

HINCHINBROOK ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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MINUTES OF THE HINCHINBROOK ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2012

Meeting Opened: 10:30am

1. ATTENDANCE

Present were Cr Mark Tack (Acting Chairperson), Dr Jenna Devietti (Acting Works Engineer – A/WE), Mr Frank Martino (Transnorth), Mr Don Auld (Queensland Police Service – QPS), Mr John Tantalo (Queensland Police Service – QPS), Mr Lenny Toscano (Australia Post), Mr Ricky Quabba (Queensland Mechanical Cane Harvesting Association – QMCHA), Ms Alison Barlow (Department of Transport & Main Roads – DTMR), Mr Jason MacPherson (Department of Transport & Main Roads – DTMR), Mr Gerry Southward (Department of Transport & Main Roads – DTMR), Mr Jeff Aitchinson (Hinchinbrook Traffic Control – HTC), Mr Paul Steine (Canegrowers), Mr Luigi Cantoni Australian Pensioners & Superannuants League – AP&SL), Mr Roberto Giuliano (Hinchinbrook Shire Council – HSC), Miss Kirrily Low (Hinchinbrook Shire Council – HSC – Secretary).

APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance was received from Mayor Rodger Bow (President), Cr Pat Lynch (Hinchinbrook Shire Council – HSC), Mr Geoff Bormann (Queensland Police Service – QPS), Mr Rick Butler (Stone River Bus Service – SRBS), Mr Wayne Fletcher (Education Queensland – EQ), Mr Peter Luke (Sucrogen), Mr Robert Lyon (North Queensland Bio-Energy – NQBE), Mr Don Oswin (Cane Supply and Transport Department – CS&TD), Mr Frank Russo (Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Tourism Inc – HCCI&T).

2. CONFIRM MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF 6 JULY 2012

Meeting resolved that the Minutes of the previous Hinchinbrook Road Safety Advisory Committee [HRSAC] Meeting held on 6 July 2012, be approved as a correct record of proceedings.
(Mr Robert Giuliano and Mr Paul Stein – Carried).

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES – 6 JULY 2012

- 3.1 Mr Rick Butler (SRBS) raised the matter of school buses which use flashing lights to alert drivers to 40km speed requirement in school zones. [Item 3.2]

RESPONSE: *HRSAC correspondence was forwarded to Accreditation and Licensing on 15 March 2012. Response from NSW Transport Centre for Road Safety was received by HRSAC on 15 May 2012 – Correspondence from NSW Transport Centre for Road Safety to be presented and discussed with Item 4 – Correspondence.*

ACTION: *Due to absence of Mr Rick Butler (SRBS), matter deferred for discussion at the next HRSAC Meeting.*

- 3.2 Road Safety Implementation Plan has not been reviewed since October 2010. Road Safety Implementation Plan attached for review [#12/01769] [Item 3.5]

RESPONSE: *Road Safety Implementation Plan distributed to HRSAC Members.*

ACTION: *Road Safety Implementation Plan to be reviewed by HRSAC Members and proposed amendments to be raised and considered at the next HRSAC Meeting.*

- 3.3 Mr Paul Steine (Canegrowers) requested Council investigate the size of car parking bays in Ingham town, as Mr Steine believed they were not uniform. [Item 3.7]

RESPONSE: *Mr Paul Stein (Canegrowers) expressed concerns with the size of various car parks within the Hinchinbrook Shire.*

ACTION: *Mr Paul Stein (Canegrowers) to provide exact location of parking areas of concern to Council's Manager Technical Support, Mr Graham Weston, to allow an assessment of the concerned areas to be undertaken.*

- 3.4 Mr Don Auld (QPS) informed HRSAC Meeting of the increasing number in pedestrian deaths occurring in the Ingham area after attempting to walk home from hotels at night. HRSAC Meeting further discussed this matter and considered solutions to resolve concerns. [Item 3.14]

RESPONSE: *A Designated Driver Program to be implemented where patrons will be required to declare to the hotel representative that they have a designated driver for the night at which time they will be issued with a wrist band to indicate such. If a designated driver is seen consuming alcohol then their wrist band will be confiscated.*

HRSAC Meeting also considered reducing the speed limit through the main street from 60km to 50km.

Queensland Police – Ingham have been in contact with local publicans and the publicans approached appear to be very happy to participate in the proposed Designated Driver Program.

Queensland Police – Ingham are currently waiting on promotional information. Advertisements are to be included in the local newspaper and flyers etc are to be distributed to the local establishments who have agreed to participate in the program.

Report presented to Council's General Meeting of 14 June 2012, requesting consideration of request from HRSAC to lobby the DTMR to lower the speed zone in the Ingham Road/Townsville Road (national highway from 60 km/hr to 50 km/hr).

Council resolved to provide a recommendation to DTMR that the speed limit on the Bruce Highway from the Townsville Road / McIlwraith Street intersection north along Herbert Street to the Cartwright Street lights be reduced to 50 km/hr.

Letter forwarded to DTMR – copy included with Inwards Correspondence Item 4.

ACTION: *Prior to DTMR forwarding their written response to Council's request for a reduction in the speed limit on the Bruce Highway from the Townsville Road / McIlwraith Street intersection north along Herbert Street to the Cartwright Street lights, DTMR to monitor speed limits in this area and including the central business district [CBD] of Ingham and report findings to HRSAC.*

DTMR to also undertake a survey of the concerned area, as part of their assessment to the above request, prior to making any decision.

- 3.5 Mr Robert Lyon (NQBE) raised safety concerns with the low dip located on a sweeping corner along Abergowrie Road between rural road number 2815 and 3026 on the inside lane travelling towards Abergowrie which could cause an accident if not repaired. [Item 3.15]

RESPONSE: *A Works Request has been lodged – Works Request # 11873.*

DTMR requested a report be compiled by Council including proposal to upgrade to the road. A/IE to contact Council's RMPC Supervisor and organise completion of the report.

ACTION: *Dr Jenna Devietti (A/WE) advised that the report is still in progress. Item to be deferred to the next HRSAC Meeting.*

- 3.6 Pedestrian Safety in Hinchinbrook Shire – Discussion by Alison Barlow (DTMR). DTMR endeavouring to alert pedestrians of the safety risks when walking on roads and footpaths – particularly keeping the elderly in mind. DTMR currently in the process of organising pamphlets and other advertising material stating the risks and informing pedestrians on what they can do to stay safe on the roads and footpaths. [Item 5.1]

RESPONSE: *DTMR suggests Council request funding from TIDS program to improve / highlight the cement edging at the main crossings in Lannercost Street and Herbert Street to act as additional safety/warning signs for crossings.*

ACTION: *Dr Jenna Devietti (A/WE) agreed to include improvements/highlighting of the cement edging at the main crossing in Lannercost Street and Herbert Street on the list of possible projects for the TIDS program for consideration during the TIDS application process.*

RESPONSE: *Pedestrian brochures were distributed to the HRSAC Members by Ms Alison Barlow (DTMR) for review. Ms Alison Barlow is anticipating the publishing and distributing the Pedestrian brochure to appropriate local businesses.*

Mr Don Auld (QPS) responded that there was no reference made to pedestrians being under the influence of alcohol and medication.

ACTION: *Brochure to be reviewed by HRSAC Members.*

Ms Alison Barlow (DTMR) to include Mr Don Auld's (QPS) suggestion making mention of pedestrians being under the influence of alcohol and medication in the brochure, and forward to Queensland Police for review.

3.7 Mr Lenny Toscano (Australia Post) raised concerns with the new pedestrian walkway in Rotary Park.

On Herbert Street opposite the former "Barra Motors Building" the walkway finishes inline with a parking bay, which makes it difficult for mothers with prams or disabled members of the public to manoeuvre onto the road if there are vehicles parked in the parking bays. Mr Toscano (Australia Post) suggested that one parking bay be removed and either side of that parking bay be marked as disabled to allow room for pedestrians to access the walkway with more ease. [Item 5.2].

RESPONSE: *Dr Jenna Devietti (A/WE), presented drawings of two proposals issued by Council's Technical Support:-*

1. *Remove the parking bay in front of the access and install two disability parking bays each side of the access making the entrance 1.5 m wide; and*
2. *Remove the parking bay in front of the access and install one disability parking bay and one standard parking bay.*

HRSAC Members agreed with proposal two.

ACTION: *HRSAC Secretary to forward correspondence to Council requesting consideration to the removal of the parking bay in front of the access to Rotary Park, on Herbert Street opposite former "Barra Motors Building", and installing one disability parking bay on one side and one standard parking bay.*

3.8 Mr Gerry Southward (DTMR) discussed visibility concerns at the Haig Street / Herbert Street intersection across from the new Centrelink Building being difficult for drivers at the intersection to see traffic approaching from Herbert Street because of the close proximity of the angle parks on Herbert Street to the intersection. HRSAC Meeting considered the removal of car parks being the only option to improve visibility however that may cause further concerns as removal of any car parks would cause public debate. Signage has been erected at the Centrelink Building to advertise that there is parking bays behind the building for customers of Centerlink and Medicare. [Item 5.7]

RESPONSE:- *Dr Jenna Devietti (A/WE), presented draft drawings issued by Council's Technical Support, indicating the proposals for improving the visibility at the Haig Street / Herbert Street intersection. Outcomes of findings would involve the removal of at least eighteen to twenty parking bays.*

ACTION: *Item to be monitored over a period of twelve months.*

3.9 Mr Donald Oswin (CS&TD) informed HRSAC Meeting of the serious visibility concerns at the southbound cane train lights in Herbert Street. Visibility obstruction is occurring when trucks and large campervans / trailers are parking in the parking bays and preventing the oncoming traffic to see the lights. Unfortunately, boom gates will not be installed for the cane season in 2012 to reduce the risk to motorists. [Item 5.8]

RESPONSE: *Technical Support still reviewing possible solutions. Dr Jenna Devietti (A/WE) spoke with Council's Environmental Health Services and they have agreed to monitor and increase enforcement to parking of vehicles in this area.*

Don Auld (CS&TD) suggested the possibility of Sucrogen setting up a visual camera at the lights which can be worked to activate when lights are working. Any vehicles choosing to travel through the red lights can be recorded and forwarded to Queensland Police for prosecution.

ACTION: *A/WE to present Mr Don Auld's (CS&TD) proposal to Council's Technical Support for inclusion in their review of possible solutions.*

3.10 Geoff Atchinson (HTC) advising HRSAC Meeting that as from Friday, 8th June 2012, there will only be one-way traffic in Eleanor Street, Ingham, while restoration works are in progress. One-way traffic will most likely be in place for a month. [Item 5.11]

RESPONSE: *HRSAC contacted Ingham State School regarding this matter and Pauline Deluca (Administrative Officer of Ingham State School) advised that AECOM had been in contact with the School and had provided all the information regarding the road closure.*

Geoff Atchinson (HTC) advised that they are now working on the other side of the road.

ACTION: *Response noted and item completed.*

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Outward Correspondence

- Mr Eric & Mrs Carol Darby – request for 50 km/hr speed limit sign for Willow Street, Allingham. HRSAC confirming Council remains consistent with MUTCD current legislation. [#12/11922].

Incoming Correspondence

- NSW Transport Centre for Road Safety – Margaret Prendergast – Crash data demonstrating effectiveness of flashing lights on school busses in NSW from 1993 to 2004. [#12/09348].

RESPONSE: Due to absence of Mr Rick Butler (SRBS) – matter deferred for discussion at the next HRSAC Meeting.

- DTMR – Alison Barlow – Information regarding Wheelchair and Mobility scooters 'A Guide for safe travel in Queensland'. [#12/11937].

RESPONSE: The guide was distributed to HRSAC Members.

- HSC – Letter advising that at the Council's General Meeting held on Tuesday, 3rd July 2012, Cr Patrick Lynch was appointed as Council Representative on the HRSAC. [#12/13804].
- HSC – Letter to DTMR – Review of Speed Limit through Township of Ingham – National Highway. [#12/15203].

RESPONSE: Waiting on a response from DTMR.

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

5.1 HRSAC Vice President to be elected.

RESPONSE: *HRSAC Members nominated Lenny Toscano (Australia Post) as the Vice President of the HRSAC.*

Lenny Toscano (Australia Post) accepted the nomination and position as HRSAC Vice President.

5.2 Mr Robert Giuliano (HSC) advised that the trains are currently travelling past Gilroy Santa Maria College at 3:00pm when school is finishing, causing problems with children being picked up by cars and buses. There is also insufficient time between trains travelling past the school.

RESPONSE: *Matter to be raised at the next HRSAC Meeting when a Sucrogen member is present.*

ACTION: *HRSAC Secretary to send correspondence to Sucrogen requesting review of their timetable.*

5.3 Mr Luigi Cantoni (AP&SL) delivered a thank you message from various pensioners, thanking the HRSAC and Council for the new walkway in the median of Lannercost Street.

5.4 Mr Ricky Quabba (QMCHA) advised that since the new pedestrian lights have been implemented, some pedestrians have been pressing the button but not waiting for the green light and just walking across causing traffic to stop for no pedestrians crossing.

RESPONSE: *Mr Gerry Southward (DTMR) advised that DTMR will not be changing the times set for traffic light changes however will monitor the time the lights take to change.*

ACTION: *DTMR to prepare a media release to be included in the Herbert River Express as a reminder to the pedestrians of the proper use of the pedestrian crossings.*

5.5 Mr Ricky Quabba (QMCHA) expressed concerns of people walking in the dark without high visibility clothing or embellishments. Mr Quabba suggested buying high visibility ribbon or sashes and donating them to various community groups so the public could obtain one for free.

RESPONSE: *Dr Jenna Devietti (A/IE) suggested that DTMR prepare a brochure promoting pedestrians wearing of high visibility clothing when walking and including a list of the available various types of high visibility clothing items, similar to the brochure regarding pedestrian safety for the elderly.*

ACTION: *Matter to be raised at the next HRSAC Meeting.*

5.6 Mr Don Auld (QPS) introduced Mr John Tantalo of the Halifax Police Station and advised that Mr Tantalo should be included as a member of HRSAC as this will enable safety matters in the Halifax / Lucinda area to be also raised to HRSAC attention.

RESPONSE: *HRSAC Members agreed.*

5.7 Mr Don Auld (QPS) advised that the Hon Andrew Cripps phoned Queensland Police regarding his concerns with people speeding along Leichhardt Street, Allingham.

RESPONSE: *Queensland Police has agreed to increase patrols of Leichhardt Street, Allingham.*

ACTION: Council to inspect and confirm that correct signage is visible along Leichhardt Street, Allingham.

6. NEXT MEETING

The next HRSAC Meeting is scheduled at 10:30 am on Wednesday, 3rd October 2012, at Council Chambers.

7. CLOSURE Meeting closed at 12:25 pm.



Cr Mark Tack
ACTING PRESIDENT