

## 18. HILLS ROAD PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WORKS

RR 7509

<b>Officer responsible</b> City Streets Manager	<b>Author</b> Michael Thomson, Pedestrian Advocate
Corporate Plan Output: Capital Works Programme 1997/98	

The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's input for a proposal to improve safety for pedestrians on Hills Road by replacing the existing zebra crossing just south of Dudley Street with two pedestrian refuge islands (plan [attached](#)). This report is also to be put to the May meeting of the City Services Committee.

### BACKGROUND

The zebra crossing was installed in September 1980 as a result of local residents' concerns about the difficulty and relative safety when crossing Hills Road. At that time the average daily traffic flow passing was 15,000. The traffic flow has risen to an average of 19,000 vehicles per day in 1997.

### SAFETY RECORD

In the past two years, there have been eight reported accidents associated with this zebra crossing. Two people have been seriously injured and nine people received minor injuries. Those seriously injured were pedestrians on the zebra crossing being struck by cars. The other collisions and subsequent injuries were the result of failure of vehicles to stop for queued vehicles at the pedestrian crossing, causing "nose to tail" type collisions.

### CURRENT PROPOSAL

The Council has made provision for \$15,000 in the City Streets budget for safety remedial works at this location. It is proposed to remove the existing zebra crossing and replace it with two pedestrian refuge islands. One island to be located at the zebra crossing location and the other island located just south of the Edgeware Road intersections. The islands will be protected by a flush (painted) median. The primary function of the median is to channelise motorists, safely guiding them past the islands. The attached diagram illustrates the extent of the project. Additional benefits of the painted median will be protection for right turning traffic and for any pedestrians who choose to cross between the islands. The benefit of this proposal is to decrease the exposure to pedestrians, with less gap selection decisions being required. Surveys of pedestrians have shown that only one or two pedestrians cross the road during a peak hour.

## **PROCESS**

Hills Road is an arterial road, therefore the City Services Committee will make a recommendation to Council for traffic management changes if it approves this project.

A report to the May meeting of the City Services Committee will advise the Board's input. An information leaflet will be distributed to the immediate area. It is expected that the work will be completed by 30 June 1998, if approved.

**Recommendation:** That the Board endorse the proposal to remove the zebra crossing on Hills Road, just south of Dudley Street, replacing it with refuge islands and associated painted median.

### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the publicity leaflet be distributed, seeking residents' comments and that these be reported to the June meeting.