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Submission for Bush Road, Albany - Broken Yellow Lines and Clearway [RTV-233]

Introduction

Auckland Transport is seeking feedback on a proposal from the Upper Harbour Local Board, to improve safety and accessibility for motorists along the northern side of Bush Road, by implementing a combination of broken yellow lines and a clearway from 229 Bush Road through to the intersection of Albany Highway.

In addition, on the southern side of the road broken yellow lines are proposed on the outside of 240 Bush Road, to ensure cars have clear visibility when exiting Beatrice Tinsley Crescent.

The proposal includes the permanent removal of approximately 8 carparks and the restriction of a further 20 odd car parks between the hours of 3-7pm on weekdays. Which would be a total of approximately 25-30 carparks affected.

Business North Harbour represents approximately 4,500 commercial property and business owners located within the Business Improvement District. The area is encompassed within north of Parkway Drive/Upper Harbour Highway and south of Oteha Valley Road.

The businesses within the BID are responsible for over 35,000 employees.

Bush Road is one of the main arterial routes within the North Harbour Area.

Our submission on the placing of yellow lines on Bush Road, is as follows:



Location

Bush Road is a main connecting road within the North Harbour area, linking the West and Rosedale area via Albany Highway with the Albany shopping area.

In addition to it connecting to the main areas within the Albany area, it connects with Rosedale Road and Albany Expressway, which feed to their corresponding areas.

The area of interest on Bush Road services mainly industrial with light retail.

As a location, the Albany (North Harbour) area has been identified by Auckland's Council as a strategic (nodal) area of growth for Auckland (Auckland Plan 2050).

Our Process

Business North Harbour were advised on 30th August 2019, of a formal consultation from Auckland Transport seeking feedback on a proposal to improve safety and accessibility for motorists on the south western end of the road.

As a service to our members, we personally contacted the residing businesses who were in the immediate vicinity of the new changes. We needed to understand the level of support for, or opposition to, the proposed improvement of yellow lines and clearway.

Our Findings

Public awareness of the submission was minimal with only 20 percent of the 28 businesses approached aware of the proposal.

Of the businesses approached 24 were positive for the proposal recognising the current safety and congestion concerns. With four businesses against the proposal of yellow lines and clearway. The main reason was the loss of essential parking within the area for the local employees and customers.

Feedback:

- Start the proposed clearway from 4pm rather than 3pm
- Would prefer the clearway to start from 10am
- Parking concern for staff, where there is insufficient onsite parking
- Parking concern for customers for specific training events
- Recommend an additional left turning only light at the corner for Bush and Albany Highway. In addition, paint clear road markings for the left lane for left turning only cars.
- Sign up for drivers who are turning onto Albany Highway to 'merge like a zip'
- '5 min parking only' outside 235 for customers for the liquor store and café
- Request of installation of hockey sticks outside 237 Bush Road to restrict cars parking too close to the entrance which would provide better trucks accessibility.

With the new bus network for the North Shore implemented in September 2018 the routes were redirected thereby making the two bus stops at the western end of Bush Road obsolete.

Please note:

Business North Harbour have not undertaken independent verification of Auckland Transport's plans nor designs.



Our positioning is based on the assumption that Auckland Transport's plans are both robust and accurate. If this proves not to be the case, our position and subsequent evidence may need to change.

Conclusion

Business North Harbour agree with the Upper Harbour Local Boards proposal to Auckland Transport for the yellow line restrictions and the clearway.

However, we request the following:

- Removal of the obsolete bus stops, to reduce commuter confusion and additional carparks on the northern side.
- A review of where the painted lane dividing line should commence.
- A review of the intersection at Bush and Albany Highway, with the option to install a left turning only light, and road markings for the two lanes clearly indicating the left lane is for left turning traffic only.
- Signs up within the area reminding drivers to 'merge like a zip'.
- A review to install '5 min parking only' outside 235 for customers for the liquor store and café.
- To review the installation of hockey sticks outside 237 Bush Road.

We will publish our submission on our website www.businessnh.org.nz so that our members know their feedback has been forwarded to Auckland Transport.

If you have any questions, please contact the author.

Thank you.

SARAH DE ZWART

Relationship and Transport Manager