
**Port Stephens
Local Traffic Committee Minutes**

**Meeting held in the Port Stephens Council Committee room and via Zoom on
Tuesday 4th July 2023, at 9:30am**

Present:

Cr Giacomo Arnott (representing Kate Washington MP), Cr Leah Anderson, William Ridley - CDC Hunter Valley Buses, Anthony Biscan – Port Stephens Coaches, Joe Gleeson (Chairperson), Adam Stewart, Anna Brown – Port Stephens Council

Apologies:

Mayor Ryan Palmer, Jamie Smoother – Transport for NSW, NSW Police, Mal Britt – Busways, John Maretich, Andrew Behrens, - Port Stephens Council

A. Business arising from previous meetings

616_05/23 Frost Road, Anna Bay – Safety concerns

609_03/23 Soldiers Point Road, Salamander Bay – Request for an update on the extension of the 40km/h HPAA

B. Listed matters

36_07/23 Sandy Point Road, Corlette – Request for speed humps

37_07/23 Tathra Street, Raymond Terrace – Request for a weight limit

38_07/23 Martin Drive, Tomago – Request for No Parking

39_07/23 Martin Drive, Tomago – Request for parking restrictions

40_07/23 President Wilson Walk, Tanilba Bay – Request for a pedestrian crossing

41_07/23 Elkin Avenue, Heatherbrae – Request for a pedestrian crossing

42_07/23 Marine Drive, Fingal Bay – Request for a pedestrian crossing

A. Business arising from previous meetings

Item: 616_05/23

Frost Road, Anna Bay – Safety concerns

Requested by: Cr Anderson

File:

Background:

Cr Anderson has requested an update on a previous request regarding Frost Road, Anna Bay, following a recent fatal crash.

At the May meeting of the Port Stephens Local Traffic Committee, TfNSW were requested to undertake a speed zone review of Frost Road.

Committee members also requested that Council officers investigate whether any other speed advisory signs, such as curve warning signs and curve alignment markers could be installed to assist in reducing travel speeds along Frost Road. It was also requested that Council collect speed and volume data for Frost Road and engage with Police for enforcement if excessive speeds are detected.

The Office of Kate Washington MP, also requested that Council investigate deploying a radar speed sign and additional speed advisory signs, if warranted.

Discussion:

Comment was received from TfNSW that a speed zone review for Frost Road is still active.

Port Stephens Council advises that a traffic speed and volume survey is currently underway in Frost Road which will inform any future actions by Council to improve safety on Frost Road

Item: 609 03/23

Soldiers Point Road, Salamander Bay – Request for an update on the extension of the 40km/h HPAA

Requested by: Cr Anderson

File:

Background:

Cr Anderson is seeking an update regarding the status of the HPAA extension request at Soldiers Point Road, Salamander Bay and pedestrian crossing as per item 611_07/22 (considered during July 2022 LTC meeting).

Discussion:

TfNSW advises that a new High Pedestrian Activity Area is required in order to include Diemars Road.

Council officers advised that the design brief for the installation of a pedestrian crossing on Soldiers Point Road has been signed off and will now be passed to Capital Works for design and construction.

Committee members expressed frustration at the length of time that this request is taking. Council officers were requested to initiate the process of lengthening the 40km/h HPAA, as soon as possible.

Community Engagement

The recommended works will improve safety for road users and it is proposed that the community be informed.

Committee's recommendation:

Council officers to undertake re-positioning of the HPAA entry location on Soldiers Point Road, in accordance with previous Local Traffic Committee discussions.

Support for the recommendation:

1	Unanimous	✓
2	Majority	
3	Split Vote	
4	Minority Support	
5	Unanimous decline	

B. Listed matters

Item: 36_07/23

Sandy Point Road, Corlette – Request for speed humps

Requested by: Cr Anderson

File:

Background:

A local resident writes: "I have lived at my address for 44 years and in that time the flow of traffic has increased enormously in line with the population increase of the area. I have real concerns that there will be a major accident in the future if some speed controls aren't initiated to attempt to stop the speeders. Sandy Point Road is approximately 3Km's long from the Bagnall Beach Road Northern roundabout intersection to Bagnall Beach Road South roundabout intersection with major intersections along its route at The Peninsular, Foreshore Drive, Spinnaker Way and with 6 smaller intersections also. All of these intersections when turned into from Sandy Point Road have 50k speed signage which more or less indicates that you are turning into a lower speed zone from the main road which isn't the case. Sandy Point Road has one 50k sign at the Southern end and another at the Northern end of the road and with only an electronic speed sign at the Panterwarra intersection facing in my and others opinion the wrong way it should be on the other side leading into housed areas not on the side leaving the housed area. Boat Harbour has an electronic sign installed and it is in the middle of the housed area as the one at Corlette should be.

