Director Asset & Infrastructure Services' Report 11/2001

SUBJECT:	EASTERN AVENUE, KINGSFORD - TRAFFIC CONDITIONS

DATE:	1 March, 2001	**FILE NO:**	R/0260/02

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

INTRODUCTION:

The Randwick Traffic Committee at its meeting held on 14th November, 2000 considered a report on a petition received from Councillor Peter Schick on behalf of residents of Eastern Avenue and other streets.

The residents requested that Eastern Avenue be restricted to a one-way traffic movement in a southerly direction from Day Avenue to Gardeners Road, and Cottenham Avenue become one-way northbound from Gardeners Road to Day Avenue.

ISSUES:

At the above meeting of the Traffic Committee, it was recommended to defer the item until the December meeting as Councillor Schick was unable to attend the meeting.

An extract of the report considered at the December 2000 meeting of the Traffic Committee is shown below:-

"Councillor Peter Schick has received a letter and petition from 70 residents of Eastern Avenue requesting that Eastern Avenue be restricted to a one-way traffic movement in a southerly direction from Day Avenue to Gardeners Road; and Cottenham Avenue become one-way northbound from Gardeners Road to Day Avenue.

The covering letter from the head petitioner, David Clancy of 41 Eastern Avenue is attached.

It is noted that the petition also contained other signatures from residents of Day Avenue (3), Morgan Street, Botany (1), Shaw Avenue (4), Port Botany Bus Depot (40), Kensington Bowling Club (4), Boronia Street (1), Aboud Avenue (1), Doncaster Avenue (1), Isaac Smith Street, Daceyville (1), Avoca Street (1), Inglethorpe Avenue (1).

History

At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 May 2000, Council considered General Managers Report 32/2000 that dealt with the Draft Management Plan 2000/2001 to 2002/2003. The Plan was placed on exhibition as required by legislation and 22 submissions were received.

Eighteen of the submissions received related to the proposed widening of Eastern Avenue and included a petition of 97 signatures.

These submissions expressed concern with the proposal to widen Eastern Avenue between Tresidder Avenue and Gardeners Road listed in the Capital Works programme for 2001/2002, and also with the proposal to undertake a traffic-calming project in the nearby Tunstall Avenue. The residents felt that widening the road would lead to increased levels of through traffic, reduction of the nature strip and increased noise levels.

The issue of traffic conditions along Eastern Avenue has been a matter of concern to residents for a number of years.

At its November 1995 meeting, the Traffic Committee recommended that:

"a. Eastern Avenue be generally widened on both sides of the carriageway between Gardeners Road and Tresidder Avenue.

b. Narrowed throats be provided on all 4 corners of the Tresidder Avenue / Eastern Avenue intersection and supplementary "Stop" signs be provided.

c. Kerb extensions and an additional pedestrian island be located mid-block between Tresidder Avenue and Gardeners Road, Kingsford.

d. A pedestrian refuge island be provided outside the walkway adjacent to 57 and 59 Eastern Avenue to assist in reducing vehicle speeds and improve pedestrian safety at this location."

Council at its meeting of 12 December 1995 resolved:

"a. That the proposal to widen both sides of the carriageway of Eastern Avenue, between Gardeners Road and Tresidder Avenue, Kingsford be approved.

d. That the proposed road widening works and associated kerb blisters and refuge islands in Eastern Avenue be considered for inclusion in the Draft 1996/97 Works program."

At its meeting held in December 1997, the Traffic Committee considered a request for one-way traffic flow between Day Avenue and Gardeners Road. The Committee did not support the one-way restriction at that time.

However, given the current level of resident concern about the existing problems in Eastern Avenue, Council has decided to investigate the situation further in order to develop solutions that are more acceptable to the residents.

The street calming in Tunstall Avenue (referred to in paragraph on Management Plan) was planned in the interests of public safety as Tunstall Avenue is a long street and motorists are inclined to build up speed as they travel along it.

Council at its meeting held on 23 May 2000 resolved that:

> *"The proposal to widen Eastern Avenue Kingsford, between Tresidder Avenue and Gardeners Road, be deferred pending the development of alternative solutions to the existing problems."*

The Traffic Committee also recently at its meetings held in May and June 2000 considered the location of bus stops in Eastern Avenue. It was recommended that the bus stop adjacent to No 75 Eastern Avenue not be removed and Bus Zone signs be installed to formalise bus stops in Eastern Avenue.

Comment

Whilst the May 2000 petition does not support Council's proposal to provide localised widening along the southern section of Eastern Avenue, there was a previous petition that supported this proposal and a review of both petitions revealed a number of the same residents on both petitions.

