



## 7. PETITIONS AND JOINT LETTERS

### **Item 7.1 Petition - Traffic Safety Issues at Intersection of Kerferd Road, Montague Street and Herbert Street, Albert Park**

A Petition containing 26 signatures, was received from local residents of Albert Park.

The Petition states the following: -

*The Petition of the following named citizens seeks to draw Council's focus to the long unresolved mess that passes as an intersection of Kerferd Road, Montague Street and Herbert Street. A simple Google search on the topic revealed an online petition of 117 signatures from seven years ago: <https://www.communityrun.org/petitions/intersection-of-kerferd-road-montague-street-and-herbert-street>*

*Herbert Street, along with Montague St, forms part of a "rat run" for motorist's keen to avoid:*

- *6 sets of traffic lights along the Ferrars St/ Canterbury Road parallel alternative; or*
- *7 roundabouts and 14 traffic calming devices on the Richardson St parallel alternative*

*"Rat runners" drive outrageously fast, in both directions, along Herbert St and Montague Street and bully their way through the intersection creating unacceptable situations daily for pedestrians, including young students, attempting to cross Kerferd Rd and for cyclists travelling along Kerferd Rd. Families gather seven days a week at Fat Albert cafe which in its previous guise closed for 5 months after an earlier accident when a out of control car brought down part of the building.*

*Council has been aware of this issue and promising action since at least September 2014 (Customer reference 599780). Subsequently Council revisited the issue at a well-attended public meeting, at what is now Fat Albert, and in 2018 again promised again. Subsequently Council flagged a 50 kph limit in Kerferd Road and attributed Council's inactivity to State Government's "Shrine to the Sea" proposal. More recently Council (975670) addressed the speeding "rat runners" with a "40" sign.*

*In 2020, six years later, those at risk include increasing numbers of young citizens and plenty of older citizens, some slow moving with disabilities. There will be more accidents and residents will get hurt. It is time for real action to protect the residents of the area.*

*The following Petitioners, hereby request that Council commit to a meeting with residents, within one month, to put forward alternatives to protect residents by addressing the "rat running" issue.*

#### **OFFICE COMMENT**

Kerferd Road, between Beaconsfield Parade and Canterbury Road, has been identified as a road safety blacklength due to the number of recorded crashes over the past five years. These recorded collisions have primarily involved drivers of motor vehicles and bike riders.

Officers initial analysis has shown that there have been no recorded collisions at this intersection within the past five years. Officers acknowledge the issues raised in the petition with through traffic using local streets and subsequent concerns for people to walk along or across Kerferd Road, particularly children and the elderly.

# ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL 17 JUNE 2020



Kerferd Road forms part of the 'Shrine to Sea' corridor that runs from St Kilda Road to Beaconsfield Parade and Port Phillip Bay. The Shrine to Sea Project has \$13.1M in Victorian Government funding and is being led by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). Council officers are supporting DELWP by providing technical input, local knowledge and community engagement advice to progress the project towards delivery.

In the current COVID-19 circumstances, Council officers acknowledge the increased numbers of people walking and bike riding across and along Kerferd Road and that this increases the safety risks.

There is a clear need to enable continued social distancing and improve the safety for the growing numbers of people walking and bike riding along and across Kerferd Road. Given the need to respond quickly, opportunities could be investigated to install temporary traffic management measures as well as more permanent but more complex interventions at this intersection and along Kerferd Road. This approach reflects an area-based response to social distancing and road safety. In lieu of a funding program for COVID-19 response projects, funds for implementing safety improvements on Kerferd Road could be sought by Council from the Victorian Government, including DELWP.

## **OFFICER RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

1. Notes the concerns raised in the petition regarding the safety of this intersection.
2. Receives the petition and refers it to the Major Transport Projects – Domain Precinct Team for investigation.
3. Advises the petitioner that officers will raise the issues outlined in the petition with the Department of Transport and DELWP to seek support for temporary and permanent options to address the concerns and crash history along Kerferd Road. The intent of these options will be to support walking and bike riding for all ages and abilities, encourage safer vehicle speeds and deter through traffic on local streets.
4. Advises that officer will provide comments and recommendations at the Ordinary Council meeting on 1 July 2020.

**TRIM FILE NO:** F20/1

**ATTACHMENTS** Nil