

ITEM NO: 11

**SUBJECT: RESTRICTION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC LOFTUS STREET,
LAWSON**

FILE NO: F00874

Recommendations:

1. *That the Council exercise the Roads and Traffic Authority delegation under Division 2 of Part 8 (Sections 116 to 119) of the Roads Act to permanently restrict through traffic in Loftus Street, Lawson.*
 2. *That the restriction to through traffic be provided by the erection of a lockable gate in Loftus Street approximately 5 metres west of Lendster Street.*
 3. *That appropriate No Through Road signage and road shoulder narrowing be provided at the intersections of Loftus Street with Hay Street and Engadine Street.*
 4. *That improvements be undertaken to the bend at the intersection of Hay Street and Lurnea Street by clearing vegetation to improve sight lines, shoulder seal widening and additional warning and guide signs.*
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Report by Group Manager, Community and Corporate:

Introduction

This report recommends that through traffic in Loftus Street be permanently restricted by means of a lockable gate in Loftus Street, Lawson approximately 5 metres west of Lendster Street.

Background

At the Council meeting of 18 September 2007, it was resolved:

- “1. *That the Council note there is currently a temporary barrier restriction to through traffic in Loftus Street, Lawson under Part 8 Division 1 (Section 115) of the Roads Act 1993.*
2. *That public consultation including letter box drop, public notification in the Gazette and on Council’s Web page occur as part of the RTA required Traffic Management Plan.*
3. *That the Council note that application, including a Traffic Management Plan, will be made to the Roads and Traffic Authority for consent to close Loftus Street, Lawson to through traffic under Part 8 Division 2 (Sections 116 to 119) of the Roads Act 1993 and that the Local Traffic Committee has been consulted on the closure.*

4. *That a review of the Local Links Road Strategy be report back to the Council by June 2008.*"

(Minute No: 259, 18/09/2008)

The report also makes recommendation for the Council to permanently restrict through traffic in Loftus Street. This matter was on public exhibition for a total of 35 days until Wednesday 16 April 2008. A total of 14 submissions were received during the public exhibition period and a summary of the submissions received are set out below. This report provides a response to these comments for the Council's consideration.

External consultation

Previous consultation has been completed with the Roads and Traffic Authority and the Police through the Local Traffic Committee, and reported in the Council report of the 18 September 2007.

Public and other identified stakeholder consultation advising the proposed closure to through traffic and inviting submissions regarding the proposal was undertaken by:

- Public Notice in the Blue Mountains Gazette;
- Display in the Springwood and Katoomba Council Offices;
- Notice on the Council's Web site;
- Direct mailing to residents and property owners in the precinct near Loftus Street including Hay Street, Lurnea Street, Engadine Street and Loftus Street; and
- Direct mailing to Deerubbin Local Aboriginal Land Council, Integral Energy, Rail Corporation New South Wales, the Department of Lands, NSW Fire Brigade, NSW Rural Fire Service, and the Ambulance Service.

A summary of submissions, comments and responses is tabled below. A total of 14 submissions were received of which 35% were against the closure, 57% supported the closure and 8% had no objection.

Submission	Comment	Response
Resident in Hay Street and a resident in an unnamed Street.	Objects to closure due to increased traffic in Hay Street and Lurnea Street.	Some increase in traffic is anticipated but is considered to be within acceptable range.
Resident in San Jose Road.	Objects to closure due to loss of emergency access and potential rubbish dumping in untrafficked Loftus Street.	Emergency access proposed by installation of a locked gate. Appropriate control measures and enforcement proposed to minimise dumping.
Resident in Boronia Street and a resident in Essex street.	Objects to closure due to : Increased traffic in Hay Street and Lurnea Street. Tight bend at Hay Street / Lurnea Street. Loss of emergency access.	Some increase in traffic is anticipated but is considered to be within acceptable range. Improvements are proposed for the Hay Street / Lurnea Street bend. Emergency access proposed by installation of a locked gate.
Two Residents in Hay Street	Supports closure.	Not applicable.

Two Residents in Hay Street.	Supports closure provided bend at Hay Street / Lurnea Street is improved.	Improvements proposed for the Hay Street / Lurnea Street bend.
Two Residents in Loftus Street.	Supports closure provided it is west of Lendster Street.	Lockable gate is proposed west of Lendster Street.
RailCorp	Closure acceptable if lockable gate is provided for service access.	RailCorp service access proposed by lockable gate.
NSW Rural Fire Service	Closure acceptable if lockable gate is provided for Emergency Service Authority access.	Emergency Service Authority access proposed by lockable gate.
Integral Energy	No objection to closure.	Not applicable.

Sustainability Assessment (Triple Bottom Line Reporting):

Effects	Positive	Negative
Environmental	Reduction in use will reduce maintenance and fewer impacts from dust.	Increase in traffic along Hay Street, Lurnea Street and Engadine Street.
Social	Reduction in traffic flow and speed would improve pedestrian and traffic safety.	
Economic	This section is currently graded annually at a cost of \$1,476. By restricting through traffic, there may be reduced maintenance costs.	

Financial implications for the Council

The Council will save the costs of sealing this section of Loftus Street including drainage works and improvement works at its intersection with Engadine Street. If sealed, this section would need considerable funding to ensure this road met safety requirements. The cost of closure will include approximately \$5,000 for a lockable gate, \$5,000 for No Through Road delineation at intersections with Hay Street and at Engadine Street and \$15,000 for improvement at the Hay Street/Lurnea Street bend, totalling \$25,000.

These works can be implemented within three (3) months.

Legal and risk management issues for the Council

The restriction to through traffic and process for closure is in accordance with Roads Act requirements. Risk is managed via appropriate treatments for the restriction to traffic and improvements to delineation and the bend at the intersection of Hay Street and Lurnea Street.

Conclusion

This report provides the Council with advice on the public and stakeholder consultation for the permanent restriction of Loftus Street, Lawson to through traffic.

This report seeks the approval of the Council to exercise the Roads and Traffic Authority delegation under Division 2 of Part 8 (Sections 116 to 119) of the Roads Act to permanently restrict through traffic in Loftus Street.

The restriction to through traffic is proposed to be effected by the erection of a lockable gate in Loftus Street, approximately 5 metres west of Lendster Street, appropriate "no through road" signage and road shoulder narrowing at the intersections of Loftus Street with Hay and Engadine Streets (see Attachment 1 - locality map).

In addition, improvements to the bend at the intersection of Hay and Lurnea Streets, by clearing vegetation to improve sight lines, shoulder seal widening and additional warning and guide signs, is recommended (see Attachment 1 - Locality Map).

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Attachment 1 - Locality Map