It should be noted that Eastern Avenue functions as a "collector" road in this area with a signalised intersection at Gardeners Road. Importantly, there is a right turn bay provided for westbound motorists in Gardeners Road to gain access into the area, and Sydney Buses provides a necessary public transport service along Eastern Avenue.

Previous traffic counts taken in Eastern Avenue supported the "collector" status of the road.

Council in 1998 constructed a roundabout at the intersection of Eastern Avenue and Tresidder Avenue to control vehicular speeds along both streets and to reduce accidents at this intersection.

A review of the current 5 year reported accident history (1.1.1995 - 31.12.1999) for Eastern Avenue indicated a total of 17 collisions with 11 people injured from 10 of those collisions.

These collisions are briefly shown below:

- *400m north of Gardeners Road - southbound vehicle into parked vehicle*
- *500m north of Gardeners Road - southbound vehicle out of control*
- *26m north of Goodrich Avenue - southbound vehicle turning right into northbound vehicle*

- *at No 16 Eastern Avenue*	- *southbound vehicle overtook turning vehicle*
- *25m south of Tresidder Avenue*	- *southbound vehicle struck parked vehicle*
- *at Tresidder Avenue*	- *7 collisions*
- *at Gardeners Road*	- *5 collisions*

It is noted that the majority of the collisions occurred at the intersection of either Tresidder Avenue or Gardeners Road. The recent installation of a roundabout at Eastern Avenue and Tresidder Avenue should assist in reducing collisions at this location.

Conclusion

Having regard to the recent petition requesting the restriction of Eastern Avenue and Cottenham Avenue to a one-way movement, the proposal is not supported as:

- *One-way traffic flow will tend to increase vehicular speeds in the above section of Eastern Avenue.*

- *The existing bus routes 301, 302 and 303 would need to be re-routed which would not only disadvantage residents in Eastern Avenue but other residents in the street to where the bus route has been redirected.*

It is also considered that the previous proposal to generally widen Eastern Avenue between Gardeners Road and Tresidder Avenue has merit, including the previously recommended pedestrian refuge islands.

Previous traffic counts exist up to October 1996, and it would be desirable to obtain some current traffic count data eg. volume and speed counts, to ascertain whether traffic conditions in Eastern Avenue have significantly changed."

Councillors Schick and Whitehead attended the December 2000 Traffic Committee meeting and the minute for this item appears below:

"Cr Schick made the following comments:

- *concerned about traffic conditions.*
- *doesn't support one-way traffic flow, and considers that traffic should be shared through the area and tabled a proposal for re-arrangement of traffic, proposing that traffic use Houston Road to reach Gardeners Road together with the provision of blisters along Eastern Avenue with the aim of reducing the speed of traffic.*

Cr Whitehead made the following comments:

- *residents don't favour widening (June 2000 spoken to residents).*
- *Observed skid marks in street that suggested traffic was speeding along Eastern Avenue.*
- *Supported one-way traffic movements in Eastern Avenue and Cottenham Avenue.*
- *doesn't consider traffic volumes have increased.*
- *Tunstall Avenue is protected and doesn't receive any similar problems.*

- *Provide directional signs to direct traffic to Houston Road.*

The State Transit representative advised that any redirection of buses to Cottenham Avenue would create problems for STA buses as the position of the dish gutter drain is low at the intersection of Cottenham Avenue and Gardeners Road and the bumper bars would be ripped off the buses.

The Police representative advised that:
- *speed count data should be collected and suspects that speed count figures will not be high as cars can only crawl along.*
- *what is the point in taking parking away? (the blisters as proposed by Cr Schick take away kerbside parking). The parked cars provide automatic road narrowing.*
- *Residents of Cottenham Avenue should be surveyed to ascertain if they want buses in their street.*
- *The proposal would be pushing traffic into Houston Road from other streets. Motorists won't go that route whilst traffic signals are available at Eastern Avenue.*
- *The accident history does not support the changes.*
- *It seems the benefit of Eastern Avenue residents would be to the detriment of residents of all other streets.*
- *Council should commit funding for any proposed works. The RTA representative agreed.*

The RTA representative advised that:
- *several years ago residents wanted road widening (because vehicle mirrors had been clipped) and now they don't?*
- *the matter should come back to the Committee when plans are made and funding available.*

Cr Whitehead advised that residents in the area have changed and what they want is different now.

Cr Schick requested that the matter be deferred and reconsidered.

The Traffic Engineer advised that Mr Frank Higgins, the State Member's representative was unable to attend today's meeting and therefore his view was not known at this stage. Mr Higgins must be given an opportunity to express his views on behalf of the State Member.

The Police and RTA representatives supported the report's recommendation. The Traffic Engineer advised that the matter would be reported to Council.

