

HINCHINBROOK ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

25 Lannercost Street, INGHAM
PO Box 366, INGHAM QLD 4850

TELEPHONE: (07) 4776 4605
FACSIMILE: (07) 4776 3233

MINUTES OF THE HINCHINBROOK ROAD SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6TH JUNE 2012

Meeting Opened: 10:30am

1. ATTENDANCE

Present were Cr Sherry Kaurila (Acting Chairperson), Dr Jenna Devietti (Acting Works Engineer), Mr Frank Martino (Transnorth), Mr Geoff Bormann (Queensland Police Service - QPS), Mr Lenny Toscano (Australia Post), Mr Don Oswin (Sucrogen), Ricky Quabba (Queensland Mechanical Cane Harvesting Association - QMCHA), Frank Russo (Hinchinbrook Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Tourism Inc - HCCI&T), Alison Barlow (Department of Transport & Main Roads - TMR), Gerry Southward (Department of Transport & Main Roads - TMR), Brian Tabone (Canegrowers Herbert River), Jason Macpherson (Department of Transport & Main Roads - TMR), Mr Jeff Aitchinson (Hinchinbrook Traffic Control - HTC), Mr Luigi Cantoni Australian Pensioners & Superannuants League - AP&SL), Mr Robert Lyon (North Queensland Bio-Energy - NQBE), Roberto Giuliano (Hinchinbrook Shire Council - HSC), Wayne Fletcher (Education Queensland - EQ), Renee Liddle (Hinchinbrook Shire Council - HSC - Secretary).

APOLOGIES

An apology for non-attendance was received from Mr Paul Steine (Canegrowers), Mr Rick Butler (Stone River Bus Service - SRBS), Mayor Rodger Bow (Chairperson), Cr Pat Lynch (Hinchinbrook Shire Council - HSC).

2. CONFIRM MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF 28th March 2012

Meeting resolved that the Minutes of the previous Hinchinbrook Road Safety Advisory Committee [HRSAC] Meeting held on 28th March 2012, be approved as a correct record of proceedings.
(Mr Lenny Toscano and Mr Luigi Cantoni - Carried).

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES - 28th March 2012

- 3.1 Mr Rick Butler advised that the inverted access into Hinchinbrook Central Pty Ltd (Woolworths) from Herbert Street, Ingham, is breaking-up. [Item 3.1]

RESPONSE: *HRSAC Secretary forwarded correspondence to the property owners.*

Application to Undertake Works in Council's Controlled Road Reserve has been submitted to Council for approval. Approval has been granted subject to conditions.

Works to be carried out in timeframe specified in the conditions of approval.

- 3.2 Mr Rick Butler raised the matter of school buses using flashing lights to alert drivers to 40km speed requirement in school zones. [Item 3.2]

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

Due to absence of Mr Rick Butler - matter deferred for discussion at the next HRSAC meeting.

- 3.3 Cr Maria Bosworth requested update from the Department of Transport and Main Roads [TMR] representative regarding status of widening / line marking at Fairford Road, Ingham. Mr Gerry Southward of TMR advised that line marking plans had been forwarded to Council for consideration. [Item 3.3]

ACTION: *Mr David Di Prima to follow-up designs for Fairford Road.*

RESOLUTION: *Plan revised from TMR for proposed line marking of intersection, widening works not included. Gerry Southward from [TMR] suggested Council carry out line marking work at Fairford Road through Council's RMPC contract.*

- 3.4 Mr Jeff Aitchinson raised concerns with the distances between speed signs along Warrens Hill Road and requested they be reinstated and made consistent and inline with the MUTCD. [Item 3.4]
- The meeting further discussed placement of the 80km, 60km, and 100 km, signs along Warrens Hill Road, the signs are greater than 300m apart and not consistent with the MUTCD.
- ACTION:** *Mr Graham Weston investigated MUTCD requirements regarding distances between the 80km and 60km signs.*
Mr Graham Weston determined that the MUTCD Part 4 Clause 4.5 states that a minimum buffer between signs is to be 0.3km (300m) apart. Therefore, signage is inline with MUTCD requirements and no further action is required.
- 3.5 Updating the Road Safety Implementation Plan. This document has not been reviewed since October 2010. Document attached for review [#12/01769].
- ACTION:** *Road Safety Implementation Plan distributed to members present.*
- 3.6 Mr Lenny Toscano raised safety concerns with truck drivers and other motorists blocking the southbound carriageway on the Bruce Highway, by parking in front of Andy's Roadhouse, when floodwaters overtop the Highway. [Item 3.7]
- RESPONSE:** *A letter has been forwarded to Queensland Police – Ingham, for consideration.*
- ACTION:** *Queensland Police – Ingham, representative Mr Geoff Bormann provided a verbal response being that Queensland Police – Ingham are open to suggestions to alleviate such concerns, however there is no practical solution at this point.*
It was further suggested that traffic control be used, but as there is no consistency with the traffic requiring access during flood time, and consequently traffic control would not be practical. As far as Queensland Police – Ingham are aware there have been no known accidents at this area during flood times.
- 3.7 Mr Paul Steine requested Council investigate the size of car parking bays in town, as Mr Steine believed they were not uniform. [Item 3.8]
- ACTION:** *Mr Paul Steine to indicate areas of concern so that Mr Graham Weston can investigate and consider having line marking altered where required.*
It was decided to leave this issue open until HRSAC next meeting when Paul Steine would be in attendance.
- 3.8 Mr Paul Steine requested Queensland Police Services provide more information to the HRSAC regarding new road closed / no entry signage at times of flood / dangerous conditions, specifically what the legal ramifications were for those who ignored the signs. Mayor Roger Bow discussed the new "Road Closed" signs being introduced around the State. Mr Robert Lyons raised the issue of signs being left on road long after the water had receded. [Item 3.9]
- RESPONSE:** *This issue has been addressed at a State level. On Council controlled road, the public are to contact Council's Engineering Services and advise of roads clearing of water and following Council inspection and assessment, signage will be removed where required. On State controlled roads, TMR instruct their engineers to assess troubled areas.*
- ACTION:** *Information on new road closed signs to be forwarded to HRSAC members.*
Council's Engineering Services are currently compiling an Information Sheet regarding road distribution to Area Wardens and the general public.
- 3.9 Mr Paul Steine raised concerns regarding the condition of the road on the other side of Humpty Back Bridge and along Kirkwoods Road – Large ruts and may need warning signs installed. [Item 5.1]
- ACTION:** *A Works Request was lodged on 18th May.2012 – Works Request # 11863.*
Council conducted repair works, however recent weather events have deteriorated these sections and re-work is in progress to rectify the problem areas.
- 3.10 Mr Paul Steine raised safety concerns with the train crossing at Kingsbury Creek cane bridge – The public are not stopping on the red light warning when tippers are crossing the highway. Mr Steine requests HRSAC consider solution. [Item 5.2]
- ACTION:-** *TMR have inspected this site and are satisfied with the condition of the crossing. However, it was noted that motorists need to drive to the conditions of the road and stop at the flashing lights. This is a matter for law enforcement to control.*

- 3.11 Mr Lenny Toscano raised concerns with a large sink hole on McIlwraith Street, Ingham. [Item 5.3]

RESPONSE: *AECOM are currently in the design stage for repair works.*

ACTION:- *This job has been completed.*

- 3.12 Mr Lenny Toscano raised concerns with the manhole on the footpath along Conroy Street which is currently protruding and considered a safety hazard. [Item 5.4]

RESPONSE: *A Water and Sewerage Request was lodged on 18th May.2012 – Works Request # 622.*

ACTION:- *Council's Water and Waste Water Services have inspected the area and determined the best form of action is to mound dirt around the manhole to reduce the tripping risk. This job will be completed in the coming weeks. The lowering of the manhole has been placed on Council's Forward Works Program.*

