

10.4 PERMANENT PART ROAD CLOSURE OF HOLMES STREET, WILLASTON**Record Number:** CC24/82;IC24/473**Author(s):** Bryce Norton, Manager Strategy**Attachments:** Nil[CLICK HERE TO ENTER TEXT.](#)

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

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

PURPOSE

This report seeks Council's support to undertake formal community engagement for a proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, Willaston as identified within the Draft 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*. The road closure process requires formal community engagement to be undertaken.

If Council supports the proposition to undertake formal community engagement with respect to the proposed road closure, outcomes of this engagement process will be presented to the 22 October 2024 Council Meeting.

BACKGROUND

A report was presented to the 23 January 2024 Council Meeting that included updated concept plans for Elliot Goodger Memorial Park, that included utilisation of the currently vacant land adjacent to the Gawler BMX Club that is formally part of Holmes Street. While this part of Holmes Street does not accommodate traffic, it currently forms part of the road reserve. As part of that report, the option to formally close this part of Holmes Street was identified, with the following being resolved by Council:

Resolution 2024:01:COU004

Moved: Cr H Hennessy

Seconded: Cr N Shanks

That Council:

- 1. Notes the three (3) draft Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan - Concept Plans presented to community stakeholder organisations in December 2023.*
- 2. Notes the limitations of, and compromises required by community stakeholder organisations across all three (3) concepts.*
- 3. Endorses undertaking initial investigations to determine the suitability and viability of a future relocation for the Gawler BMX Club to Karbeethan Reserve.*
- 4. Notes an update on the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan including the investigations to relocate the Gawler BMX Club will be presented to the Corporate & Community Services Committee meeting, scheduled for 12 March 2024.*

5. *Notes a report on the proposed permanent part road closure – Holmes Street, Willaston be presented to a future Infrastructure & Environmental Services Committee meeting.*

This report is presented in response to part five of the above resolution.

DISCUSSION

The Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan is a priority strategic planning project for Council that will guide the provision and improvement of sporting, recreation, and community infrastructure for the growing community. The Draft Master Plan was released for community consultation on Thursday 30 May 2024, with the consultation period concluding on Sunday 23 June 2024.

In the development of the Draft Master Plan the spatial and topographical limitations of the site were evident, with useable flat space at a premium across the precinct. The opportunity to increase the size of Elliott Goodger Memorial Park through the inclusion of a vacant area of land adjacent to the Gawler BMX Club, as shown (red box) in the below image was identified:



This area of land is approximately 3,000m² 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 staff will undertake a formal community engagement process, with the outcomes of this engagement being presented back to Council for consideration. The community engagement process has 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 will involve the following elements, and be 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 ratepayers 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.

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.

FINANCIAL/BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, Willaston has been necessitated by the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan project. This initiative was predominantly funded through Council's 2023/24 adopted budget with a total project allocation of \$50,000. The Master Plan project is currently being finalised with the unspent 2023/24 budget allocation being transferred to Council's 2024/25 Annual Budget. At the time of writing this report, \$35,043 has been expended.

All costs required for the community engagement related to the proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, Willaston, as outlined within this report will be funded through the Elliot Goodger Memorial Park Master Plan budget.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

Council Members

- Not applicable

Committees

- Not applicable

Staff

- Executive Management Team

- Acting Manager Operations Town Services
- Team Leader Property & Facilities
- Senior Traffic Engineer
- Environment & Sustainability Officer
- Landscapes Coordinator

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Should Council approve to undertake formal community engagement on the proposed permanent part road closure of Holmes Street, Willaston as outlined above, it is projected that this will occur between Monday 9 September and Sunday 29 September 2024.

Engagement Level	Who	Action	Date
Consult	Community	The <i>Road Traffic Act 1961</i> 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 will be published in both The Advertiser and The Bunyip newspapers. Promotion of the proposed road closure will also occur 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 <i>Road Traffic Act 1961</i> requires direct written contact via post be made with all ratepayers abutting the portion of Holmes Street proposed for closure. This will also be extended with letters being sent 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

<i>Engagement Levels:</i>	
<i>Inform</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Consult</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Involve</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Collaborate</i>	<i>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.</i>
<i>Empower</i>	<i>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.</i>

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.	Commence 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

For Council to capitalise on the opportunity to increase the size of Elliot Goodger Memorial Park, part of Holmes Street, Willaston needs to be permanently closed. The road closure process requires formal community engagement to be undertaken and Council staff recommend that Council supports this engagement process.

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.