

**10.1 NOTICE OF MOTION: Mayor John Carey – Survey regarding possible 40kph speed zone on Vincent streets**

**That Council REQUESTS the Chief Executive Officer to carry out a Vincent-wide survey to gauge community opinion on whether the City should consider requesting the State Government to reduce the speed zone on local Vincent streets to 40kph.**

**REASON:**

As Mayor, I am regularly being approached by Vincent residents concerned about the number of speeding cars using local streets to avoid the significant traffic congestion on major corridors into the CBD and across our City. In fact it is one of the top three issues that I deal with now on a weekly basis.

Although speeding is a Police issue, as a Council we are working hard to be as responsive as possible to these concerns through the introduction of traffic-calming measures such as speed humps, creating low speed environments and improving local signage. But this in itself is not enough to tackle a growing problem across our whole community.

The City of Vincent has already made a formal request to Main Roads WA to reduce the speed limits on Bulwer Street and Oxford Street (north of Vincent Street) down to 40kph. Council unanimously agreed to request this change at its meeting held on 10 March 2015.

A 40kph speed limit on Bulwer Street and Oxford Street will, if approved by Main Roads WA, provide additional safety for all cyclists and pedestrians, including students travelling to and from school. However, the introduction of a 40kph speed limit should not stop at just these streets. Research around the world clearly demonstrates that slower speeds create a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists alike, by reducing the required time for motorists to brake and stop. Lower speeds result in lower numbers of accidents and fatalities.

Bike lanes play a critical role in encouraging more people to cycle and help relieve traffic congestion on our roads. However, they should not be considered as an isolated measure but rather as a suite of initiatives to assist with boosting cycling rates, addressing congestion problems and making our streets safer for all.

It is clear that slower traffic speeds create a safer environment for both pedestrians and cyclists.

In order to consider the merits of this proposal further and before formally approaching Main Roads WA, it is considered appropriate to first survey the Vincent community to ascertain what level of support exists for applying reduced speed zones across all local roads. It is anticipated the survey would be conducted over a period of approximately 6 weeks with the results being reported back to Council in due course.

**ADMINISTRATION COMMENT:**

The CEO has no objection to the proposed motion, although it must be noted that:

- The time and costs involved in conducting this survey will need to be balanced against other corporate priorities and the City's day-to-day business. On this basis, the survey would be conducted using on-line technology (such as Survey Monkey or similar), would be promoted in local print media and more directly to town teams and Vincent schools;
- Unless otherwise directed by Council and so as not to unduly prejudice the survey responses, Administration would recommend posing questions in the survey to gauge community sentiment on whether traffic speeds are an issue, whether lower speed zones (down to 40kph) should be pursued and, if so, on which streets and in which locations?
- Administration would support the survey being open for a period of 6 weeks, after which time the responses would be collated and reported to Council Forum (and then Council) for further consideration.