

21. BARRINGTON STREET NEW GRASS BERM INSTALLATION

General Manager responsible:	General Manager City Environment, DDI: 941-8608
Officer responsible:	Transport and Greenspace Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Council's decision on the installation of new grass berms in response to a petition submitted by residents of Barrington Street requesting that berms not be installed as part of the footpath resurfacing. A copy of the report has been given to the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Council has a Footpath Berm Policy (last confirmed 1999) which requires that any path wider than 2.5m in a residential area has a grass berm installed.
3. Barrington Street currently has full width asphalt paths on both sides of the street from Rose Street to Ashgrove Terrace and these vary in width from 2.5 metres to 3.0 metres. These footpaths are due for resurfacing in the 2009/10 programme.
4. Under the Footpath Berm Policy the only sections that will remain full width path are at the shops at Somerfield Street and in the vicinity of the entrances to Cashmere High School and Hohepa Trust.
5. The Council has received a petition from Barrington Street residents objecting to the installation of new berms in the street.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. The estimated cost of installing 1500m² new grass berms is \$40,000 and this has been allowed for within the 2009/10 budget.

Do the Recommendations of this Report Align with 2009-19 LTCCP budgets?

7. The installation of New berms is within the LTCCP Streets and Transport Capital Budgets.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

Have you considered the legal implications of the issue under consideration?

8. Not applicable.

ALIGNMENT WITH LTCCP AND ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLANS

9. As above.

Do the recommendations of this report support a level of service or project in the 2009-19 LTCCP?

10. As above.

ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIES

11. The Berm Policy supports the community outcome of an attractive and well designed city and is also aligned with the Open Spaces Strategy.

Do the recommendations align with the Council's strategies?

12. Yes.

CONSULTATION FULFILMENT

13. All affected residents were notified of the intention to install new berms as part of a start work notice delivered by the contractor. Cashmere High School and Hohepa Trust were both contacted directly by staff.
14. Commentary

Staff have made two site visits, one before and one after school hours, to observe student numbers and behaviour. It was observed that the density of students reduced quickly once they exited the gate. Students did tend to walk up to three and sometimes four abreast down the footpath, however, in Ashgrove Terrace, where berms are installed, they tended to walk in pairs on the sealed areas.
15. At the time of the site visits no mobility scooters were observed, however, during the deputation to the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board it was noted that during the day there are a number of people who travel to the shops on this section of Barrington Street and it is suggested a 1.5 metre path width would not be suitable for these people.
16. While staff have recommended that the berms be installed in accordance with Council policy, in this instance there is a clear dissatisfaction with this from the residents of the street. There is little difference in the total cost of maintenance if residents maintain (mow) the berms, however if this is not the case the maintenance cost of having to mow a large number of the berms would be higher than the cost of maintaining the asphalt.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council:

- (a) Confirm that new grass berms are to be installed in Barrington Street, from Ashgrove Terrace to Rose Street, during the footpath resurfacing in accordance with the current Footpath Berm Policy.
- (b) Approve that the minimum path width for the section of Barrington Street from Ashgrove Terrace to Rose Street be extended to 1.8 metres to improve usability by mobility scooters.