



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 33 - Weston Creek Community
Council

Inquiry into the Road Transport (Safety and
Traffic Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)

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Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services Inquiry into *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)*

Weston Creek Community Council Submission

Your local voice

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Chair
Standing Committee on Planning, Transport, and City Services
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Dear Chair

Weston Creek Community Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Bill *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)*. Council **congratulates Ms Clay** for consulting widely in the preparation of the Bill, and is **broadly supportive** of the focus. Council is also pleased that the Bill has brought into the public domain a discussion about the **risk of careless or negligent driving** in the vicinity of vulnerable road users.

The Weston Creek district is experiencing the pressures from increased transport activity arising from the development of Molonglo and its associated lack of essential retail and associated services. There is also appears to be significant population renewal occurring in the Weston Creek area caused by older residents moving out of larger homes and being replaced by families, which Council expects will be confirmed by the forthcoming Census. The district's main commercial centre is a very busy centre with significant traffic pressure being seen. A further characteristic of the area is the lack of a defined path network alongside many of the key streets used by pedestrians in the area.

An increasing number of interactions are being experienced by all modes at both formal marked crossing points and many more informal points. While most interactions occur in a sensible and safe manner, a minority present risks that either intimidate or injure vulnerable road users.

Council often receives comments about dangerous/negligent traffic interactions in the Weston Creek area. While a significant number of these comments are attributed to road infrastructure design, there is clearly a need demonstrated by these comments to reinforce the fundamental message about driving, riding, scootering, or walking to the prevailing

conditions. Unfortunately, the consequences in a car or truck collision with a pedestrian, cyclist or scooterist are heavily weighted against the vulnerable road user.

Council is of the view that should the presented Bill be enacted, the implementation must be supported by a significant effort to shift the awareness of all road users to focus on **the life-long impact** road trauma can have on victims of road crashes. This can include **death** or significant shortening of life expectancy. To avoid doubt, Council is suggesting a **cultural change** involving strong leadership would be required. Of course, Council's channels would be available to assist with any messaging required.

Government also needs to ensure that **reports** to ACT Policing about dangerous interactions are dealt with in a **timely manner**, being allocated a high priority. Otherwise, the legislation would just be another rarely used statute that had been entered onto the ACT Legislation Register.

It is important to note that Council welcomes the current efforts to improve road infrastructure around the Weston Creek business centre, including new pedestrian crossings at key points. Council, however, is of the view that these improvements are the first instalment in long overdue upgrades to the infrastructure that should also include improvements to the Weston Creek car parks specifically designed to facilitate **calm** traffic interactions.

Council representatives would be available to attend any public hearings to discuss our submission further.

Yours sincerely

{signed electronically}

Bill Gemmell

Interim Chair

Weston Creek Community Council

30 July 2021