

5. SCHOOL PATROLS IN CHRISTCHURCH CITY

Officer responsible City Streets Manager	Author Michael Thomson, Cycling and Pedestrian Planner, DDI 941-8950
--	--

The purpose of this report is to formalise the legality of the 65 school patrols that currently operate within the Christchurch City Council area, by way of an updated Council resolution.

BACKGROUND

In 1989, all amalgamating authorities which formed the new Christchurch City Council had schools within their area which operated school patrols on roads adjacent to, or nearby to a school.

Regulation 97(1) of the Traffic Regulations 1976, specifies that the Controlling Authority (the local Council of the time) can authorise a school patrol to operate, by permission in writing to the head teacher of the school.

A new type of school patrol has been established in New Zealand, following a trial period, effective from January 2001. The kea crossing style of school patrol was included in the Traffic Amendment Regulations 2000, and is in addition to the school patrol operated on zebra pedestrian crossings.

CURRENT ISSUES

The New Zealand Police Youth Education team, have requested copies of letters of authorisation for all school patrols within the Christchurch City Council area. This is part of the ongoing joint Council/Police initiatives to ensure the technical and legal correctness of all school patrols.

The Land Transport Safety Authority (LTSA) is currently reviewing legislation that relates to use and control of roads. The relevant Land Transport rules will cover Road Users and Traffic Control Devices. The implication of the new Traffic Control Devices rule is that the Controlling Authority's (Council's) letter of authorisation requires updating to include any legal enactment made in substitution. The new letters of authorisation also should specify the precise location of the school patrol and specify the date of the formal Council resolution.

A copy of a standard authorisation letter is attached (Appendix B). A schedule of all schools operating school patrols at zebra pedestrian crossings or kea school crossing points is listed in the recommendation (Appendix A).

REPORTING PROCESS

The 65 school patrols at zebra crossings and kea crossings in Christchurch City exist, with no physical changes/parking restrictions etc required as part of this report. The administrative update of school patrols, is being reported to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee for formal Council approval.

Any future new school patrols will be reported to the relevant Community Board. Community Boards have delegated authority to install zebra pedestrian crossings on roads in the city. However, the Council has not delegated authority to Boards for establishing school patrols at zebra pedestrian crossings or kea school crossing points. All Community Board resolutions for school patrols will therefore need to be ratified by the Council.

Recommendation: In pursuance of the powers vested in it by Regulation 97(1) of the Traffic Regulations 1976 or by any enactment made in substitution, and pursuance to the powers vested in it by the Local Government Act 1974, the Christchurch City Council hereby authorises the head teacher of the school listed in the following schedule (Appendix A) to appoint appropriately trained persons in accordance with Traffic Regulation 97(4) to act as School Patrols at the zebra pedestrian crossing or school crossing point as specified in the following schedule: