

**Item 39.****Traffic Treatment - Speed Cushions - Macdonald Street, Erskineville**

TRIM Container No.: 2018/050476

**Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Committee endorse the installation of speed cushions at the following locations in Erskineville:

- (A) Macdonald Street, at the points 20 metres, 50 metres, 110 metres, 155 metres and 184 metres east of Rochford Street;
- (B) Smiths Lane, at the point 10 metres north of Macdonald Street;
- (C) Flora Street, at the point 10 metres south of Macdonald Street; and
- (D) George Street, at the point 10 metres north of Macdonald Street.

**Voting Members for this Item**

<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Object</b>
City of Sydney	[Insert]	[Insert]
Roads and Maritime Services	[Insert]	[Insert]
NSW Police – Newtown PAC	[Insert]	[Insert]
Representative for the Member for Newtown	[Insert]	[Insert]

**Decision**

Decisions will be updated after the meeting.

## Background

The City has received requests from residents seeking support for traffic calming measures in Macdonald, Flora and George Streets as well as Smiths Lane, Erskineville.

The residents raised concerns about vehicles speeding and future increases in traffic from nearby residential developments in the Ashmore Precinct.

## Comments

Macdonald Street, Erskineville runs east-west and provides a connection between residential developments in Erskineville/Alexandria and King Street/Newtown.

Residents believe drivers are using Macdonald Street as a short-cut route between the Ashmore Precinct and Newtown. They are also concerned about the speed of vehicles using Macdonald Street and nearby Smiths Lane, and Flora and George Streets.

The City commissioned traffic surveys in Macdonald Street, between Parkers Lane and Pleasant Avenue. The surveys showed that most vehicles travelled at 31km/h, with a maximum peak traffic volume of 113 vehicles per hour (taken over a period of seven days).

However, given the support from residents, the City developed a proposal for traffic calming on Macdonald Street and nearby George Street, Flora Street and Smiths Lane. Traffic calming devices, such as speed cushions, would improve safety by reducing the speed of traffic.

Five speed cushions are proposed in Macdonald Street, between Rochford and Bridge Street, approximately one speed cushion per block to reduce vehicle speeds. Additionally, one speed cushion is proposed on the approach to Macdonald Street in Smiths Lane, George Street and Flora Street. Speed cushions generally do not impede turning manoeuvres into adjacent driveways however, they will be located between driveways as much as possible.

## Consultation

The City initially consulted local residents and businesses in the area on the 7 May 2018 regarding the proposed speed cushions. Given the feedback received, the City updated the proposal to include an additional speed cushion in Macdonald and George Streets, and re-consulted on 4 July 2018.

There were 144 letters sent out with five responses supporting the proposal and four responses opposing the proposal.

Submissions supporting the proposal noted that the change would calm traffic, increase pedestrian safety and improve residential amenity.

Submissions opposing the proposal noted the change was a short-term solution and could result in increased noise and vibrations. As speed cushions are made of rubber and are bolted to the road, they have relatively minimal vibration and noise impacts on nearby properties.

**Financial**

Appropriate funding for the proposal will be secured once greater certainty on the construction timeline is reached.

**EOIN CUNNINGHAM, SENIOR TRAFFIC ENGINEER**