

December 19, 2014

Mark Ferguson
General Manager
Pittwater Council
P O Box 882
Mona Vale 1660



Re: Request for support of improved traffic safety requirements for Newport Public School children travelling to and from the Newport Public Wharf

Dear Mark,

We are writing on behalf of a number of residents and members of SIRA who have raised their concerns about the safety of the walking route between Newport Public School and the Newport Public Wharf.

Newport Public School has long been the feeder school for Scotland Island and offshore children, with a ferry service providing school transport. Because this service stops at the Newport Public Wharf, parents have formed a volunteer roster and several paid walkers to supervise kids from Kindergarten to Year 3 to ensure that they walk safely to and from the ferry wharf to school. Research shows that young children below 9 have no traffic sense, get distracted and can be unpredictable. This is often evident on the walk, particularly after school when children are tired. We would like to propose improved traffic measures that will enhance the overall safety of all children.

We seek your support to progress the following in order of priority:

- i) Extend the school zone to include the pedestrian crossing between Queens Parade and Kalinya St;
- ii) Change the area from the top of Queens Parade down to the wharf into a "Shared Zone" of 10km/hr through the Roads and Maritime Service;
- iii) Create a pedestrian footpath from the middle section of lower Queens Parade to the wharf;
- iv) Introduce a bus service from Church Point to Newport School.

After previous consultation with parents we understand that the school actively supports these changes and has, in a letter sent to Pittwater Council, expressed a keen interest to get items (i) and (ii) moving. The school was advised by Council that item (iii) has been put on a wait list.

We request that you to consider putting all three items on your 2015/16 Works Program and work with the Roads and Maritime Services to achieve reduced speed zones.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'D. R. Gye'.

Bill Gye OAM
President
SIRA