

6. ST ALBANS STREET AT SPRINGFIELD ROAD- PROPOSED CLEARWAY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment
Officer responsible:	Don Munro, Transport and City Streets Unit Manager
Author:	Paul Burden/Andrew Hensley, DDI 941-8516

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval for the installation of a parking restriction (clearway) outside "St Albans Medical Centre" on the south side of St Albans Street immediately east of the Springfield Road intersection. (Refer to attachment).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. During the morning commuter peak period there is a constant flow of vehicles heading towards the central city by travelling west along St Albans Street (from Rutland Street, Trafalgar and Courtenay Streets) and turning left into Springfield Road to link with the one way system (Durham Street). This is a "collector" route as classified in the City Plan and the reasonably high volume of traffic using the route is anticipated.
3. The flow of vehicles turning left into Springfield Road is often stopped by the legal requirement for these vehicles to give way to a vehicle turning right into Springfield Road from St Albans Street. The number of right turning vehicles is low in comparison but sufficient to create a queue of several vehicles waiting to turn left. Due to the presence of parked vehicles at the kerbside (outside the medical centre), the left turning queue forms centrally within the traffic lane preventing the flow of vehicles wanting to continue west along St Albans Street (i.e. those that do not wish to turn left into Springfield Road). Frequently these vehicles will cross the centre-line to proceed and often into the path of oncoming traffic. This raises a significant safety concern.
4. The concern can be addressed through the removal of car parking outside the medical centre. This will allow vehicles turning left into Springfield Road to move further left resulting in the queue not interfering with through traffic (west bound) on St Albans Street. Lane markings would be added to further guide motorists into an appropriate position to queue. A diagram of this proposal is shown in Attachment 1.
5. Consultation with the St Albans Medical Centre revealed opposition to the permanent removal of car parking along their St Albans Street frontage. However, as the problem is only prevalent during the morning commuter peak period, the need to remove car parking permanently is not considered necessary. The Medical Centre has agreed to the removal of car parking covering a 20m length of road frontage for the morning peak (0730 to 0900, Monday to Friday). However, surveys clearly show that for the restriction to be effective a minimum of 35m needs to be kept clear of parking. The Medical Centre has expressed concern, but not formal opposition, regarding the proposed length of the restriction. It is noted that the Medical Centre has considerable off street parking with a significant number of vacant spaces in the period that the restriction would apply.
6. The effectiveness of the restriction, with respect to minimising the current disruption to through traffic and minimising illegal parking, is best achieved through the use of "clearway" signage.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

7. The installation of signs and markings is within operational budgets.
8. The Land Transport Rules provide for the installation of parking restrictions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board agree that the parking of vehicles be prohibited, from 7.30 am to 9.00 am, Monday to Friday on the south side of St Albans Street commencing at a point 11 metres in an easterly direction from the Springfield Road intersection and extending in a easterly direction for a distance of 35 metres.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.