- 3.13 Cr Maria Bosworth advised HRSAC that a representative from TMR had not been present for the last few HRSAC Meetings and that Cr Bosworth is still waiting on a response from TMR regarding the flooding issue at the Ingham Soccer grounds turnoff on Fairford Road, Ingham. [Item 5.5]

RESPONSE: *Noted that the likely reason for non-attendance was that the meeting was pushed forward from the original date in early April 2012. Letter or email to be sent regarding the attendance of a TMR representative at future HRSAC meetings.*

ACTION:- *Letter sent to Gerry Southward regarding attendance of a TMR representative. Mr Southward responded on 22nd May.2012. To be presented with Item 4 Correspondence.*

- 3.14 Mr Don Auld informed HRSAC Meeting of the increasing number in pedestrian deaths occurring in the area after attempting to walk home from hotels at night. Meeting further discussed this matter and considered solutions to resolve concerns. [Item 5.6]

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.*

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

ACTION: *Queensland Police – Ingham have been in contact with local publicans and they are all very happy to participate in the proposed designated driver program.*

Qld 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.

Council to forward request to TMR to monitor speed limits through the main streets in town and report findings to HRSAC. It was noted that it would not be practical to lower the speed limit for the Lannercost Street and Herbert Street if the average speed was approximately 50 – 55kms/hour at present.

- 3.15 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 5.10]

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

ACTION:- *TMR requested a report be compiled by Council including proposal to upgrade to the road. Acting Works Engineer to contact RMPC Supervisor and organise completion of report.*

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Outward Correspondence

- Mr Gerry Southward [TMR] – Request to contact HRSAC regarding meeting attendance.
- Mr Wayne Fletcher [Education Queensland] – Emailing 2012 HRSAC meeting dates and welcoming Mr Fletcher to the committee as the new representative for Education Queensland taking Mr Alan Hunt's position.

Incoming Correspondence

- Mr Eric & Mrs Carol Darby – Request for installation of a 50km speed limit sign at Willow Street, Allingham, near the intersection of Leichhardt Street, Allingham.

RESPONSE: Council to respond to Mr & Mrs Darby advising that MUTCD states that all roads in residential areas are zoned as 50km/hour. Council remains consistent with MUTCD current legislation.
Council only signs roads other than 50km/hour in residential areas.
Cr Kaurila suggests that Councillors should speak to their respective Progress Associations and reiterate that all roads in residential areas remain 50km/hour unless otherwise marked.

- Mr Donald Auld [QPS] – Letter of support regarding proposal to decrease speed limit applied to Herbert Street and Lannercost Street, Ingham.
- Ms Margaret Prendergast [NSW Transport Centre for Road Safety] – Crash data demonstrating effectiveness of flashing lights on school busses in New South Wales from 1993 to 2004.

RESPONSE: HRSAC decided to defer this correspondence until the HRSAC August meeting when Rick Butler would be present. Correspondence refers to item [3.2].

- Mr Gerry Southward [TMR] – Response to HRSAC email requesting TMR representation at future HRSAC meeting.
- Mr Wayne Fletcher [EQ] – Response to HRSAC thanking HRSAC for the copy of the 2012 meeting dates and advising that he will be attending the next HRSAC meeting scheduled for 6th June 2012.
- Hinchinbrook Shire Council – Notification of appointment of Council representative on HRSAC. At the most recent Statutory Meeting held on Thursday, 17th May 2012, it was decided that Mayor Rodger Bow would be appointed as the Chairperson on the HRSAC.

RESOLUTION: That the Correspondence report be accepted as read.

Moved by: Don Oswin

Seconded by: Frank Martino

5. **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- 5.1 Pedestrian Safety in Hinchinbrook Shire – Discussion by Alison Barlow from [TMR]. TMR endeavouring to alert pedestrians of the risks of walking – especially the elderly. TMR 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.

ACTION: TMR suggest 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 extra safety/warning signs for crossings.

- 5.2 Mr Lenny Toscano raised concerns with the new pedestrian walkway in Rotary Park.

On the “Old Barra Motors Building” side 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 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.

ACTION: Acting Works Engineer to discuss matter with Technical Support.

