

Fawcett Road proposed cul-de-sac

November 2017

Consultation Analysis

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Executive Summary

The City of Cockburn sought feedback in October 2017 about the proposed closure of Fawcett Road, Munster, between Albion Avenue and Coogee Road/McGrath Road to address safety and amenity concerns.

The main purpose of closing the road is to discourage industrial traffic from driving through the residential area of Munster.

Planning for the Australian Marine Complex (AMC), which was adopted by the Council in July 2006, identified that Fawcett Road would become a cul-de-sac about 200 metres south of Albion Avenue. This would separate the residential section of Munster from the industrial land use of the AMC and encourage motorists to use Rockingham Road and Stock Road instead.

The section of Fawcett Road between the road closure and Coogee Road/McGrath Road would then be closed and incorporated into the wetland areas either side of the road when land in Stage 2 of the subdivision is developed.

It has been more than 10 years since the structure plan was adopted. As development of Stage 2 of the subdivision has not yet proceeded, it has been decided to fast-track the planned road closure to address current safety and amenity concerns that have been raised with the City by residents.

The City has received complaints about the speed of traffic using Fawcett Road and a traffic survey in May 2015 confirmed that vehicle speeds were high as the 85th percentile speed was recorded as 66 km/h. The high speed of traffic using that section of road is a safety concern, particularly considering the road has a 50km/h speed limit. Those high speeds probably reflect that most drivers are using that part of the road as a rat-run to other non-local destinations, and these drivers tend to drive faster than local residents.

Although the average recorded traffic volume of 622 vehicles per weekday is not significant for an access road such as Fawcett Road, when considered in context of the survey location it does highlight that the road is being used primarily by through traffic because the few houses there would generate no more than 20 vehicles trips per day in total.

Implementing the road closure would remove all through traffic and substantially reduce the traffic volume in the southern section of Fawcett Road. This should also benefit the residents further north along Fawcett Road and along West Churchill Avenue by reducing the volume of traffic.

1 Methodology

A letter was sent to 47 local residents/property owners, including recent traffic data and an aerial photograph showing the location of the proposed road closure. The information was also placed on the Comment on Cockburn section of the City's website.

To assess the level of support for this project, they were invited to provide feedback by Friday 13 October by completing an attached survey form and returning it in the Reply Paid envelope, or sending an email to comment@cockburn.wa.gov.au. They could also phone the City's Senior Technical Officer-Traffic, David Fu.

To extend the consultation, a public notice was displayed at the City's Administration Building and three public libraries from 16 October to 27 October and an advertisement published in the City Updates section of the Cockburn Gazette on XX October. This extended the consultation until 3 November 2017.

Online responses

The level of engagement depends on:

- The topic of the consultation (impact on community)
- Extent of communications and promotion (awareness)
- Opportunities to get involved
- Perceived ability to influence the outcome

The graph below shows the number of respondents who click on the project (Aware), read through the pages (Informed) and complete surveys (Engage). Like similar online hubs across Australia, we aim for a ratio of 60:30:10.

So out of 100 visitors, 60 looked but did not do anything, 30 clicked on something and another 10 became engaged in one of the tools.

2 Outcome

2.1 Survey results

The City received 34 responses (hardcopy and online), with 24 supporting the closure of the road at this location and 10 not supporting the closure at this location.

Support the closure at this location	24
Do not support the closure at this location	10
Total	34

3 Engagement Summary

Engagement summary	
<p>We asked</p> <p>Do you support the proposed closure of Fawcett Road, Munster, between Albion Avenue and Coogee Road/McGrath Road to address safety and amenity concerns?</p>	<p>You said</p> <p>“I’d like to congratulate you on your suggestion to close Fawcett Road off to heavy and through traffic. No doubt this will not only increase the value of residential properties, but also quality of life.”</p>
<p>Key points in favour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased quality of life • Safer for pets and people • Encourage more cycling on a safer route • Dangerous traffic speeds at present from 5am onwards 	<p>“For those of us living on West Churchill Ave and Fawcett Road, the closing of Fawcett will truly improve the quality of the environment in which we reside and therefore our quality of life.”</p> <p>“I disagree. This will also not benefit local users from accessing Russell Road from Fawcett Road. They will have to go a very long way around to get up to Rockingham Road or Stock Road.”</p>
<p>Key points against</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The alternative traffic route is a long detour • The road should instead be closed at the corner of West Churchill Avenue and Fawcett Road • I don’t see what benefit this will have other than making access into the western side of Munster even harder and giving hoons another dead end road to do burnouts in 	<p>You participated</p> <p>Mailout to local residents</p> <p>Online and hardcopy survey: 34</p>
Next steps	
<p>We are now reviewing all community input.</p>	

