21 May 2009

Alexandra Douglas
Executive Officer
Parliament of Victoria - Road Safety Committee
Parliament House, Spring Street
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Dear Alexandra

Submission Regarding Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks

I refer to your letter dated 23 April 2009 regarding the inquiry into pedestrian safety in car parks. I wish to provide you with the following information that may assist you with your inquiry.

The City of Casey manages in excess of 350 car parks varying between fully constructed 500 plus space car parks in busy commercial activity centres to unsealed 10 space car parks for local community group facilities.

Some of the measures that Council has implemented to improve pedestrian safety in car parks include:

- Installation of pedestrian fencing to direct pedestrians to approved crossing locations, or to restrict children from running directly out of a 'pre school entrance' and into traffic;
- Provision of dedicated footpaths through large busy car parks to separate cars from pedestrians;
- Installation of speed humps to restrict vehicle speeds;
- Provision of lighting at facilities with a frequent night time use;
- Installation of dedicated crossings, such as a zebra crossings where appropriate;
- Installation of coloured pavement treatments in areas where there is a footpath connection, to raise drivers awareness of pedestrian activity in the area;
- Installation of parking restrictions where appropriate such as dedicated pick up and drop off areas near facility entrances, to restrict the number of pedestrians entering the road way.

It is considered that these measures would be typical engineering practice.

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A recent 'Perception of Local Safety Survey' (POLS) carried out in 2008 gathered statistics from 307 residents aged 15 and over. The results from the survey identified the following results from the question:

'Thinking just about road safety in your local area, do you think the roads in your area are more, the same or less safe than five years ago?'

The results were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A lot less</td>
<td>27.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little less</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The same</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little more</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A lot more</td>
<td>7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can't say</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results indicate the overall perception of City of Casey resident in relation to road safety show concerns for their safety in the local area.

To combat this perception of safety the City of Casey encourages the community to participate in road safety programs such as the City of Casey 'hoon hotline'. Residents are encouraged to report all incidents of hoon behaviour in and around the municipality. Areas regularly reported to the service include hoon activity on roads, reserves and in car parks. The 'hoon hotline' encourages community involvement to identify areas requiring traffic calming measures and/or targeted police enforcement.

Further educational programs are carried out at the Casey Road Safety Education Centre; the centre is a mini version of local roads and streets where kindergarten and primary school children have the opportunity to practice their learned road safety skills, with the assistance of one of the many on site bicycles. The centre was established at Cranbourne East in 2006 and currently accommodates up to 1000 visitors per month. Through the many school visits, children and their carers/teachers are taught road safety skills including the importance of holding hands and watching for reversing or moving vehicles in car parks.

To ensure all road safety programs remain appropriate the City of Casey employ a full-time Road Safety Officer to identify and implement programs to assist the local community improve their road safety skills.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact Wayne Mack, Council's Team Leader Traffic Operations on (03) 9705 5186.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hamilton
Manager Transport