

17.1 Late Correspondence Item 1

To: ROBE COUNCIL
7th Feb 2011

Thankyou for the recent notification outlining reconstruction plans for the Esplanade adjacent to Fox Beach.

10 The Esplanade has been owned by the same family members for over 50 years, and several have expressed concern about the proposal to reverse the direction of traffic. We are aware one of the reasons is that the rubbish truck has to travel in the opposite direction.

The reasons for our concern are as follows:

- Pre the one way nature of the Esplanade traffic regularly sped DOWN the hill and around the tight corner at the outlet, so the change to one-way and the easterly flow UP the hill was applauded by many property owners.
- Increase in traffic flow: Five of the nine properties between the outlet and first ramp are now rental properties, ours with around 90% occupancy between November and April. It has been suggested the traffic flow will increase significantly with a change in direction regardless of this `rental` population
- Turnaround area: There is considerably less space and a much tighter corner to create a turn around area and car parking facilities for vehicles at the outlet end of this one-way section of the Esplanade.
- Exit on to Main Road: The present exit from Newton St on to Main Road is a much safer option than Dawson Drive for turning right into the town, as there are 3 lanes to allow for oncoming traffic from Southern Ports Highway. This does not appear possible from the Dawson Road exit. (or would be very expensive) The limited vision due to the outlet bridge and the regular traffic coming around the corner from the Ski lake make this exit quite unsafe for slow vehicles including boats, trailers etc, to exit.

Solution:

Place bins on the sea side of the road for collection – this takes only a few minutes a week, and is much safer than having the predicted increase in traffic speeding down to a tight corner every day of the year, especially with a walking and biking track adjacent. It is worth noting that Councils narrow “one way” entrance signs at the bottom end of this road are continually run over by boat trailers as the corner does not facilitate sufficient area for vehicles to adequately align themselves before entry. Reducing the speed limit and constructing speed humps may be an added advantage.

We have spoken with several property owners along the Esplanade and would like to be involved in any decision – making process regarding the proposed change in direction of traffic. As outlined, this proposal subsequently impacts on other safety concerns such as turnaround areas and exiting on to a busy main road. We are more than happy to attend a meeting with other owners and councillors.

Yours sincerely,

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