



NORTH ALBANY SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND
ALBANY SECONDARY EDUCATION SUPPORT
CENTRE PARENTS AND CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION
INCORPORATED



May 26 2014

Andrew Duffield
Regional Manager
Main Roads
PO BOX 503
Albany WA 6331

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: Road safety in the vicinity of North Albany Senior High School and Albany Secondary Education Support Centre.

As the body representing parents of children attending North Albany Senior High School (NASHS) and Albany Secondary Education Support Centre (ASESC) we write to advise you of our concerns regarding road safety near these schools, particularly for pedestrians.

As you are aware NASHS and ASESC are co-located on Anson Rd, Albany. NASHS is bounded on the west by Great Southern Institute of Technology, which is located on the corner of Anson Rd and Albany Highway.

Our concerns are focused on the intersection of Albany Highway and Anson Rd.

In recent years we have identified the following risks at this intersection:-

1. Increasing traffic -

(i) as you may be aware in recent times there has been increased real estate development in the areas of Lakeside, Orana and McKail. This growth has resulted in an increase in pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle traffic in this general area.

(ii) Anson Rd is a through road from Albany Highway to the Light Industrial Area and Brooks Garden shopping centre on Chester Pass Rd. These areas are growing and hence traffic to these areas are also increasing. This traffic consists of small and large trucks, delivery vans, work vehicles and cars.

2. Physical characteristics -

(i) the intersection of Anson Rd and Albany Highway occurs where Albany Highway is changing from double lanes to single lane for traffic leaving Albany and single lane to double lanes for traffic entering Albany

(ii) Albany Highway has a crest/slope leading up to the intersection and

(iii) there is also a bend in the crest.

Address: North Albany Senior High School, Anson Rd, Albany, WA, 6330



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All these characteristics combine to make it difficult to view oncoming traffic or interpret actions of other drivers.

3. Driver factors -

(i) As stated previously this intersection services Great Southern Institute of Technology, NASHS and ADESC. Therefore, there is a high proportion of students on their 'P' plates using this intersection. This means a high proportion of drivers with limited experience and also at the age where research shows they take greater risks with their safety.

(ii) Currently between 50 - 75% of Year 12 students will obtain their driver's licence while at school. 12 years ago the Education department raised the age criteria for students starting their education. One outcome of this policy is that from this year there will be 50% of Year 11 students able to obtain their licence and 100% of Year 12 students. That is, there will be even more students on their 'P' plates using this intersection.

4. Routes of pedestrians and cyclists - at the intersection there are 2 main routes that pedestrians and cyclists use. 1. East-West to cross Albany Highway 2. North-South to cross Anson Rd. Therefore, when using the intersection drivers need to be aware of pedestrian activity as well as vehicle activity.

5. Increase in number of pedestrians and cyclists - Over the last few years the number of pedestrians/cyclists has been increasing due to the increase in population in surrounding suburbs.

6. No set pedestrian crossing for Albany Highway in this area - Each school morning and afternoon there are pedestrians and cyclists scattered along Albany Highway, crossing the road wherever there is a break in traffic. Many take risks and our members have seen some even resort to running across the road or weaving through vehicles.

7. Younger age of pedestrians/cyclists -

(i) With parents acting upon the health messages of encouraging children to walk or cycle to school there has been an increasing number of primary aged children using the intersection. Many of them travel in family groups without parents, with the oldest child in charge of the younger children. (This is not a criticism of those families and we want children to continue to cycle or walk to school. However, it is a factor that needs to be considered.)

(ii) The Education Department has passed a policy that in 2015 Year 7 students will be attending high school instead of primary school. Present calculations suggest that there will be an extra 150 students attending NASHS in 2015. This will result in even more students, at an even younger age accessing NASHS and ADESC by pedestrian, cycling or vehicular means.

8. History - The intersection of Anson Rd and Albany Highway has been the site of many accidents. So far none have been fatal.

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9. Survey results of students crossing Albany Highway - on 12th May 2014 NASHS and ASESC students completed a survey regarding how they get to school and what route they take. From this survey approximately 20% of the student population walk across Albany Highway to access school. 98 students cross in the morning and 108 students cross in the afternoon. Of these students 34 cross near Le Grande Ave and more than 60 cross at Anson Rd intersection. In total 90% are crossing between Anson Rd and Le Grande. The remainder crosses either near Neville's Hardware or closer to the car dealerships. This survey did not ask how many students would walk to school if it was safer and also did not include students from GSIT.

10. Future development - The proposed shopping centre will have adverse effects on the above factors by:-

- (i). Increasing traffic in this vicinity, including increase of delivery trucks
- (ii). Increase pedestrian flow across Albany Highway - particularly as the shopping centre is likely to attract part-time, out-of-school-hours workers from students of the above-mentioned educational facilities. This week one student from NASHS who works for Coles was asked if they would like to transfer to the new Coles being built.

The school requests that it is consulted if there are any further developments in the area.

We are not experts in traffic management or intersection design therefore we will not presume to dictate solutions to these current and future concerns. We have heard that there is a current (adopted in 2000) Main Roads policy regarding provision of cycling infrastructure so students have a safe commute to schools and other educational pursuits.

As daily users of the intersection we hereby request that timely solutions to current risks are implemented. We also request that the above identified risks are considered in future decisions regarding this intersection/road area. We are very concerned and want all users of the intersection to reach their destinations safely without injury.

Your advice on this issue would be appreciated

Yours Sincerely,

Dewani Dean
President

On behalf of NASHS & ASESC P&C

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