I cannot understand councils thinking of constructing 8 speed humps as well as approximately 30 advisory signs along Foreshore Drive, when in comparison to Sandy Point Road, it is a 3rd of the length with a hand full of houses compared to the hundreds of homes and intersections along Sandy Point Road. Also, Sandy Point Road has numerous bus stops along its length with a very high proportion of school children using the service morning and afternoon and I have witnessed some extremely close calls with kids and cars just at the bus stop opposite my home and I am sure that other bus stops would be similar.

One solution, in conjunction with signage, would be to have the mobile speed camera car setup along the road once or twice a month and I am sure a message would get through to at least the locals to slow down.

I hope that something can be done to address the anomalies that exist between other busy roads around the bay and Sandy Point Road in the way that vehicle speeds are handled before it is too late and there is a bad accident.

I will just add I am not a lone voice about this, many of the residents are of the same opinion as I am and would welcome some form of traffic reform along Sandy Point Road."

Comment:

It was noted that speed humps are generally not supported on bus routes.

The '50' signs on side roads are a leftover from the days before the default urban speed limit.

The traffic calming devices along Foreshore Drive were installed under the Australian Government Black Spot Program to address a history of run-off road crashes and to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians due to the absence of a separated path.

Residents are able to request mobile speed cameras through the Centre for Road Safety NSW website:

<https://www.saferoadsnsw.com.au/haveyoursayspeedcameras.aspx>

Discussion:

Traffic speed and volume data has been requested for Sandy Point Road.

Committee's recommendation:

Council officers to undertake an assessment of Sandy Point Road against Council's adopted criteria for the installation of traffic calming.

Support for the recommendation:

1	Unanimous	✓
2	Majority	
3	Split Vote	
4	Minority Support	
5	Unanimous decline	



Item: 37_07/23

Tathra Street, Raymond Terrace – Request for a weight limit

Requested by:

File: 348947-2023

Background:

A local resident has requested Council to review the need for heavy trucks (Hunter Water contractors) along Tathra Street, Raymond Terrace. The trucks are damaging the road and have no real need to use this street to access the sewerage works at the back of Elizabeth Street. Truck movements start at 6.30am.

Comment:

It was noted that there are preferred alternate routes for heavy vehicles to access the treatment works. Use of residential streets should be discouraged and a load limit is supported.

Legislation, Standards, Guidelines and Delegation:

NSW Road Rules – Rule 104 – No truck signs

RMS signs database – R6-10-2, R9-231

Traffic control devices installed under Part 5.3 Div. 2 Road Transport Act 2013

Community Engagement

The recommended works will improve safety for road users and it is proposed that the community be consulted.

Discussion:

