



Michael Berkman MP
For Maiwar ▲

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Adrian Schrinner
Lord Mayor
Brisbane City Council
By email: lordmayor@brisbane.qld.gov.au
CC: Cr James Mackay waltertaylor.ward@bcc.qld.gov.au

Pedestrian Safety and Public Transport in Fig Tree Pocket

Dear Lord Mayor,

I write to share some concerns and ideas for improvement regarding pedestrian safety and public transport in Fig Tree Pocket which have been brought to me by local residents.

While local roads upgrades these are squarely a Council responsibility, I take a very strong interest in making our suburbs safer and more liveable, and I'm very keen to support better public transport at a State government level as best I can.

Traffic Lights and pedestrian refuges at Fig Tree Pocket Rd and Kenmore Rd

Several local residents have contacted me with concerns about pedestrian safety on Fig Tree Pocket Rd, and the intersection with Kenmore Rd. In particular, it is often unsafe for pedestrians to access the 445 bus stops number 36 and 37 on Fig Tree Pocket Rd. Traffic on this road is a combination of locals and commuters avoiding the Centenary Highway. I understand this intersection has been the site of so many minor incidents that a resident living at that corner has an "accident kit" ready to assist people while they wait for emergency services to respond. This is obviously unacceptable and requires urgent action.

My view is that Council should consider a range of positive solutions including:

- Traffic lights at the intersection of Fig Tree Pocket Rd and Kenmore Rd
- A pedestrian refuge or even a raised "wombat crossing" near stop 37
- A speed limit of 40km/hr on Fig Tree Pocket Rd and Kenmore Rd in Fig Tree Pocket to discourage drivers rat-running to avoid the Centenary Highway

I am aware that Council's 2018 Budget allocated a small amount of funding (\$221,000) for investigation works at the intersection of Fig Tree Pocket Road/Kenmore Road, but that no further funding was provided in the 2019 Budget. I understand that early investigation works are complete, but the design work is still underway. Many local residents are hopeful that traffic lights at this location can be funded as soon as possible.

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Missing link footpath on Jesmond Rd

With new developments and increasing enrolments at local schools including Fig Tree Pocket State School and Ambrose Treacy College, the volume of pedestrian traffic is increasing around the suburb. One particular missing link is a 1.2km stretch between 251 Jesmond Rd at the north and Cubberla St at the south. At one point, the shoulder narrows over a culvert (just north of 358 Jesmond Rd) and pedestrians are often forced onto the road. For most of this 1.2km stretch there is a clear "desire line" of dirt pathway.

School age kids, parents with prams and other vulnerable road users already take this route, alongside growing numbers of private cars.

Adding this missing link, and in particular fixing the dangerous culvert, would allow all pedestrians to travel safely along the eastern edge of the peninsula, and would help get cars off the road as parents feel more comfortable letting their kids walk to school. This footpath would help students at Fig Tree Pocket State School travelling south and students at Ambrose Treacy College travelling north.

Better Buses for Fig Tree Pocket: 445 and 430

In the medium term, the best way to cut congestion and make public transport a better option is to significantly improve bus services in Fig Tree Pocket. I have previously confirmed my support for a Brisbane-wide bus network review, which has the potential to improve services overnight, especially if accompanied by a big funding boost.

In the meantime, I hope that you will consider supporting extra services for the 445 and 430 buses. Both are squarely aimed at 9-5 CBD commuters, but outside peak hour they run just once per hour. The 445 bus which takes the most direct route to centres like Indooroopilly and the CBD, does not run on Sunday, and the last bus on weekdays arrives in Fig Tree Pocket at about 7pm. The 430 is often full, especially on the way to Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary.

Some people will always choose or need to drive, but unless we make public and active transport a reliable, attractive option, the congestion we're facing will just keep getting worse and our suburbs will become less pleasant places to live.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office on 07 3737 4100 if you would like to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind regards,



Michael Berkman MP