c/o Aged & Disabled Services  
Mornington Peninsula Shire  
Private Bag 1000, Rosebud 3939

The Executive Officer  
Road Safety Committee  
Parliament of Victoria  

10 July 2009

Dear M/s Alexandra Douglas

Re: Parliamentary Enquiry - Pedestrian Safety in Car Parks

Our committee has asked me to write to you to express their concerns about the unsafe conditions for pedestrians presently existing in many shopping centres on the Peninsula. We understand that current Victorian Road Traffic regulations allow speeds up to 50 km/hr unless roads are otherwise sign posted and that these regulations also extend into car parks used by the public, however unsafe situations persist.

Our submission is based upon matters we have raised previously with both our Council and the manager of a major shopping centre at Rosebud- so far without result - copies of those letters are attached and form part of this submission.

We have welcomed recent steps taken by the Shire to improve safety, eg:

- the establishment of a “SHARED Zone” in the shopping strip in Pt Nepean Rd between Rosebud Pde and Ninth Ave- see attached photo

- and the proposed installation of traffic calming measures adjacent to Benton’s Square Shopping Centre

We have suggested that Council consider implementing “Shared Zone” policy throughout this shopping centre car park and others in the Shire however we have been advised that this is often beyond Council’s authority. We have also recommended that Council consider extending such measures to all shopping strips and centre car parks within the Shire, particularly as we have noted that there presently exists a variety of rules and signage even within specific car parks, and in some cases these are lacking.

One example is the Rosebud Plaza where McCombe St was well provided with pedestrian crossings and signage during recent Council-approved extensions to that shopping centre. At the same time however the parking areas adjacent to the Safeway supermarket, which is part of the complex, have been left with two different standards as shown on the attached photos. We have had no response to our letter to the manager of that complex.

Other examples come to mind which may imperil aged or infirm citizens, and indeed all classes of pedestrians including scooter riders and mothers with prams, however we now submit that the Victorian Road Safety Committee should offer recommendations designed to set uniform standards to improve the safety of ALL shopping centres throughout Victoria.
If adopted by government, such a program might include:

- review of existing Victorian speed limits adjacent to shopping centres, and assessment of the appropriate speed limits and road rules to apply within strip and supermarket car park precincts

- review of responsibilities of all involved i.e. Vic Roads, local Council, shopping centre owners and managers etc. to determine whether Councils should have over riding responsibility and authority over design, construction and regulation of these areas or whether VicRoads should be empowered to do so in the interests of pedestrian safety

- establishment of a program to set uniform standards in these matters for all Victorian shopping centres

- implementation of a program to inform all shopping centre managers and owners, and to require adoption of signs and upgraded road marking and related matters to a uniform standard in all centres to ensure pedestrian safety

- requirements to be established for an annual compliance audit of shopping centres and pedestrian safety as part of the existing RoadSafe program now carried out by Councils

We re-iterate that such a program would be of benefit to all citizens, not just the growing numbers of elderly and disabled people foreseen in the analysis of Census 2006 returns, and would welcome your support for such initiatives.

Yours sincerely

William N Darby
PACE Research Officer

Attachments

1. Letter to Shire CEO re Peninsula Shopping Centre safety
2. Letter to Manager of Rosebud Plaza Shopping Centre
3. Photos of pedestrian crossings

e-mail: Committee: Pace@seniorsissues.org
        Research Officer: Bill Darby <wda61280@bigpond.net.au>
Dr Michael Kennedy  
Chief Executive Officer  
Mornington Peninsula Shire  
co Private bag 1000  
Rosebud, Vic. 3939  

Re: Road Safety and Signage in Peninsula Shopping Centres  

Dear Dr Kennedy,  

Our committee has asked me to write to you to express their concerns about the unsafe conditions for pedestrians presently existing in many shopping centres on the Peninsula. We understand that current Road Traffic regulations allow speeds up to 50km/hr unless roads are otherwise signposted and that these regulations also extend into car parks used by the public.  

We have noted that a number of accidents have occurred in such locations, many involving elderly or infirm pedestrians, and consequently we welcome recent steps taken by the Shire to improve safety:  

for example the establishment of a "SHARED Zone" in the shopping strip in Pt Nepean Rd between Rosebud Pde and Ninth Ave- see attached photo  

another example is the proposed installation of traffic calming measures alongside Benton's Square Shopping Centre.- see attached Council Plan. In this case we would suggest that Council consider implementing " Shared Zone " policy throughout this shopping centre car park.  

On a broader front, we wish to recommend that Council consider extending such measures to all shopping strips and centre car parks within the Shire, particularly as we note that there presently exists a variety of rules and signage even within specific car parks.  

One example is the Rosebud Plaza where McCombe St was well provided with pedestrian crossings and signage during recent extensions to that shopping centre. At the same time however the parking areas adjacent to the Safeway supermarket, which is part of the complex, have two different Standards- as shown on the photos below: [ATTACHED]  

You will note that one crossing, outside Safeway, is marked- the other lacks both marks and signs. Motorists give way to pedestrians using the marked crossing, even though it lacks proper signposts. They do NOT give way to pedestrians who continue to cross to the pharmacy opposite! This increases the risk of an accident.  

