



Hawkesbury City Council

supplementary
ordinary
meeting
business
paper

date of meeting: 25 May 2010
location: council chambers
time: 6:30 p.m.

ORDINARY MEETING - SUPPLEMENTARY

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SECTION 4 - Reports for Determination

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES

Item: 111 IS - Bells Line of Road - Coal trucks - (95495)

REPORT:

Executive Summary

Blue Mountains City Council have resolved to impose a load limit on a local street at Mount Victoria which could result in a significant increase in the number of large coal trucks utilising Bells Line of Road. It is proposed that representations be made to Blue Mountains City Council to not impose the load limit on Harley Avenue and the RTA be requested to upgrade the intersection of Station Street and the Great Western Highway to a standard suitable for utilisation by large semi-trailers.

Consultation

There has been no consultation undertaken in relation to this report.

Background

Blue Mountains City Council, at its Ordinary Meeting held on 18 May 2010 considered a report regarding coal trucks travelling along Harley Avenue, Mount Victoria. This report emanated from previous reports relating to a proposed expansion of the Centennial Coal owned Clarence Colliery.

Centennial Coal have evidently prepared a modification application to their consent for the Clarence Colliery, whereby the production of a specialist coal product, known as sized coal, would be increased from 200,000 tonnes to 500,000 tonnes for sale to domestic customers. The sized coal product used in the domestic market will be transported to customers by road using current haulage routes. Coal destined for international customers is transported by rail to a port. The Clarence Colliery is located east of Lithgow and has road access via Chifley Road, which is an extension of Bells Line of Road. The consent authority is the Department of Planning.

The issue of concern relates to transport routes. Currently loaded trucks exit Clarence Colliery and turn left onto Chifley Road then continue east along Bells Line of Road, or turn south onto the Darling Causeway. At Mount Victoria, trucks travelling in an easterly direction turn left into Harley Avenue then left onto the Great Western Highway. The reason that trucks utilise Harley Avenue rather than proceeding along the Darling Causeway (which becomes Station Street at its intersection with the Great Western Highway, is that the current intersection arrangements do not allow for a large semi trailer to turn left onto the Highway without encroaching into oncoming traffic; this manoeuvre would also necessitate turning from the right hand exit lane from Station Street.

In terms of current vehicle trips, it is estimated by Centennial Coal that 25% of the truck movements occur along Bells Line of Road, with 75% utilising the Darling Causeway. The current approved vehicle movements from the colliery are a daily average of 28, with a maximum of 50 with the proposed increase in production increasing to an average of 94 vehicles per day.

Harley Avenue is a local road with a road reserve width of 20m and a bitumen seal of 8m with unformed verges. The road is approximately 340m long and contains a mixture of 3 commercial and 9 residential developments fronting the street.

It has been identified within the report to Council that Harley Avenue has sufficient roadway to accommodate use by heavy vehicles, however it is undesirable for use by such vehicles due to:

- Potential conflicts along Harley Avenue with other village centre and 9 residential properties traffic, parking and pedestrians;
- Potential conflicts with other traffic and pedestrians, particularly at the intersections of Harley Avenue with the Highway and Station Street; and
- Reduced amenity and safety along Harley Avenue.

Blue Mountains Council at its meeting held on 18 May 2010 resolved:

- "1. That Council immediately imposes a heavy vehicle tare weight restriction, to be determined by the General Manager and reported to the Council, on Harley Avenue Mount Victoria as specified by sub section (1)(a) of the Road Transport General (RTG) Act 2005 to protect the amenity and safety of residents and businesses in and around that location as there is an alternative route;*
- 2. That Council advises the NSW Member for the Blue Mountains, RTA, the NSW Department of Planning, Lithgow Council and Centennial Coal of this action and the reasons for this action; and*
- 3. That Council advocates on behalf of Centennial Coal for the extension of rail freight subsidies by the NSW State Government to the transport of domestic coal, to help reduce the number of coal trucks travelling through the Blue Mountains LGA."*

The implication to the residents of the Hawkesbury are that once a load limit is applied to Harley Avenue, larger vehicles which would have previously used the Darling Causeway and Great Western Highway may be encouraged to use the Bells Line of Road which would significantly increase the number of heavy vehicles utilising that road with the subsequent risk to other users of the road and added congestion through the towns and villages.

It is considered that representations should be made to Blue Mountains City Council requesting that a load limit not be imposed on Harley Avenue and the RTA be requested to upgrade the intersection of Station Street and the Great Western Highway to a standard suitable for utilisation by large semi-trailers.

Conformance to Community Strategic Plan

The proposal is consistent with the Linking the Hawkesbury Directions statement;

- Plan for, renew our physical infrastructure and community services, facilities and communication connections for the benefit of residents, visitors and businesses.

and is also consistent with (or is a nominated) strategy in the Community Strategic Plan being:

- Lobby State Government to improve transport networks

and is also consistent with (or is a nominated) goal in the Community Strategic Plan being:

- A road network that balances road condition with available resources and community needs.

The proposed implementation timeframe for this matter, as specified in the CSP Milestones is 2012.

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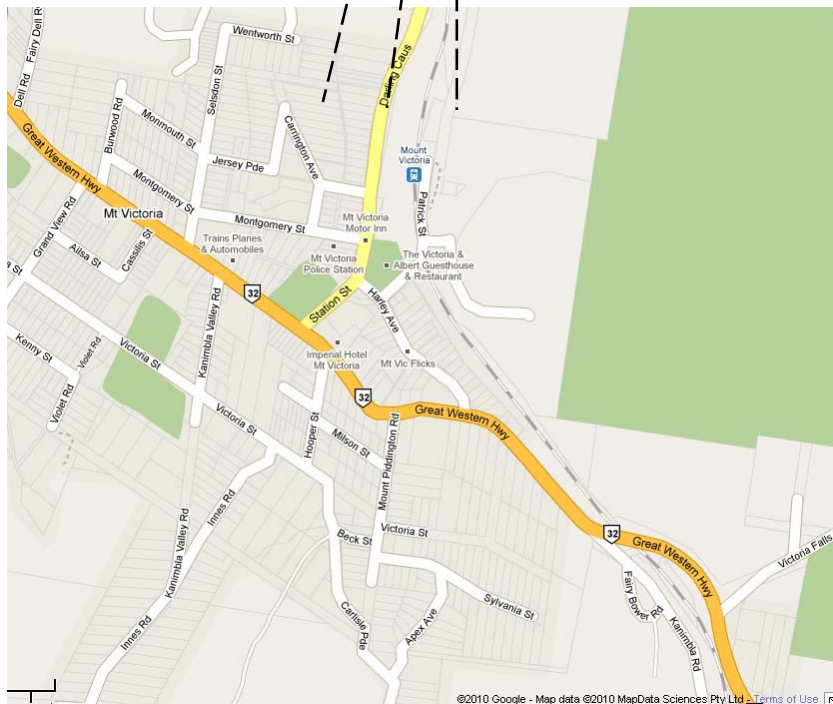
RECOMMENDATION:

That representation be made to Blue Mountains City Council requesting that they reconsider their resolution to impose a load limit on Harley Avenue and the RTA be requested to upgrade the intersection of Station Street and the Great Western Highway to a standard suitable for utilisation by large semi-trailers.

ATTACHMENTS:

AT 1 – Map of Colliery Access Roads

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