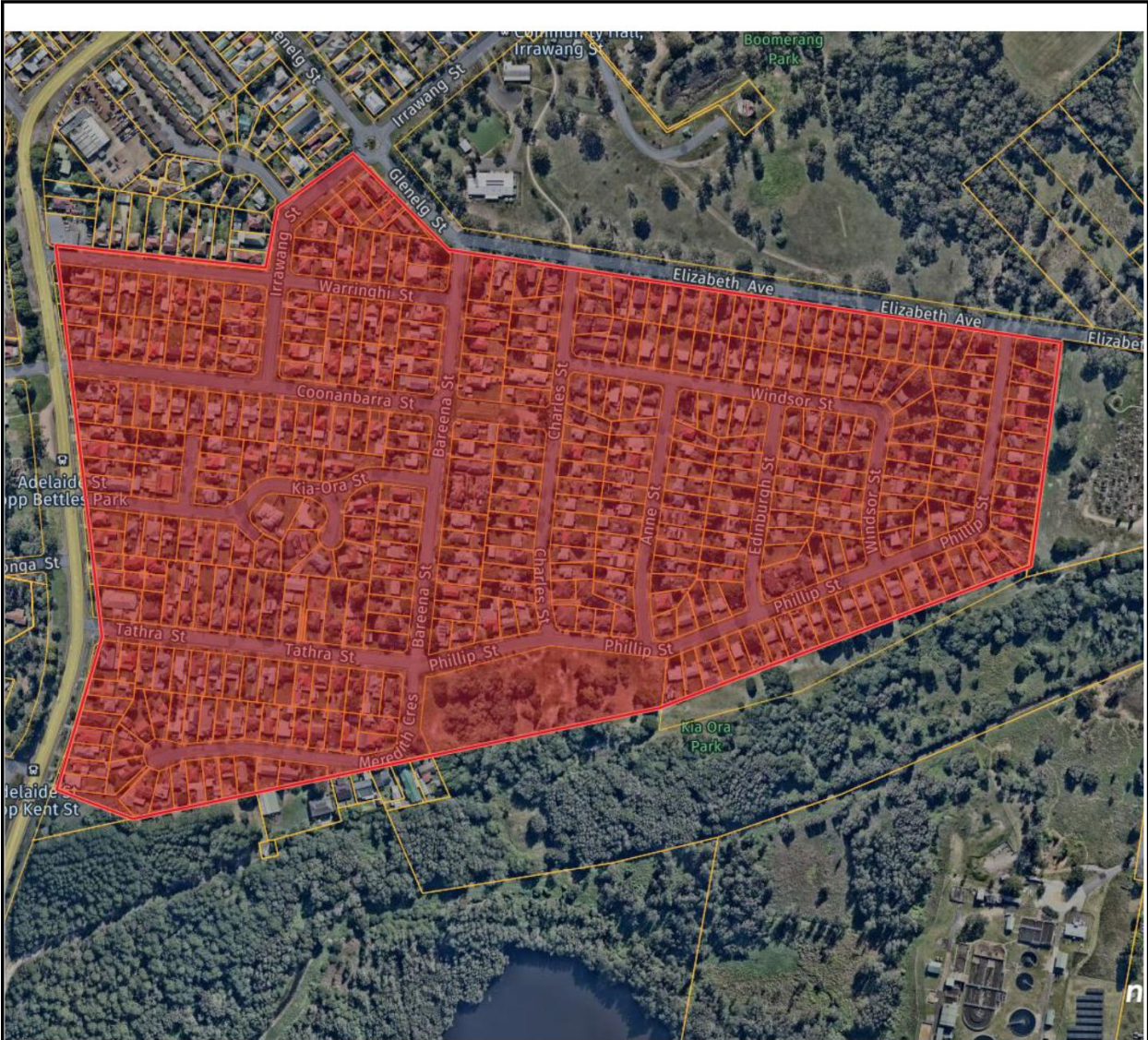
Cr Arnott raised concerns with the impact that additional heavy vehicles would have on Elizabeth Avenue, which he said was already in poor condition. Cr Arnott proposed that Council should approach Hunter Water to obtain contributions to the maintenance of the roads used to access the sewer treatment works.

Committee’s recommendation:

Install truck prohibition signs and a 5T weight limit covering the hatched area, as shown on the attached sketch.

Support for the recommendation:

1	Unanimous	✓
2	Majority	
3	Split Vote	
4	Minority Support	
5	Unanimous decline	



Item: 38_07/23

Martin Drive, Tomago – Request for No Parking

Requested by: A business operator

File: 348923

Background:

A local business operator has contacted Council regarding putting ‘no parking’ signs up at the access to Blue Scope Steel, at 21 Martin Drive, Tomago. People are parking right on the driveway and blocking trucks from coming and going.

Comment:

It was noted that the road surface is poor and width is restricted. Parking restrictions would assist heavy vehicles to be able to access the site safely.

Legislation, Standards, Guidelines and Delegation:

NSW Road Rules – Rule 167 – No stopping signs

RMS signs database – R5-400

Traffic control devices installed under Part 5.3 Div. 2 Road Transport Act 2013

Community Engagement

The recommended works will improve safety for road users and it is proposed that the community be consulted.

Discussion:

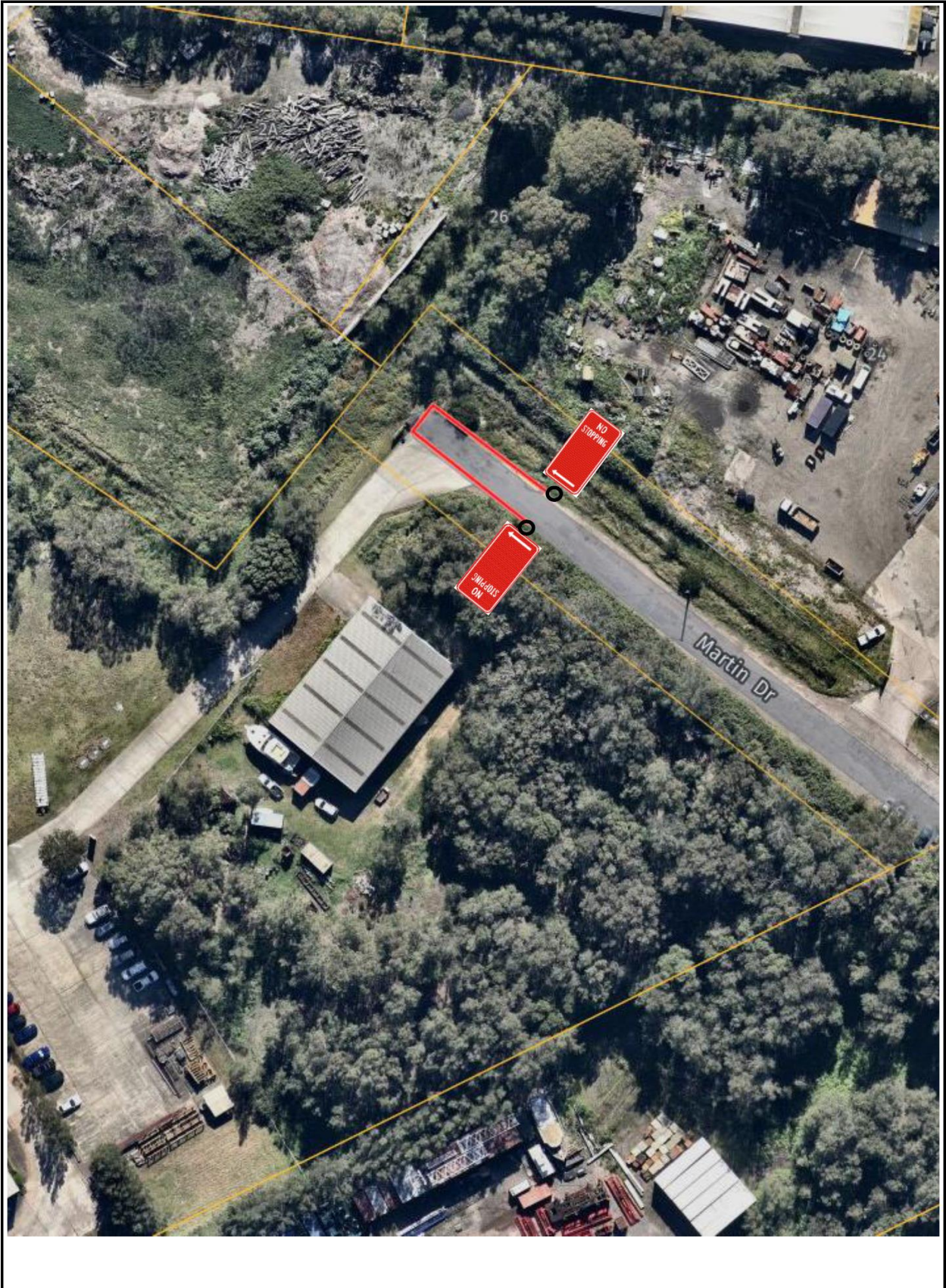
Committee members requested that affected property owners and occupiers be consulted prior to any parking restrictions being installed.

Committee’s recommendation:

Install 'No Stopping' in Martin Drive, Tomago, as shown on the attached sketch, Annexure A, subject to the results of consultation.

Support for the recommendation:

1	Unanimous	✓
2	Majority	
3	Split Vote	
4	Minority Support	
5	Unanimous decline	



Item: 39_07/23

Martin Drive, Tomago – Request for parking restrictions

Requested by: A business operator

File: 348486-2023

Background:

A business operator has contacted Council to request parking restrictions across the driveway to premises in Martin Drive, Tomago. They don't have enough clearance on the driveway to get trucks in and out of the property. Often cars park too close to the driveway so trucks can't get out. Can signs be erected for 'no stopping' on either side of the driveway access.

Comment:

It was noted that an extra vehicle space either side of the driveway would make it easier for long vehicles to access. Enforcement would be unlikely but signage may deter parking.

