



NORTHBRIDGE
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Working for the advancement of Northbridge since 1919

ABN 733 956 702

PO Box 357 Northbridge 2063

July 12 2010

Mr Nick Tobin
General Manager
Willoughby City Council
PO Box 57
CHATSWOOD NSW 2057

Dear Mr Tobin

Re: New pedestrian and cyclist refuge in Strathallen Ave, Northbridge

We refer to the new concrete and steel post refuge for cyclists and pedestrians recently constructed in Strathallen Ave, Northbridge, opposite Baringa Rd.

NPA is concerned that the local community was not consulted by Council or RTA before these alterations to traffic arrangements in Strathallen Ave were completed and as a result we believe that the works have a number of deficiencies. We consider that the work has increased the accident risk for vehicles at the intersection.

The completed work duplicates a similar structure located just to the north at the same intersection which is hit by a vehicle every so often. The new one can similarly be expected to be hit.

The new structure limits the safe area for vehicles turning right from Baringa Rd West to travel south down Strathallen Ave. It requires a sharper right turn and makes it impossible for a 5m long car to pause halfway across as there is only about 3m between opposing traffic lanes. The structure also reduces the unobstructed area for cars to safely recover should they need to avoid turning vehicles.

The safety for cyclists is also questioned. The new refuge provides a straight path from Baringa Rd across Strathallen Ave without a cyclist needing to stop, made more dangerous as both approaches are down an incline to the main road.

The community correctly asks why the existing refuge was not sufficient:

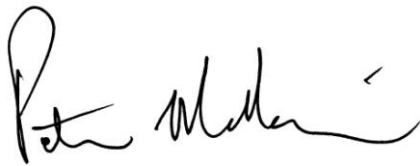
- It did not affect the current traffic arrangements;
- It requires cyclists to slow to negotiate the crossing but uses the other Baringa footpath; and
- It did not require any expenditure.

Timely consultation with the community would have alerted Council and RTA to these issues before expenditure on design and construction. The local community has much to contribute to a traffic engineering design because they have to use and observe local traffic patterns every day.

The NPA looks forward to Council reconsidering the design, as outlined at the site meeting of July 1 2010. Improved safety for cars exiting Baringa Rd should be investigated as part of this review.

In future, we urge Council to consult with the residents affected by any traffic adjustment in Northbridge, however minor they may seem.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter McNair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter McNair
President

Copy: Gladys Berejiklian MP
Sailors Bay Ward Councillors
Mr Steven Head, Council
Mr Julian Todd

*Northbridge Progress Association has been operating continuously since 1919.
At December 31 2009, the Association had 465 members.*