4 Appendices

4.1 Appendix 1 – Survey responses from online and hardcopy survey.

Agree with road closure at this location	
Local residents	
1	I'd like to congratulate you on your suggestion to close Fawcett Road off to heavy and through traffic. No doubt this will not only increase the value of residential properties, but also quality of life. I'd also like you to consider the viability of making the closure a filtered permeability to allow people on bicycles through access. This may encourage locals to ride a bicycle more often, particularly on a road that has been calmed down.
2	As Coogee resident, I strongly support this initiative. Such measures around the residential areas are extremely necessary.
3	Regarding the closure of Fawcett Road at its southern end I am fully in support as the through traffic has become horrendous. In addition I would like to formally request a fixed speed trap camera be fitted in the council land adjacent to the north east entry to lake Coogee reserve. There will be a death in this area if action is not taken to reduce the speed of vehicles many of the worst offenders being SUV drivers at school start and finish times, action must be taken or a death shall occur! Please take action as this is a very real issue!
4	We don't want too much traffic and protect Coogee Lake.
5	Being the last home on the plan before the proposed road closure this would be fantastic for us. Since buying the house 2 years ago I have seen a steady increase in the volume and speed of traffic. This terrifies me as I have three young boys under the age of 5. They are unable to play out the front of the house. The traffic starts around 5am and is usually people cutting quickly through to go to work in Henderson. We also have youngsters on motorbikes (sometimes on one wheel). I have had to call the police before due to hoon drivers on the path, before the fence was put up. There is also lots of litter thrown out of cars. This last week we have had large trucks going up and down all day to a building site further up the road. We are also unable to walk around the lake or walk to school due to a large part of north Fawcett Road not having a pavement and is very dangerous to any pedestrians. Road closure would be extremely beneficial to us.
6	Heavy traffic

7	Too many people speeding at night
8	Heavy traffic
9	Speeding is an issue on Fawcett Rd. If the road is closed it may help with this.
10	I support reducing heavy traffic
11	Our full support
12	Support
13	Support
14	Support
15	Support
16	Support
17	Support
18	Support
19	Yes This is a good idea for residents
20	I agree Fawcett road should become a permanent cul-de-sac to reduce heavy traffic in the area. I am a Munster resident. I live on Figtree Ave and would like to see a cul-de-sac completed there. I have been living there for 4 years now and it is still a dead end.
Other residents	
21	I support this closure for vehicles but keeping it open for pedestrians and people on bicycles. It would make this area much more bike and walk friendly. Please ensure that families with prams, cargo bikes or tagalong bike trailers and people with wheelchairs or mobility scooters can still access the area. Many of the pedestrian access ways within the City are blocked with too many bollards, making it difficult for universal access for families and people with disability.
22	Yes Cockburn rd is a busy road
23	Hi, I'm not familiar with the particular location however I support traffic calming using these sort of methods throughout Cockburn to make the place safer for pedestrians, kids and cyclists. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.

24	<p>I think it's a good solution to the traffic issues experienced on West Churchill Ave and Fawcett Road. As you are aware, there are a large number of motorists who work in the Henderson industrial area/Australian Marine Complex who use these two streets as a shortcut/alternative to Rockingham Road and Russell Road. Subsequently, we have a high volume of traffic (which includes heavy vehicles) each day with the majority travelling at speeds well in excess of 50kms per hour (based on my observations, there'd be few vehicles travelling at less than 70km). It has certainly had a negative impact on my life and those of neighbouring residents that I have spoken to. Apart from the noise, fumes, vibrations, opening windows, effect on children's play and even accessing our properties, it has been particularly devastating for those with pets that it has claimed the lives of. I personally have had two cats killed on West Churchill Ave, the elderly lady (directly across the road from me) lost her cat early this year to a speeding motorist, the elderly man on the corner of Fawcett and West Churchill Ave had his cat killed on the road late last year and, a fortnight ago, residents down the street found their little cat dead on the road. In summary, for those of us living on West Churchill Ave and Fawcett Road, the closing of Fawcett will truly improve the quality of the environment in which we reside and therefore our quality of life.</p>
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Do not support the closure at this location

