

5.7. MIALLO PRIMARY SCHOOL CAR PARK

REPORT AUTHOR(S): Michael Kriedemann, Manager Infrastructure
GENERAL MANAGER: Nicholas Wellwood, General Manager Operations
DEPARTMENT: Infrastructure Services

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolves to continue to discuss with Education Queensland and advocate for upgraded car parking facilities on behalf of the community by the State for the Miallo Primary School.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The School P&C and the School Principal approached Council in March 2015 requesting a review of the car parking, drop off and pick up areas outside the school. The school believes there are serious safety concerns at school pick up times. The existing sealed carpark is too small and vehicles end up parking on the side of the road adjacent to the school and the cane, reducing visibility at the school crossing.

Council received a petition from the School P&C, which was tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 May 2015, requesting Council and Education Queensland immediately prioritise and fund urgent safety upgrade work at the Miallo Primary School Car Park and Drop and Go Zone.

Council Officers from the Infrastructure Group completed a desktop review of the existing carparking arrangements and drafted a concept sketch for discussion with adjacent land owners and the school.

In October and November 2015, Council conducted community consultation with adjacent land owners and Council received three written responses from the Riverside Village estate (opposite the school) detailing their individual objections to the upgrade of the carpark fronting their properties.

In May 2016, the School P&C wrote to Council saying they have continued discussions with Education Queensland and again request Council to upgrade the carpark.

Car parking around the school is a State Government responsibility. This report recommends that Council continue to advocate for upgraded car parking facilities on behalf of the community.

BACKGROUND

The school has grown rapidly over the past few years and has over 190 students. Council completed some upgrade work to the school crossing and school access to make it comply with wheelchair access and safety requirements. Additionally, Council has upgraded some signage and linemarking along the school frontage.

In early 2015, Council and the School put in a joint submission to the Department of Transport and Main Roads (DTMR) for a safety grant. The purpose of this submission was to gain funds for a road safety audit, survey and concept design to document a master plan. This grant application was not successful.

Council wrote to the School P&C in April 2015 suggesting that in the long term, car parking should be provided off street in the school grounds as there is limited space within the road to expand the angle parking and the school frontage is not long enough for extensive car parking on the school side of the road. Council committed to undertake a maintenance upgrade of linemarking and signage along the road and in the carpark to make it clear for motorists where they can legally park.

Council received a petition from the School P&C, which was tabled at the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 May 2015, requesting Council and Education Queensland immediately prioritise and fund urgent safety upgrade works at the Miallo Primary School Car Park and Drop and Go Zone.

Council's Manager Infrastructure attended a Miallo School Safe ST Committee meeting to discuss the carparking issues, the engineering assessment process and information the School could provide to the Council to help develop the needs assessment model.

In August 2015, the School provided two separate counts of vehicles utilising the carpark. The results are:

11 August 2015	15:00 – 15:30	106 vehicles
19 August 2015	14:30 – 15:30	116 vehicles

Infrastructure Officers completed a desktop review of the existing carparking arrangements and drafted a concept sketch for discussion with adjacent land owners and the school. In October and November 2015, Council conducted some preliminary consultation and we received three written responses from the Riverside Village estate (opposite the school) detailing their individual object to the upgrade of the carpark fronting their properties.

In May 2016, the School P&C wrote to Council saying they have continued discussions with Education Queensland and again request Council to upgrade the carpark.

COMMENT

The existing carpark has a capacity of 54 bays. Staff parking accounts for up to 20 carparking bays. The existing carpark is used by residents to access their private property, school parking and school bus turn-around.

Council's Manager Infrastructure has requested the School approach Education Queensland to help fund upgrades. Councils can play an advocacy role but the State Government owns the school and is responsible for car parking at its facility.

It will not be possible to expand the existing carpark to cater for 100 vehicles. Council's Manager Infrastructure has requested the School consider allowing staff to park on the grassed area south of the 'Old School house' (an area 40 metres long x 16 metres wide).

It would be preferable if upgraded parking was developed on the same side of the road as the school, reducing the number of children crossing the road.

Parking is the responsibility of 'developers' and Education Queensland must make plans to upgrade infrastructure around state schools in line with student number increases.

Council does not take on the responsibility of Education Queensland in providing car parking around state schools. If car parking was upgraded at Miallo School by Council, then the precedent maybe set for other schools and future works.

PROPOSAL

Council continue to discuss with Education Queensland and advocate for upgraded car parking facilities on behalf of the community.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Council will continue to maintain the existing sealed carpark on the road reserve opposite the school. Minor maintenance (including line marking and signage) will be funded from existing operational budgets.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Parking is the responsibility of 'developers' and Education Queensland must make plans to upgrade infrastructure around state schools in line with student number increases. Council does not take on the responsibility of Education Queensland in providing car parking around state schools. If car parking was upgraded at Miallo School by Council, then the precedent may be set for other schools and future works.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic: Nil

Environmental: Nil

Social: Nil

CORPORATE/OPERATIONAL PLAN, POLICY REFERENCE

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

Corporate Plan 2014-2019 Initiatives:

Theme 1 - Celebrating Our Communities

1.2.4 - Network, advocate and partner with stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes.

Theme 5 - Governance

5.1.1 - Establish and develop long term financial, resource and infrastructure planning to ensure ongoing capacity to fund operations and capital works programs.

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:

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

Internal: A workshop on this issue was held with the Councillors in August 2016. Additionally, discussions were held with the General Manager Operations, Chief Executive Officer and Project Engineers with Council.

External: Miallo State School P&C
Miallo State School Principal
Miallo State School Safe ST Committee
Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads Officers

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council Officers from the Infrastructure Group completed a desktop review of the existing carparking arrangements and drafted a concept sketch for discussion with adjacent land owners and the school.

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