- 5.3 Mr Lenny Toscano concerned about new traffic island / pedestrian refuse / crossing in McIlwraith Street which will link the Ingham CBD with the Tyto Wetlands Centre / Library etc. This is the route used by large trucks during the cane season as well as trucks carrying large equipment and portable houses. Mr Toscano expressed his views that the new island will cause problems with such vehicles trying to manoeuvre through the area.

ACTION: Acting Works Engineer provided background to the proposed works and advised that the area of concern is currently being trialled with sand bagging and is being monitored by Council's Engineering Services. Trucks will be able to travel over the kerb if necessary and all signage will be flexible and/or removable. The original design with handrails has been revisited and the handrails have now been removed from the design.

- 5.4 Mr Luigi Cantoni informed the HRSAC meeting that he continues to receive complaints from senior citizens regarding the state of the median strip in Lannercost Street. Roots from trees are protruding and very dangerous for the elderly especially those with walking assistance. Major safety issue.

ACTION: Acting Works Engineer advised HRSAC meeting that this area is being treated with priority and that work should be completed by the end of June 2012. A new footpath will be constructed in the area. Unfortunately though, some trees will be required to be removed, and grinding of roots will occur on other trees to allow for the footpath to be constructed. However, the area will be fully landscaped and it is anticipated that such concerns will be resolved. This will also help keep pedestrians off the roads and on the footpaths for further safety.

- 5.5 Mr Luigi Cantoni mentioned that some seniors on motorised scooters are not taking any notice of the road rules. Scooters are registered vehicles and that they need to comply with the law.
- ACTION:** *Queensland Police - Ingham are aware of this problem and will attempt to speak to the offenders as cases arise.*
HRSAC meeting noted that it may be a good article for the Hinchinbrook Happenings Newsletter to raise the laws to the senior's attention.
- 5.6 Mr Gerry Southward advised HRSAC meeting that it is imperative that Council obtain permits from TMR prior to commencing any works on State controlled roads, so that TMR is aware of all works being conducted on their property.
- ACTION:** *Acting Works Engineer noted this comment and will refer information to relevant staff and services in Council.*
- 5.7 Mr Gerry Southward discussed visibility concerns at the Gedge 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.
- ACTION:-** *Acting Works Engineer to follow-up with Technical Support to determine how many car parks would need to be removed to improve the situation.*
Gerry Southwards' statement to be noted and situation to be monitored.
- 5.8 Mr Donald Oswin 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.
- ACTION:-** *A number of possible solutions were discussed including increased enforcement, removal of car parks, installations of concrete kerb, water filled barriers, and sand bagging. Acting Works Engineer to discuss matter with Technical Support and review possible solutions and noted that prior to any trial Council must discuss matter with TMR.*
- 5.9 Mr Brian Tabone informed HRSAC meeting of concerns with large trees over hanging the road and causing damage to passing or parking vehicles. Problem areas are worse during wet weather as the branches hang lower.
- Robert Lyon concerned about the response time on removing dangerous trees and branches. The height requirement is 5.2 m however this needs to be reviewed during wet weather periods as the branches hang lower.
- ACTION:-** *Council actions any immediate threats to the public or vehicles once they are alerted to the problem. The public need to contact Council and log a works request so problem areas can be assessed.*
Acting Works Engineer noted comments and will accordingly advise Works of the comments.
- 5.10 Ms Allison Barlow advised that new signage has been erected at the driver reviver area at Francis Creek. Also new driver fatigue signs have been erected on highway between Ingham and Townsville.
- ACTION:-** *HRSAC noted comments.*
- 5.11 Geoff Atchinson (HTC) advising HRSAC 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.
- ACTION:-** *HRSAC to forward email to Principal at Ingham State School to advise of road closure.*

6. **NEXT MEETING**

The next HRSAC Meeting is scheduled at 10:30am on Wednesday, 1st August 2012, at Council Chambers.

7. **CLOSURE** Meeting closed at 12:50pm.

Per:


Cr Sherry Kaurila

ACTING CHAIRPERSON