Legislation, Standards, Guidelines and Delegation:

NSW Road Rules – Rule 167 – No stopping signs

RMS signs database – R5-400

Traffic control devices installed under Part 5.3 Div. 2 Road Transport Act 2013

Community Engagement

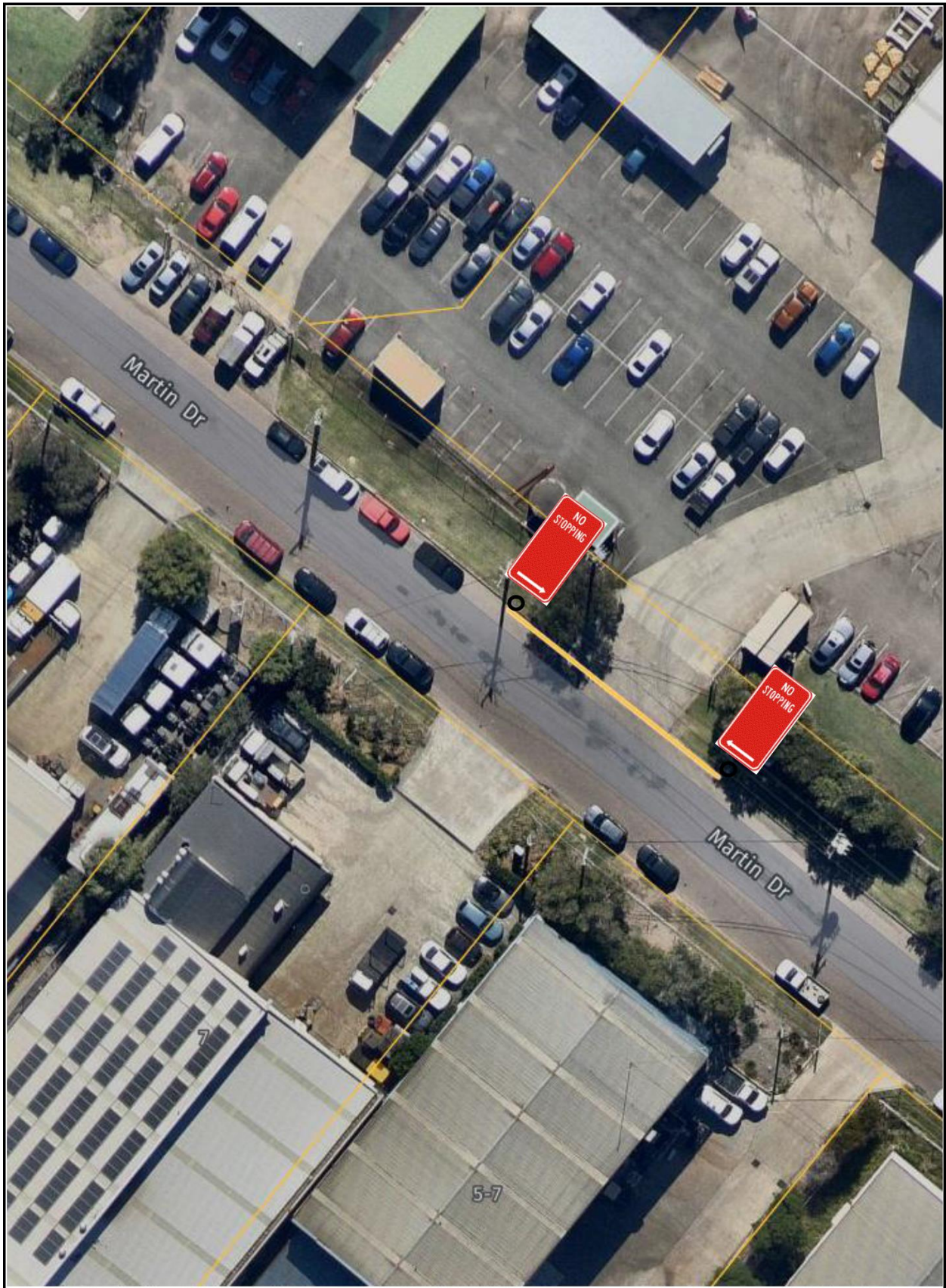
The recommended works will improve safety for road users and it is proposed that the community be informed

Committee's recommendation:

Install 'No Stopping' at No.6 Martin drive, Tomago, as shown on the attached sketch, Annexure A.

Support for the recommendation:

1	Unanimous	✓
2	Majority	
3	Split Vote	
4	Minority Support	
5	Unanimous decline	



Item: 40_07/23

President Wilson Walk, Tanilba Bay – Request for a pedestrian crossing

Requested by: Port Stephens Council

File:

Background:

President Wilson Walk is the main commercial street of Tanilba Bay and is in need of a review of pedestrian connections and parking restrictions.

