

4. HILLS ROAD/INNES ROAD INTERSECTION

Officer responsible
City Streets Manager

Author
Mike Calvert, DDI 941-8611

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with some background information regarding the Hills Road/Innes Road intersection.

BACKGROUND

City Streets Unit were approached by the Principal of Mairehau High School at the beginning of the 2002 school year regarding the safety of school students crossing Innes Road between Briggs Road and Hills Road. The main issues were the speed and volume of traffic along this section of the arterial road. A survey of people crossing the road in the area was undertaken as a result of these concerns and it was concluded that there was a case to provide further crossing facilities along this section of road. There are currently pedestrian/cycle crossing facilities included on the solid island immediately to the north of the Briggs Road/Innes Road intersection. However, no action was taken at the time due to the uncertainty regarding the continued existence of Mairehau High School on the site and what the outcomes from the NROSS study may include in this area.

In mid March the City Streets Unit was contacted by staff from Mairehau High School with concerns regarding the impact of the new residential subdivision east of Hills Road (see attached plan) and a meeting was held to discuss some of the traffic management issues raised by the development of this land. A further meeting was subsequently held in April with the school principal, Mr Lancaster, to discuss the difficulties with and possible solution to egress from Hills Road north, particularly for students at the end of the school day. A deputation from the school has requested speaking rights at the June meeting of the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee as a result of these discussions.

DISCUSSION

The land to the north, west and east of the school has been zoned for low-density residential development, with a mix of L1, L1A and L1B zoning catering for over 400 households. This land is likely to become fully developed over the next 5 to 10 years, depending on the future demand for residential sections. It is proposed that access to this land is provided from Hills Road and Philpotts Road, with a minor link for local traffic being formed through to Chiltern Drive (see attachment). There will also be a number of pedestrian/cycle links formed to provide off-road access throughout the area. QEII Drive and the extension of Innes Road are declared Limited Access Roads and therefore access to these roads for the purpose of subdivision is not an option under the Local Government Act.

The NROSS Report recommends that the construction of a road link from QEII Drive to Hills Road would appropriately be constructed in the medium term. It is noted that the Land Transport Subcommittee is recommending to Council that the QEII Drive/Hills Road link have a high priority in the implementation of northern access projects. It is likely that a substantial length of the road, albeit to local road standards, will be constructed to service the proposed subdivisions and vested with the Council. The City Streets Unit is also in the process of acquiring land on the northern side of QEII Drive, in conjunction with Parks and Waterways, to provide for a future roundabout at the junction of QEII Drive with the Hills Road extension.

The extra traffic that will be generated by the development of the residential zoned land and the potential linking of Hills Road through to QEII Drive will eventually require a change of control at the Hills Road/Innes Road intersection from the current Give Way on the Hills Road approaches to signals. The work is not currently in the Annual Plan and it is, therefore, anticipated that unless there is a safety problem at the intersection the installation of signals would not be programmed until 2007/08. Should signals be installed before this time the project would need to be funded from an alternative source.

CONCLUSIONS

Mairehau High School seeks the installation of signals at the intersection of Hills Road/Innes Road due to their concerns regarding the safety of the intersection, particularly at peak times.

Staff support the installation of signals but funding is not currently available in the capital works budget to undertake the work.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

- Recommendations:**
1. That the staff recommendation be adopted.
 2. That the Community Board has representation at the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee's June meeting to support the school's submission.