10.9 PERMANENT PART ROAD CLOSURE OF HOLMES STREET, WILLASTON

Record Number: CC24/82;IC24/518

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Attachments: Nil

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council, in accordance with Section 32 of the Road Traffic Act 1961, permanently closes the portion of Holmes Street, Willaston, as shown in the Background section of this report.

PURPOSE

This report is seeking a decision of Council to permanently close a portion of Holmes Street, Willaston, that capitalises on the opportunity to increase the size of Elliot Goodger Memorial Park as identified within the adopted Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In developing the Draft Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan, an opportunity has been identified to increase the size of Elliott Goodger Memorial Park through the inclusion of a vacant area of land adjacent to the Gawler BMX Club. The land in question is formally part of Holmes Street.

To capitalise on the opportunity to increase the size of Elliot Goodger Memorial Park, the part of Holmes Street identified for incorporation within the Park would need to be permanently closed in accordance with Section 32 of the *Road Traffic Act 1961.*

Council has undertaken the required community engagement process with respect to the proposed part road closure and this report presents Council with the opportunity to consider permanently closing this section of Holmes Street.

BACKGROUND

The Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan was adopted by Council at its 24 September 2024 Council Meeting where the following was resolved:

> RESOLUTION 2024:09:COU306
> Moved: Cr N Shanks
> Seconded: Cr J Vallelonga
> *That Council adopts the recommendation from the Corporate & Community Services Committee made at item 7.1 at the meeting held on 10 September 2024, being:*
>
> *The Corporate & Community Services recommends to Council that it adopts the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan including the final project costing to guide the development of Elliot Goodger Memorial Park as a high-quality regional sport and community recreation precinct*

This Master Plan provides for an expansion of the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park via the permanent closure of a portion of Holmes Street, Willaston, as shown (red box) in the below image:

This area of land is approximately 3,000m^2 in size and is currently a declared road – Holmes Street. The land has, outside some minimal and informal utilisation during major BMX competitions, been predominantly used for access and overflow viewing, but remains generally unused. This flat area lends itself to being included within Elliot Goodger Memorial Park given the steep access from its northern end and vehicle access not being possible from the southern end due to the embankment and retaining wall (noted as a blue "X" in the above image).

The road closure process for this part section of Holmes Street, is governed by the *Road Traffic Act 1961,* more specifically *Section 32 – Road closing by councils for traffic management purposes*. Noting that the infrastructure changes may have an impact on the community and the specific requirements within Section 32 of the *Road Traffic Act 1961*, Council needed to undertake a formal community engagement process prior to making a decision to permanently close the portion of Holmes Street.

At the 27 August 2024 Council Meeting, Council resolved to undertake community engagement on the permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, Willaston:

RESOLUTION 2024:08:COU282
Moved: Cr H Hennessy
Seconded: Cr M Launer

That Council supports undertaking formal community engagement for the proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, Willaston as outlined within this report.

The community engagement process had the following key objectives:

1. Inform the community of the proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street.
2. Allow the community to understand the proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, within the context of the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan.
3. Provide stakeholders and the community with an opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed permanent part road closure.
4. Provide Council with well-informed community feedback through the formal community engagement process.

The community engagement involved the following elements, and was conducted in accordance with Council's Public Consultation Policy:

1. Direct notification of the proposed permanent partial road closure to all adjoining land parcels.
2. Direct notification to all properties along the entirety of Holmes Street.
3. Direct notification to all leaseholders within Elliot Goodger Memorial Park.
4. Public Notice published within The Bunyip and The Advertiser.
5. Promotion of the proposed partial road closure through Council's digital media platforms – website, social media.

DISCUSSION

Community engagement regarding the proposed partial road closure commenced on Monday 16 September 2024 and concluded on Sunday 6 Octobre 2024. Council received one formal response to the engagement process:

> *"Just registering my strong support for more green space via the closure of part of Holmes Street as proposed."*

According to Section 32 of the Act if a council proposes to close part of a road, it may only do so in accordance with a resolution of the council and must, at least one month before the meeting that will consider the closure, provide notice of the proposed road closure. The council must also "*give due consideration to all written submissions made on the proposal that are received by the council before the meeting*" (Section 32(2)).

