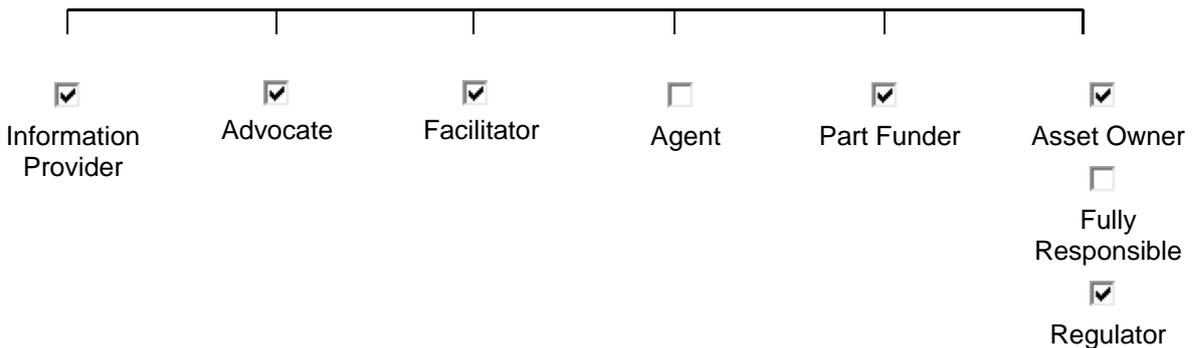
It is recommended that Council officers pursue the issues of pedestrian and cyclist safety across and along Alchera Drive with the Department of Transport and Main Roads.

It is recommended that Council officers be required to pursue further discussions with the Department regarding the future intent to close the intersection of Maxwell Street (South) and Alchera Drive relating the community's concerns and seeking that these be adequately addressed.

COUNCIL'S ROLE:

Council can play a number of different roles in certain circumstances and it is important to be clear about which role is appropriate for a specific purpose or circumstance. The implementation of actions will be a collective effort and Council's involvement will vary from information only through to full responsibility for delivery.

The following areas outline where Council has a clear responsibility to act:



Information Provider: Providing access to information to assist communities and organisations.

Advocate: Supporting communities and groups by advocating for certain actions from other organisations (usually other levels of government).

Facilitator: Bringing people together to develop solutions to problems.

Part Funder: Sharing the cost of a program or activity with other organisations.

Asset Owner: Meeting the responsibilities associated with owning or being the custodian of assets such as infrastructure.

Regulator: Meeting the responsibilities associated with regulating activities through legislation or local law.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

Costs associated with traffic calming measures at the intersection of Maxwell Street and Forest Glen Road can be accommodated in existing budgets (if they involve minor work such as linemarking and signage works). If the proposed solution is more complex, then Council may be required to allocate separate funds to complete the traffic management project.

Traffic operations and safe movement of all road users (vehicles, pedestrian and cyclists) on the state-controlled road is a matter for the Department of Transport and Main Roads. Council will advocate on behalf of the residents to highlight their concerns.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

Driver behaviour is the responsibility of individuals. It is incumbent on individuals to drive in accordance with the road rules and to drive to the road conditions. The traffic management strategies considered as part of this project will endeavour to improve driver awareness and regulate vehicle speeds in the local street but will not completely eliminate the risk of injury or accident in this stretch of road.

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

The local community has been consulted and has engaged with Council officers. The recommendations seek further consultation with the local community for the proposed traffic measures.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Initial Design Response

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