

Medowie Progress Association October 2011.

Councillor Geoff Dingle's Monthly Report.

The Medowie Flood Drainage study is currently on public exhibition until November 10th. I would like to thank John Donahoo for facilitating the forum to discuss the report on the 12th October and apologise I was not able to be in attendance. Funding is being sought through the State government for the next stage looking at the infrastructure requirements for flood drainage management in Medowie. A funding formula is also urgently required to generate capital from development application which are seeking to place storm water into the existing Campvale drainage system.

A development application has been called before Council in Federation Drive which potentially places infill downstream from County Close, this is also a point at which stormwater water will potentially enter from the proposed Boundary Rd. development, the accumulated effects are only now being investigated after making enquiries and requesting the PSC drainage engineering Staff seek further details from applicants. Design for the Kirrang Drive flood bund wall is still progressing with the final design and costs currently being prepared.

The cycleway link between Tallowood and Medowie Rds. has been installed, the first of the series of projects funded from a percentage of land sale profits added to ward funds. The Ferodale to Yulong oval via Kirrang Drive is currently being planned and should be complete before the end of 2011. Landscaping has commenced on the Richardson Rd intersection entrance into Medowie this has been completed with excess materials and will now be topped with soil and mulch before planting out by Tidy Towns with suitable shrubs and vegetation and addition of some suitable welcoming signage to Medowie.

Cr. Frank Ward has confirmed through his investigation that Council has spent \$511,000 on Liquidation and legal action by Port Stephens Council in an effort to chase a legal costs of \$54,000 from L & E court as a result of action over a DA issue in the Lawrence Waterhouse case. The greatest concern is that Councillors had not been informed about this expenditure and the recent payment by Lawrence of \$120,000 in fines to the courts. Council continues to pursue the case and raking up legal bills we can ill afford with a projected deficit of \$5 million for this financial year despite employment levels down and the sustainability revue halfway through its cycle.

A recent serious motor vehicle accident on Richardson Rd resulting in the death of three young Port Stephens residents and the serious injury of Medowie school teacher Alison Partridge and her daughter is a stark reminder of the impact roads accidents have on families, friends and community members. The suggestion on the eve of this accident that the traffic speeds around Grahamstown Dam need to be reviewed and potentially raised in light of the recent black spot funding spent to upgrade intersections at Finnan Park, Benjamin Lee Drive and Grahamstown Rd. is disappointing and smacks of populist politics. The police and MRA (RTA) do not support an increase in speed, and the accident data at Grahamstown intersection shows that the accident and injury rates have actually increased dramatically since the intersection was upgraded and 85 percentile speed measured in the area ranges from

between 86 and 91 kms. per hour prompting police to mount a major speed campaign in November.

I have commenced preparing a report to lobby the MRA (RTA) and politicians carry out further work at Grahamstown Rd intersection, ideally it should become a roundabout with 3500 vehicles entering and leaving Grahamstown rd. each day and 12,000 vehicles accessing Richardson rd. most residents can attest to having seen or been involved in near misses.

The speed limit between Richardson rd. and the RAAF base is currently being reviewed to be lowered from 100 to 80Km's per hour, making it consistent with linking roads. This is supported by recent complaints received from the RAAF about potential collisions with RAAF personnel queuing to enter the base via the north gate. The RAAF are currently preparing a design through their engineering consultants as part of the base upgrade, to improve the northern entrance to include multiple turn in and out lanes. I have asked that they consider a connecting cycleway from the base entrance to Medowie.

Councillor Geoff Dingle