

7. ROAD SAFETY ISSUES – MARSHLAND ROAD

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Bill Greenwood, DDI 941-8946
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The purpose of this report is to outline the steps being taken to address level of service issues on Marshland Road, south of Prestons Road (refer attached plan).

INTRODUCTION

Marshland Road is classified as a minor arterial road and carries around 25,000 vehicles per day. It has a poor road safety record south of Prestons Road especially along the frontage of a fruit and vegetable stall at 410 Marshland Road. Positive discussions have been held with the owner of the property and steps are proposed to be taken to address significant road safety issues. The report recommends that a 'no stopping' restriction be installed in this area as a result of a recent crash reduction study. Steps will also be taken to ensure that parking no longer occurs on-street but on a recently developed off-street facility.

BACKGROUND

The road safety record of Marshland Road south of the Prestons Road roundabout is poor. The Council has received a number of complaints regarding safety in this area. The problems have recently been exacerbated by the sealing of the water table to address a maintenance issue, sealing of the footpath cycleway along the edge of the road and the sealing of the large area within the property frontage of 410 Marshland Road. As a result of this increased sealed area additional angle parking is now occurring along the road frontage in this area. This angle parking combined with a revised off-street parking area is causing a significant increase in the number of vehicle conflicts.

In February 2001 a crash reduction study was completed for the area of Marshland Road commencing at the Prestons Road roundabout and extending for a 300m distance south. The study noted that six people had been injured in reported crashes on the road in the area over the previous five years. In addition to this, nine non-injury crashes were reported.

The crash reduction study identified a \$250,000 project starting at Prestons Road and extending past the properties causing concern. The project which is anticipated to give a \$4 return for every \$1 spent has not been specifically included in the Council's five year budget. The expected delay to some budgeted projects makes it possible that this project may be undertaken in the 2003/04 budget year.

The owner of the property has been very supportive of making changes on his property to provide sufficient off-street car parking for their use. The owner has offered to complete this work by the end of November 2002. The support he has shown for improving road safety in the area is very much appreciated.

DISCUSSION

Steps are urgently needed to be taken to address the increasing road safety problems south of the Prestons Road roundabout in Marshland Road. The owner of the property is currently developing an off-street car parking area to provide for customers. In order to ensure that the customers use this facility rather than angle park along the road frontage, it is suggested that the Council undertake on-street changes in conjunction with this work.

To remove angle parking along the property frontage which is currently occurring over the footpath/cycleway, it is suggested that roadmarkings be installed clearly delineating traffic lanes, cycle lanes and footpath area. In order to reinforce these areas, it is proposed to install frangible marker posts along the property fronting, restricting access to this area. In order to ensure that vehicles are not parked on-street along this frontage within the proposed cycle lane a 'no parking' restriction needs to be installed. In conjunction with this it is appropriate that a parking restriction be installed on both sides of the road to ensure that customers do not park on the opposite side of the road and walk across to purchase produce from the stall.

CONCLUSION

There is a significant road safety problem on Marshland Road south of the Prestons Road roundabout. Angle parking is currently occurring in this 80 km/h speed zone area. In order to address the obvious safety issues, the adjacent property owner is currently developing an off-street car parking area. Once the car parking area is completed it is proposed to install traffic management along the road in the form of clearly marked traffic lanes, flush median, cycle lane and footpath area. In order to ensure that vehicles no longer continue to park on-street within the traffic lanes a 'no stopping' restriction is proposed.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That a flush median traffic lane and cycle lane markings be installed on Marshland Road commencing at the Prestons Road roundabout and extending south to the McSaveney's Road intersection.
 2. That the Council express their thanks to the property owner at 410 Marshland Road for his rapid response to the road safety concerns in this area.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. That the above recommendations be adopted.
 2. That the success of the above measures be reported in twelve months time with regard to the parking arrangements at No. 410 Marshland Road.