

Hobart City Council Aldermen
Hobart City Council
16 Elizabeth St
Hobart 7000

Thursday, February 21 2008

Traffic Calming - Waterworks Rd

Dear Aldermen,

We write to reiterate our strong support for the proposed traffic calming plan for Waterworks Road and to query the timeline of its implementation.

As you are aware, our community has real concerns for the safety of all road users: pedestrians, cyclists, children, motorists, wildlife and all that cross the road. We acknowledge that Waterworks Rd is a traffic thoroughfare, however the road is too narrow and winding for this purpose and offers intermittent and, in some places, non-existent footpaths on one side. This necessitates crossing the road in often dangerous places - a particular concern for our community's 'Walking' School Bus (refer City Council's Edward Hall Community Award 2007).

Many motorists do not drive to the conditions, i.e. narrow, windy, steep, often frosty in winter, with cars parked in places that impede visibility. There are also problems with cars racing at night that have dire consequences for wildlife and domestic animals, and potentially residents. Two recent accidents and a 'near miss' event have alarmed community members.

We are grateful that Hobart Council has attempted to address community fears up to this point, accepting the legitimacy of our concerns. Traffic engineers recognise that there are significant safety issues that warrant action and Council's survey of local residents regarding the mooted traffic calming measures resulted in a very positive response. We were consequently of the impression that the installation of the traffic calming devices can be expected soon following the approval of the Hobart City Councilors at the next appropriate meeting.

Residents of Waterworks Rd have considered the situation from all perspectives in relation to the safety of all users and this has been noted in Council. The Department of Primary Industry has recognized that protection of wildlife is a serious issue too, as indicated by the Department of Infrastructure and Energy's approval of the erection of wildlife warning signs along the road, this being a bushland fringe area.

We understand that an objection to the traffic calming devices has been raised within the Ridgeway community, on the grounds of inconvenience to commuters

who use Waterworks Rd as a commuting thoroughfare. However, we believe the traffic calming measures will significantly enhance safety conditions whilst causing virtually no inconvenience to motorists who drive appropriately and respect the road conditions. It is certainly not our intention to seek a dispute with road users, but more to ensure that our community's concerns for the safety of pedestrians, all motorists and animals be addressed.

We reassure you that a very significant portion of the broader community – including residents of Ridgeway and the entire length of Waterworks Road – strongly support Hobart City Council's traffic calming plan for the Waterworks thoroughfare.

We would greatly appreciate being informed of the proposed timeline for the implementation of the strategy and an assurance that it will be expedited without undue delays.

Yours sincerely,