Comment:

It was noted that the existing parking restrictions need to be reviewed, due to the numerous 'No Stopping' signs. There is sufficient road width to allow for some on-street parking without impacting driveway access. A mid-block crossing should also be investigated to assist pedestrian safety.

Legislation, Standards, Guidelines and Delegation:

NSW Road Rules – Rule 81 – Giving way at a pedestrian crossing

RMS signs database – R3-1

Traffic control devices installed under Part 5.3 Div. 2 Road Transport Act 2013

Community Engagement

The recommended works will improve safety for road users and it is proposed that the community be consulted.

Discussion:

Committee members noted that further investigation and consultation is required in order to determine the best outcome.

Committee's recommendation:

Council officers to undertake further investigation and to seek grant funding opportunities for an upgrade to pedestrian facilities in this area.

Support for the recommendation:

1	Unanimous	✓
2	Majority	
3	Split Vote	
4	Minority Support	
5	Unanimous decline	



Legend

○ = Existing post

● = New post

⦿ = Utility pole

Item: 41_07/23

Elkin Avenue, Heatherbrae – Request for a pedestrian crossing

Requested by: Hunter River High School

File: 23/155315

Background:

Concerns have been raised regarding safe pedestrian access to Hunter River High School at Heatherbrae. At the end of school days, students are released from the gates adjacent to the Pacific Highway along Adelaide Street. Some students continue along Adelaide Street to walk home, while others are picked up by waiting parents. The Elkin Avenue intersection is quite busy with 3 directions of traffic as well as buses performing u-turns from the bus bay (where cars are also often illegally parked). Children often run between cars and has been the sight of many near misses over the years.

Comment:

A pedestrian crossing would assist students and other path users in safely crossing the road

Legislation, Standards, Guidelines and Delegation:

NSW Road Rules – Rule 81 – Giving way at a pedestrian crossing

RMS signs database – R3-1

Traffic control devices installed under Part 5.3 Div. 2 Road Transport Act 2013

Community Engagement

The recommended works will improve safety for road users and it is proposed that the community be informed

Discussion:

Cr Arnott expressed concerns with the proposed location of the crossing. It was explained that this is on the desire line of the students exiting the school and that relocating a crossing further to the West would result in it not being used.

Committee's recommendation:

Council to seek funding for installation for a pedestrian crossing in Elkin Avenue, Heatherbrae, as shown on the attached sketch, Annexure A.

Support for the recommendation:

1	Unanimous	✓
2	Majority	
3	Split Vote	
4	Minority Support	
5	Unanimous decline	



Item: 42_07/23

Marine Drive, Fingal Bay – Request for a pedestrian crossing

Requested by: Cr Anderson

File:

Background:

A local resident writes: “As a long-term resident of Fingal Bay, I am very aware of the increasing visitation we are experiencing, particularly over the holiday periods, Christmas and Easter. Summer is bringing larger crowds of weekenders, many seeking accommodation in our excellent caravan park.

My concern relates to the dangers of crossing the roadway, particularly from the caravan park to the beach. A steady stream of families, with enthusiastic kids, has the potential for an accident involving drivers who are paying attention to everything other than the road.

With this imminent danger in mind, I would ask that your body consider the establishment of a pedestrian crossing, similar to that at Shoal Bay, preferably with speed bumps strategically placed to slow the traffic.

If a crossing was deemed essential for Shoal Bay, I see no reason that the same would apply for Fingal.”

Comment:

Previous surveys indicated that the numerical warrants for installation of pedestrian crossings were not met.

Legislation, Standards, Guidelines and Delegation:

NSW Road Rules – Rule 81 – Giving way at a pedestrian crossing

RMS signs database – R3-1

Traffic control devices installed under Part 5.3 Div. 2 Road Transport Act 2013

Community Engagement

The recommended works will improve safety for road users and it is proposed that the community be informed

Discussion:

Committee members noted that there is a case for several crossings along Marine Drive, to service the different pedestrian generators. Cr Anderson requested that a crossing adjacent to the holiday park be prioritised and that other crossings be further investigated.

Committee's recommendation:

Council to seek funding for installation of a pedestrian crossing, adjacent to the holiday park, in Marine Drive, Fingal Bay.

Support for the recommendation:

1	Unanimous	✓
2	Majority	
3	Split Vote	
4	Minority Support	
5	Unanimous decline	



The meeting closed at 10.20am