The only submission received supports the proposed partial road closure consequently, Council Staff are recommending that Council resolve to permanently close the portion of Holmes Street, Willaston as shown in the Background section of this report. If Council resolves to permanently close this portion of Holmes Street, the final step in the process is to publish a formal notice of the closure in The Bunyip and The Advertiser and send a letter to all ratepayers of land immediately abutting the portion of the road that is being closed.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The community engagement related to the proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, Willaston, was funded through the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan budget. The final notification process if Council supports the proposed partial road closure will also be funded from this budget.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

Council Members

- Report presented to the 27 August 2024 Council Meeting

Committees

- Not applicable

Staff

- Executive Management Team
- Team Leader Property & Facilities
- Senior Traffic Engineer
- Environment & Sustainability Officer
- Landscapes Coordinator

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement on the proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, Willaston occurred between Monday 16 September and Sunday 6 October 2024.

Engagement Level	Who	Action	Date
Consult	Community	The *Road Traffic Act 1961* requires that details of the proposed road closure are published both in newspapers circulating generally in the State and a newspaper circulating within the area of the Council. To satisfy this requirement, advertisements were published in both The Advertiser and The Bunyip newspapers. Promotion of the proposed road closure also occurred utilising Council's digital avenues – website and social media platforms.	Sep 2024
Consult	Ratepayers and properties abutting the portion of Holmes Street proposed for closure.	The *Road Traffic Act 1961* requires direct written contact via post be made with all ratepayers abutting the portion of Holmes Street proposed for closure. This was also extended with a letter provided to all properties along Holmes Street to ensure the community is aware of the actual section of the street being proposed for closure, so avoiding confusion and potential unnecessary community concerns.	Sep 2024

Engagement Levels:	
Inform	*Information sharing is a one-way communication to the public providing balanced and objective information to assist understanding about something that is going to happen or has already happened.*
Consult	*Consultation is a two-way interaction designed to obtain the views and feedback from the community to inform decisions on policies, programs, services, or projects that affect them directly or in which they may have a significant interest.*
Involve	*Involvement is about facilitating active participation by the community to help identify issues and views from a diverse range of perspectives so that concerns and aspirations are understood and taken into consideration throughout the decision-making process.*
Collaborate	*Collaboration is about working together in partnership to determine how to develop understanding of all issues and interests. Council and community collaborate to work out alternatives and identify preferred solutions to support decision making.*
Empower	*Empowerment provides opportunities and resources for communities to be part of solutions by valuing local knowledge, talents, skills and acknowledging the capacity of community members to be decision-makers in their own lives.*

RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Appetite Statements

Financial - We are open to opportunities to invest and achieve our Community Plan. We are focused on strengthening our financial position and have a conservative risk appetite to investing outside of our 10-year financial plan. Council is prepared to accept a medium level of risk for variations to approved operating and capital/project budget(s).

Risks / Opportunities	
Identify	Risk Mitigation/ Maximising the Opportunity
The Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan is formally adopted by Council, including a component of land classified as a road.	Finalise the formal process required to permanently close the part of the road (Holmes Street) identified within the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan for inclusion within an expanded sporting and community reserve.
Budget and facilities planning.	The Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan will assist Council and sporting and community organisations to identify priorities for site improvement in the short, medium, and longer term.
Improved use of Council land.	Currently the portion of Holmes Road that is proposed for closure is unused open space requiring Council's Town Services team to maintain the area through regular slashing, mowing and rubbish removal, noting it also does not have any specific environmental/biodiversity value.

CONCLUSION

The proposed formal closure of this portion of Holmes Street will not have a traffic impact, as vehicles are currently not permitted to drive on this portion of road reserve. Council does not have future strategic plans to re-open this portion of Holmes Street for vehicular traffic:

1. To the east of this section of road reserve, Holmes Street has a residential function, and maintaining the current amenity and function is important.
2. To the west of this section of road reserve, Holmes Street services industrial land uses, which they presently safely access to and from Kellys Road.

Council has undertaken the required community engagement process in accordance with the Act and the only submission received supports the proposed partial road closure. Consequently, Council Staff are recommending that Council resolve to permanently close the portion of Holmes Street, Willaston as shown in the Background section of this report.

COMMUNITY PLAN

1.2 Foster a vibrant and active local community that is proud of Gawler.

2.1 Physical and social infrastructure to service our growing population and economy.

2.3 Manage growth through the real connection of people and places.

2.4 Local economic activity to create local job opportunities and generate increased local wealth.

3.2 Provide sporting and recreational facilities to meet local and regional community needs.