

LEICHHARDT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

REPORT

DIVISION: INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE DELIVERY
SUBJECT: 40KM/H SCHOOL ZONES - FLASHING LIGHTS
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DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY - ORGANISATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications: Subject to a future report to Council.

Policy Implications: Nil

Strategic Plan Objective: 2.3 Develop parking, road safety, active (cycling and walking) transport, public transport and community transport strategies that integrates with the objectives and strategies of the Accessibility Plan through place based planning.

Staffing Implications: Nil

Notifications: Nil

Other Implications: Nil

1. Purpose of Report

To advise Council on the investigation of the installation of a flashing light warning system in 40km/h School Zones in the Leichhardt LGA in line with the RTA's initiative.

2. Recommendations

- 1) That Council awaits release of the RTA policy on the installation of school warning signs which will include funding options for Councils to consider.
- 2) That Council notes the estimated cost to undertake an audit and ranking of all school sites in the Leichhardt LGA to ascertain their suitability for solar powered flashing lights would be approximately \$8800.

3. Report

At the Council Ordinary meeting held on 21 October 2008, Council resolved:

“That Leichhardt Council investigate:

- a) the number and placement of School Safety Zone signs with solar powered flashing lights required in Leichhardt Council Area*
- b) the cost of installation of these signs*
- c) suitable sources of funding of the lights”*

Council has 16 schools in the LGA and has undertaken a desktop assessment in Table 3.1 (attached to the report) outlining the critical components for each school.

It should be noted that the RTA was requested to investigate the installation of flashing lights on the gateway approaches to the 40km/h School Zones in Perry Street and Balmain Road for Orange Grove Public School following a request from Councillor McKenzie on behalf of the president of the school's P&C Association.

The Road Safety section of the RTA has advised that 100 school zone sites have been listed to receive new flashing light systems by 2009. However, none of the schools in the Leichhardt LGA are on this list.

In selecting school zone locations for warning systems the RTA assessed the sites based on a combination of child pedestrian crash history, crash risk, traffic and pedestrian volumes.

The RTA representative further advised that the RTA is currently drafting a policy on the installation of school warning signs by Councils and other organisations.

Holroyd Council has launched the “*School Zone Alert Flashing Lights Program*” in the Council LGA to provide flashing 40km/h School Zones for each of its schools.

Holroyd Council has commissioned Claude Group, a signage and outdoor advertising company, to supply, install and maintain the school zone warning signs program for 20 years in exchange of lending advertising space in the municipality. Under this contract, no advertising is connected to the flashing school zones or will be placed adjacent to schools.

Claude Group has subcontracted the school zone warning signs program to Hunter Valley Signs (HVS) Company. According to HVS, 85 flashing school zone signs have been installed for 35 schools in the Holroyd Council area.

Following discussions held with the Marketing Manger of HVS, the cost to Leichhardt Council to implement such a programme is as follows:

Site audit (14 schools in Leichhardt LGA):	\$7,000-\$8,000
Supply and installation of flashing school warning sign (for more than 20 signs):	\$10,000/sign
Maintenance of the system (battery replacement):	\$500/sign/3 year period
Cost of communication:	\$10/sign/month

(The above costs exclude GST)

The HVS representative also advised of the following implementation timeframe for the program:

- Audit of the school sites: 4 to 6 weeks
- Manufacturing of signs: 8-10 weeks
- Installation and testing of signs: 2-3 weeks

However, as there are fewer sites in the Leichhardt LGA, this timeframe could be less to implement.

4. Conclusions

Based on the reported crash history and the speed limit of the surrounding streets, the following schools are nominated to have flashing lights installed:

1. Orange Grove Public School, Balmain Road-Perry Street, Leichhardt
2. Rozelle Public School, Darling Street, Rozelle
3. Kegworth Public School, Tebbutt Street-Foster Street-Lords Road, Leichhardt
4. Sydney Secondary School (Leichhardt Campus), Balmain Road-Moore Street, Leichhardt

However, it should be noted that the majority of crashes occurred in the vicinity of Kegworth Public School and Sydney Secondary School were primarily associated with the nearby signalised intersections which are scheduled to be upgraded by the RTA shortly.

The cost of providing flashing school zone sign systems for Orange Grove Public School and Rozelle Public School including an audit of all school zones in the LGA would be approximately \$50,500 (excl. GST). Two flashing light boards are assumed for each nominated school, although more light boards may be required.

The RTA is about to release Guidelines on funding options to install flashing 40km/h School Zone signs on perimeter roads for schools in NSW. It is recommended that Council wait until the release of these guidelines before proceeding.