Local residents

1	<p>I disagree. I think that this will also not benefit local users from accessing Russell Road from Fawcett Road they will have to go a very long way around to get up to Rockingham Road or Stock Road</p>
2	<p>It would be shame to limit access to the residential area by blocking Fawcett off – this would force families to travel using Stock/Rockingham Road which I would have thought would be more of a safety risk due to the high volume of traffic, speed is 80 and heavy haulage/vehicles utilizing this road. It would have been ideal though for the report to include the statistics of accidents which have occurred on Fawcett as seems the reason for blocking this road is of safety concern. Average speed being 57, I thought reasonable.</p>
3	<p>We support the close of Fawcett Road at the corner of West Churchill avenue and Fawcett. (The location chosen by the City) this won't help anyone.</p>
4	<p>I do not support this closure as it will be an inconvenience to me getting to and from my house. It has been an inconvenience since the closure of McGrath and Coogee Road already and don't wish for any more.</p>
5	<p>I absolutely say it is very foolish of these people. No consideration of anyone else because you are sending more traffic back on to Mayor Road. Not in my</p>

	<p>backyard, put it in someone else's backyard. If you close Fawcett Road, you should close Mayor Road right through to Spearwood Ave. Spearwood Ave should also be closed east of Stock Road because it is an industrial area. Also you should close Barrington Road east of Stock Road. So where do you think all the cars go? Through residential areas from industrial areas from Barrington Road and Spearwood Ave. Firstly you should fix Russell Road and Rockingham Road before you close any roads. This is bad planning by Cockburn. If Roe 8 was built it would have alleviated these bottlenecks. Roe 8 Fremantle bypass should be built – that is what you call planning. Since the Council has been in, there has been no planning for the future. Council has a very poor performance in planning – a lot of mistakes.</p>
6	No support
7	<p>I live near the corner of Mayor Road and Fawcett Road. I don't see what benefit this will have other than making access into the western side of Munster even harder and giving hoons another dead end road to do burnouts in. The traffic at the Beeliar Ave/Rockingham Rd/Stock Rd lights and roundabout is bad enough as it is. The intersection of Stock and Rockingham is also a dangerous intersection. More effort should be made to encourage non resident traffic to use Russell Rd west and Spearwood Ave and get the volume of trucks/boats etc etc down on Mayor Rd and Fawcett which have houses very close to the road. The new houses on Mayor Rd between Fawcett and Apium Mews are just dangerously close to a busy 60km/h road</p>
8	<p>I strongly object to this proposal. Fawcett Road should remain open in its entirety, and I believe should be promoted as a scenic drive. This would continue good access to all the commendable work council has achieved along the Lake Coogee foreshore. (dual use path, grass areas, seating, fencing etc). Any concerns about inappropriate driver behaviour can surely be addressed by a combination of speed bumps and chicayne type roundabouts. Any slowing of the traffic would also help reduce road kill of reptiles,birds and tortoises that live at this lake. Promote this wonderful asset, don't limit access to it.</p>
Other residents	
9	Do not close the road. Install traffic calming.
10	No support

4.2 Advertisement in local newspaper

Cockburn City

UPDATE

ROAD CLOSURE FAWCETT ROAD, MUNSTER

The City of Cockburn, pursuant to Section 3.50 of the Local Government Act 1995, proposes to close Fawcett Road to motor vehicle traffic between Albion Avenue and Coogee/McGrath Road, to address local residents concerns about through traffic and speeding traffic.

This road closure proposal is consistent with structure planning for the Australian Marine Complex adopted by the Council in July 2006. It is anticipated that the road closure would be implemented in the second half of the 2017/18 financial year, subject to the proposal being supported by the local community and approved by the Council.

Objections or feedback to the proposal should be marked to the attention of David Fu, and addressed to the

**Chief Executive Officer, City of Cockburn, PO Box 1215,
Bibra Lake, WA 6965.**

or emailed to comment@cockburn.wa.gov.au by close of business Friday 3 November.

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