Other examples come to mind which may imperil aged or infirm citizens, and indeed all classes of pedestrians, however we wish to recommend
that Council implement steps to improve the safety of ALL shopping centre. Such a program might include:

- review of existing regulations and their application to strip and supermarket shopping precincts
- review of responsibilities of all involved ie Council, shopping centre owners and managers etc
- establishment of a program to set uniform standards
- implementation of a program to install signs and upgrade road marking to a uniform standard in all centres to ensure pedestrian safety

We re-iterate that such a program would be of benefit to all citizens, not just the elderly and disabled and would welcome your support. We would also ask that arrangements be made for consultation between PACE and the senior officers charged with responsibility for the implementation of such a program.

Sincerely yours,

Delys Sargeant
Chair, Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders
24 March 2009

The Manager
Rosebud Plaza Shopping Centre
McCombe St
Rosebud Vic 3939

Dear Sir/Madam
PACE is happy to have the opportunity to contribute to Mornington Shire Council’s various measures to improve road safety, and we wish to offer some observations and suggestions regarding the Rosebud Plaza.

BACKGROUND

PACE was established in May 2006 as the Elder Citizen’s Advisory Committee as result of Council’s Elder Citizen’s Strategy. Our initial task was to identify issues facing seniors in the municipality. After reviewing a range of Aged and Disability Services documents and related publications, a number of key issues were identified. These included: footpaths, bus stops, transport and road safety and these issues have been raised repeatedly by residents in the course of our formal and informal consultations with the community.

Footpaths are an important means of access to shops and other community facilities by those who cannot rely on or access public transport. Walking also assists in falls prevention and promotes good health and social connectedness. Furthermore it has the effect of reducing the environmental impact of unnecessary use of cars, especially for short trips to shopping centres.

As you may be aware, a comprehensive footpath network throughout the municipality promotes healthy lifestyle and also minimises interactions between vehicles and pedestrians. This is equally important in our major shopping centres, particularly in large, busy car parks and affects all sectors of our community; mothers with prams, school children, the aged, disabled and those reliant on mobility devices.

PACE has drawn attention to these issues in it’s various submissions on road safety, and we have recently approached Council regarding a number of matters within the Rosebud Plaza which we believe require resolution, however we were advised by Council officers that these should be taken up, in the first instance, with Plaza management.
Accordingly we outline the specific issues for your consideration as follows:

1. **Pedestrian crossings within Rosebud Plaza—ie those within the actual car park area** rather than those along McCombe St.
   In particular the crossing next to Safeway has white lines, indicating a pedestrian crossing which we notice most car drivers observe. However on the opposite side ie at Bayne and Friend, Chemists, there is no painting on this part of this crossing so drivers do not give way, but speed past.

2. **TGSIs—** All the crossings constructed during the recent alterations to the Plaza car park area have TGSIs except:
   - the one outside Safeway and at the chemists, mentioned in the previous paragraph, and
   - the North—south crossing at the rear of Safeway—ie walking towards K Mart

3. **Disabled Parking spaces—** Concern has also been expressed about the lack of sufficient Disabled Parking spaces at the western end of Rosebud Plaza shops.
   We understand that in total, the number of disabled parking spaces meets standards. However, we are concerned that none are available at the western end of the recent re-development, and suggest that consideration be given to relocation of at least two—which might be placed closer to the K-Mart crossing, preferably on the south side of McCombe Street to minimise walking distance.

4. **“Shared Zones—10km/hr” policy**
   At a later date we hope that Council will extend its “Shared Zones—10km/hr” policy. This was recently done along the Rosebud Central area in Point Nepean Rd, near the Westpac Bank, which you may be aware was the scene of a fatal accident. We have suggested that Council encourage uniform adoption of this measure in all shopping centres within the municipality to improve pedestrian safety.

   We seek your co-operation and would be pleased to discuss these matters with you at an early date.

   Yours sincerely

Marilyn Godley
Chair—PACE

cc MPS Council
Dear M/s Douglas

We were unaware of the closing date, and I am pleased that a late submission is allowed. Consequently I wish to lodge a Submission on behalf of PACE. This submission consists of several parts attached below:

1. Our Rosebud Plaza letter
2. Our Letter to CEO- Supermarket Safety
3. Three Photos- Shared zone, Plaza crossings-2x

I am available by e-mail if you require any clarification or additional information.

Bill Darby
PACE Research Officer

cc Marilyn Godley, Chair, PACE
On 10/07/2009, at 12:33 PM, alex.douglas@parliament.vic.gov.au wrote:

> Dear Mr Darby,
> submissions for this inquiry closed 30 June, however the Committee is
> allowing late submissions until the close of business today, Friday 10
> July.
> If you can have the submission to us by Monday I will accept it.
> Best wishes Alex
>
> Alexandra Douglas | Executive Officer
> Road Safety Committee | Parliament of Victoria
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