

Attachment 7



28 April 2009

Mr Andrew Scawen
President of South Melbourne Business Association
306 Clarendon Street
South Melbourne 3205

Dear Mr Scawen,

Clarendon Street – proposed 40kph speed limit

I refer to our meeting on Thursday, 19 March 2009 in which we discussed in details VicRoads proposal to introduce a permanent 40kph speed limit to address 15 pedestrian accidents recorded in Clarendon Street between Napier Street and Market Street, South Melbourne. These 15 accidents were recorded in a 5 year period from 01/01/2003 to 31/12/2007 and make Clarendon Street a black length.

Copies of the following documents were provided during the discussion:

- Road Crash Statistics for the 5 year period
- Map of Clarendon St showing where these 15 pedestrian accidents occurred
- Facts Road Safety – Speed, a diagram that indicates how speed affects traffic collisions and injury

The following explanations were also provided:

- How Council has made a submission to VicRoads to reduce speed limit in Carlisle Street, St Kilda East to address a high number of pedestrian accidents in Carlisle Street and that we are awaiting impatiently VicRoads support and funding for the proposal.
- How, for a number of years, Council has been unsuccessful in trying to reduce the speed limit in Bay Street, Port Melbourne from the current 60kph to 40kph just because the required pedestrian accident numbers are not there to meet the current warrants for speed reductions.
- That Clarendon Street is a declared road and therefore under the management of VicRoads and that only VicRoads, being the State Government Road Agency have the authority to reduce speeds limits on public roads in Victoria.
- Clarendon Street has been chosen by VicRoads due to the high number of pedestrian accidents. The proposal is not a trial, but a proven traffic management countermeasure to address such accidents.

It was made very clear that it would be irresponsible not to look after safety of all pedestrians in Clarendon St, many of whom are your customers and employees and our residents; and that it was for all of these reasons, that I have provided support in principle for the proposal.

We also discussed the South Melbourne Business Association's concerns with the proposal being seen as an ad-hoc approach to the issue and that you would like to see a more holistic approach. At the end of the meeting you summarised the meeting that it is difficult to argue against safety.

This letter is to inform you that I am in a process of writing a report to Council's Strategy and Policy Review Committee meeting that will be held on 1 June 2009. In this report I will be seeking formal Council support for VicRoads proposal to reduce the speed limit in Clarendon Street to 40kph, as safety of pedestrians, who are the most vulnerable road users must be a priority in everyone's mind.

I would appreciate your response to this letter and proposal as soon as possible to include it in the report.

If you require any further information please contact me on 9209 6445.

Yours faithfully,



STEFAN MITRIK
Coordinator Traffic, Transport and Parking