It was indicated that the proposal to divert southbound traffic along Cottenham Avenue would require traffic lights at Gardeners Road. Funding would not be available for such a proposal.

A speed survey, an origin / destination survey and detail of car ownership for residents was proposed.

The Traffic Engineer noted that Eastern Avenue is a Collector Road on Council's Road Hierarchy."

Consequently, the Traffic Committee recommended that:-

THAT:

1. *No action be taken to restrict Eastern Avenue and Cottenham Avenue to a one-way traffic movement.*

2. *Council reconsider the proposal to generally widen Eastern Avenue between Gardeners Road and Tresidder Avenue, including the previously recommended provision of pedestrian refuge islands.*

3. *Traffic counts be taken in Eastern Avenue to compare previous count data with a view to investigating whether any further traffic management is necessary in Eastern Avenue.*

4. *The above traffic count information be reported back to the Committee."*

CONCLUSION:

It is noted that Council at its Ordinary Council Meeting held on 23 May, 2000 when considering the report on the Draft Management Plan 2000/2001 to 2002/2003 resolved "that the proposal to widen Eastern Avenue, Kingsford, between Tresidder Avenue and Gardeners Road, be deferred pending the development of alternative solutions to the existing problems, and the Capital Works Programme and 5 year projections be amended accordingly by the inclusion of the revised works programme".

At the present time, no alternative solutions have been made and extensive investigation will be required of the whole area, not just Eastern Avenue.

The Traffic Committee has recently made several recommendations for Council to consider, with the second recommendation requesting Council to reconsider the widening proposal of Eastern Avenue as previously approved.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. No action be taken to restrict Eastern Avenue and Cottenham Avenue to a one-way traffic movement.

2. Council reconsider the proposal to generally widen Eastern Avenue between Gardeners Road and Tresidder Avenue, including the previously recommended provision of pedestrian refuge islands.

3. Traffic counts be taken in Eastern Avenue to compare previous count data with a view to investigating whether any further traffic management is necessary in Eastern Avenue.

4. The above traffic count information be reported back to the Traffic Committee following which a further report be prepared for consideration by Council.

ATTACHMENT/S:

Nil

.....	.....
MICK SAVAGE DIRECTOR ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES	JOHN STEPHENS TRAFFIC ENGINEER

2004) to better deal with the need to maintain statutory line clearances and to more expeditiously bring about the removal and replacement of inappropriate tree species that are adversely impacting on Energy Australia's overhead distribution network; and

(c) Council investigate the use of injections that may be used to restrict the growth of trees.

MOTION: (Backes/His Worship the Mayor, Cr D. Sullivan) SEE RESOLUTION.

5.3 DIRECTOR ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES' REPORT 10/2001 - NATHAN STREET, COOGEE - PARKING RESTRICTIONS. (R/0474/02)

W11 ***RESOLUTION: (Schick/His Worship the Mayor, Cr D. Sullivan)*** *that the affected residents of Nathan Street be surveyed as to their views to the proposal of:*

(a) Restricting Nathan Street to a one-way northbound movement; and

(b) *Installing "No Stopping" restrictions along the western kerb alignment of Nathan Street and amending the parking restrictions on the eastern side of Nathan Street.*

MOTION: (Schick/His Worship the Mayor, Cr D. Sullivan) SEE RESOLUTION.

5.4 DIRECTOR ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES' REPORT 11/2001 - EASTERN AVENUE, KINGSFORD - TRAFFIC CONDITIONS. (R/0260/02)

W12 ***RESOLUTION: (Schick/His Worship the Mayor, Cr D. Sullivan)*** *that:*

(a) No action be taken to restrict Eastern Avenue and Cottenham Avenue to a one-way traffic movement;

(b) Traffic counts be taken in Eastern Avenue to compare previous count data with a view to investigating the reduction of traffic and speed in the local area of Kingsford and Kensington bounded by Gardeners Road, Tunstall Avenue, Houston Road, Doncaster Avenue and Todman Avenue; and

(c) *The above traffic count information be reported back to the Traffic Committee following which a further report be prepared for consideration by Council.*

MOTION: (Schick/His Worship the Mayor, Cr D. Sullivan) SEE RESOLUTION.

5.5 DIRECTOR ASSET & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES' REPORT 12/2001 - HEREWARD STREET. MAROUBRA - PARKING CONDITIONS. (R/0375/02)

W13 ***RESOLUTION: (Schick/His Worship the Mayor, Cr D. Sullivan)*** *that:*

(a) The proposal for the introduction of 90 degree angle parking (rear to kerb) along the western side of Hereward Street from McKeon Street to the northern boundary of No. 8 Hereward Street be approved;