Notice of Withdrawal of Supervised Crossing
Redbank Plains Road

The School Crossing Supervisor Scheme is operated and managed by both the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Department of Education through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Both agencies are required to monitor the delivery of the scheme. As such it has been identified through an investigation process by the Department of Transport and Main Roads that the crossing’s safe operation on Redbank Plains Road is being compromised by increasing traffic volumes and an unsafe location. This exposes the crossing supervisor and any pedestrians to a substantial increased risk of injury.

Advice received from Ipswich City Council is that Redbank Plains Road will be undergoing a further upgrade through this location in the following financial years. The upgrade will incorporate improved facilities for pedestrians along the entire section to be constructed. In light of the safety concerns and the proposed improved crossing facilities, removal of the existing crossing is necessary.

What is the location of the supervised crossing?

Redbank Plains Road Children’s Crossing is located approximately 820m from Redbank Plains Primary walking via School Rd. The crossing is located in a very busy 60km Zone well away from the school. In 2008 the intersection of School Road and Redbank Plains Road was upgraded to signals.
Why is the supervision being withdrawn and the infrastructure being removed?

- Ipswich City Council has installed traffic signals at the intersection of School Road and Redbank Plains Road which include pedestrian activated crosswalks. The signals are approximately 420 meters uphill from the Redbank Plains Road supervised crossing. The signalised pedestrian crosswalk is safer than a school crossing and is in continual operation to assist all pedestrians to cross Redbank Plains Road.

- Ipswich City Council will commence underground works in the area in preparation for stage two of the upgrade which plans to incorporate at least two more options of signalised crosswalks between School Road and the intersection of Redbank Plains Road/Keidges Road/Jones Road.

- Concerns have been raised about the safety of the supervised crossing due to several near misses that have been reported by the crossing supervisors. There is no 40km/h School Zone in this section of road as the crossing is not located near the school frontage. Traffic along Redbank Plains Road travels at speed down hill in the 60km/h speed zone towards the supervised crossing in both directions. Traffic volumes have increased significantly due to the development of the western corridor and the road is used by a large number of heavy vehicles.

When is the supervision at the crossing expected to be withdrawn?

The supervision is scheduled to be withdrawn at the end of school term 2012. However, once the crossing is closed and the infrastructure removed three school crossing supervisors will be present for two weeks after the closure. One will stand at the old site of the children’s crossing redirecting children to walk up to the lights, another two will stand at the lights to give children support and guidance in the use of the traffic lights and the slip lane.

For the rest of this year Supervisors who currently work on the crossing will be encouraging students and parents to use the traffic lights so that when the crossing is withdrawn students will already be crossing at the lights.

How will the students be able to safely cross Redbank Plains Road?

- A TMR Road Safety Officer will also be available to provide information.

- The school crossing supervisor will attend the signalised lights for two weeks following the supervised crossing closure to ensure the safety of students during the transition period. On site demonstrations of the correct use of the signals will take place at this time.

- Another School Crossing Supervisor will be present at the old site of the crossing to redirect students.

How can Parents assist/support their children with changes?

- As the crossing will not be withdrawn until the end of 2012 Parents should encourage their children to start walking up the road and cross at the traffic lights. This way, children will have already formed the habit of using the lights and the withdrawal of the crossing will have minimal impact on them.

- Parents can talk to their children about crossing the road correctly at traffic signals.

Who can I contact to ask more questions?

Judy Fountain (Principal Redbank Plains School) Ph: 3814 9222
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