

Councillor Question Time

Question from Cr Pearl

Cr Pearl stated that he has been contacted by multiple residents in the area of the intersection at Bay and Graham Street, Port Melbourne. What efforts has Council made to consult with Vic Roads to reduce the speed limit from 60 to 40 and to improve the safety of the local residents in this area?

Response

1. History of community enquiries:

In the last 12 months, Council has not received any complaints about safety at the intersection of Graham and Bay streets. The pedestrian signals at this intersection are phased to allow pedestrians a head start or dedicated crossing where no vehicle movement occurs at the same time as pedestrians cross.

Four complaints have been raised regarding noise, speeding and hooning on Bay and Graham streets during this period.

2. Regulatory responsibility:

The responsible road authority for Bay Street and Graham Street is the Department of Transport. This includes the function and maintenance of the traffic signals along both of these streets in addition to making changes to posted speed limits on all roads and streets across Victoria.

Only Victoria Police has the enforcement powers over speeding, hoon activities and noisy vehicles.

3. Speed limit changes on Graham Street:

Council Officers have worked with the then VicRoads to secure a 40kmphr speed limit along the full length of Bay Street 8 years ago. This includes the Bay and Graham Street intersection.

There is a 40kmphr school speed zone on Graham Street outside Port Melbourne Primary School currently in operation.

Council Officers have not in the past made any formal requests to reduce the speed limit on Graham Street from 60 kmphr to 40kmphr.

Since receiving Cr Pearl's question on notice, Council officers have been made aware of an on-line petition by a resident via the Change.org platform: <https://www.change.org/p/port-philip-community-change-graham-st-from-60kmh-to-40kmh>

The resident does not currently wish to formally lodge the petition for Council's consideration.

However, Council Officers have notified the relevant area within the Department of Transport of this Change.org petition and have provided the appropriate contact information within the Department of Transport for actioning the resident's speed limit change petition.

BACKGROUND:

4. Crash history:

There has been one casualty crash at the intersection of Graham and Bay streets in the last five years of recorded data (1 July 2014 to 30 June 2019). This rear end crash on 30 March 2017 involved two vehicles and resulted in one other injury that was not fatal or serious. No pedestrians were injured in this crash.

Overall there has been nine casualty crashes recorded in the last five years of available data along the stretch of Graham Street between Bay Street and Williamstown Road. In addition to the one crash at Bay Street, there were three crashes between Bay Street and Nott Street, three crashes at the intersection with Williamstown Road, and one crash at Walter and Clark streets respectively.

One crash involved a pedestrian struck by a vehicle, which occurred on Graham Street between Bay Street and Nott Street, and resulted in one other injury.

5. Council officer response to customers:

Council officers direct customers to contact the Department of Transport for traffic matters relating to these streets. Although these matters are outside of Council's authority to act, we have previously raised these concerns with Victoria Police's Traffic Management Unit and the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). No direct correspondence has occurred in the last year.

To ensure a timely response to concerns about speeding and hooning issues, the community are encourage to direct these to Crime Stoppers Hoon Hotline on 1800 333 000 or online at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au

**Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*