

**17. AVONSIDE DRIVE - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO SCHOOL BUS STOP AT AVONSIDE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL**

<b>General Manager responsible:</b>	General Manager City Environment
<b>Officer responsible:</b>	Transport and City Streets Manager
<b>Author:</b>	Paul Burden/Barry Cook, DDI 941-8938

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to extend the existing school bus stop outside Avonside Girls High School(refer attachment 1).

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2. Avonside Girls High School experiences a very high demand for buses as many students elect to travel to and from school using this mode. Currently up to nine buses arrive at the school simultaneously just after 3.00pm on school days. The existing bus stop on the school side has capacity for approximately six buses and there is a single stop located opposite the school. It follows that some buses are required to either queue to enter the stop once some buses have departed, or will circle the block waiting for space to become available. The latter is typically what tends to occur as queuing causes significant disruption to the traffic stream on Avonside Drive during an already chaotic period of the day with the traffic activity associated with students and parents.
3. The bus arrival and departure routine operates to a strict schedule with all buses at the school by 3.15pm at the latest and all buses departing simultaneously at 3.25pm. Therefore once the existing bus stop reaches capacity, the remaining buses are circling until space becomes available at 3.25pm. This results in a delayed departure for these buses.
4. The situation can be resolved by extending the length of the bus stop outside the school to create additional capacity for up to four buses. The current bus stop is operative between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday and it is proposed to continue this timeframe over the extended section.
5. The proposed extension does not extend beyond the school frontage and the neighbouring property is owned by the school and accommodates the school caretaker. Any displaced parking due to the extension of the bus stop comprises those vehicles belonging to students not residents. As such it is considered that there are no other affected parties beyond the school. Red Bus the company that provides the majority of bus service to the school supports the proposal.
6. The Avonside Community Group supports the proposal.

**FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**7. Cost**

Installation of signs and posts is within existing budgets.

**8. Legal**

The Land Transport Rules provide for the installation of parking restrictions including bus stops.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board agree that the parking of vehicles is limited to school buses only between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm, Monday through Friday, on the eastern side of Avonside Drive from a point 50m south of the intersection of Cowlshaw Street and extending 60m in a southerly direction.

**CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion.