

MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday 26 May 2021

Road and footpath safety improvements for Barwon Heads

The City of Greater Geelong will act on community feedback with a range of measures aimed at promoting safe and sustainable movement of pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles in Barwon Heads.

During Tuesday night's meeting the Council endorsed an implementation plan in response to findings of a detailed Barwon Heads Transport and Parking Study, which was carried out between December 2019 and April this year.

The plan lists 24 actions, categorised as short, medium and long-term.

Short-term actions to be delivered by the City include:

- safety improvements at the intersection of Hitchcock Avenue and Ozone Road;
- raised platform intersections on Ozone Road at Seaview Avenue and Margate Street;
- new footpaths along Bridge Road and Golf Links Road;
- improvements for cyclists along Tait's Road;
- footpath and cycling improvements on Golf Links Road;
- a new gravel path on Thirteenth Beach Road;
- road stencilling to indicate 'Safe Travel to School' routes;
- a new footpath on Von Nida Avenue;
- conversion of Barwon Heads Road Service Road to one way;
- bicycle parking on Hitchcock Avenue;
- speed zone changes on Hitchcock Avenue between Colite Street and Ozone Road (subject to Department of Transport approval); and
- introduction of timed parking on Bridget Road between Hitchcock Avenue and Grandview Parade, and on Clifford Parade between Hitchcock Avenue and Grove Road (both subject to consultation with property owners and tenants).

The study was developed with extensive input from the community over three separate stages, and the action plan aims to address the concerns and issues raised during this series of feedback opportunities.

Mayor Stephanie Asher said that transport movement and safety was a passionate topic for the Barwon Heads community, particularly during the peak summer period.

"We really appreciate the large amount of thoughtful input from local residents as part of this study," Mayor Asher said.

"The action plan is extensive and should have a positive impact in addressing the ideas and issues raised

through the feedback process.

“We appreciate that parking is a critical issue for locals and we are working hard to improve the situation for residents.”

Bellarine Ward council Jim Mason said the plan, once implemented, would lead to a better connected town.

“The aim of the study was to identify how we could help make Barwon Heads a safer and more efficient place to travel within, regardless of the mode of transport,” Cr Mason said.

“The improvements in this plan should make a genuine impact.”

The study also included traffic speed and volume surveys at around 50 different locations during the peak 2019-20 summer period, along with on- and off-street parking surveys of more than 700 spaces in the town.

The parking surveys found that, while demand for parking is high during the summer period, occupancy peaked at 83 per cent during the Australia Day weekend – meaning there is availability at all times.

The full study, including a list of all short-, medium- and long-term actions, is available to read at www.geelongaustralia.com.au.