

**From:** Steven Head [<mailto:SHead@hornsby.nsw.gov.au>]

**Sent:** Thursday, 15 December 2022 1:49 PM

**To:** 'President BCCT' <[president@bcct2119.com.au](mailto:president@bcct2119.com.au)>

**Subject:** Resident concerns with the construction of the Beecroft to Cheltenham Cycleway

Hello Rod

Thank you again for forwarding the email to me outlining concerns that have been raised by residents during the construction of the Beecroft to Cheltenham cycleway. I have followed up with the project team on the matters and provide the responses below to each of the queries.

1. Unauthorised entry by construction contractors on various occasions to use water supply where the taps are on private premises for a range of purposes but especially for bitumen cutting; washing down cement from vehicles and implements not only onto public spaces but also onto the front yards of houses; arguing with residents after being directed off properties; and damaging garden watering systems through tampering.

This issue was raised with the project team by residents in October 2022 and has since been resolved with the contractor and residents. The contractor has advised that this will not occur into the future. We have not received any further reports from residents on this issue. If this has continued we will follow and directly instruct the contractors.

2. Significant noise (without adequate prior warning) from bitumen cutting; heavy haulage vehicles emissions; the sound of tree and shrub removal; digging machinery to prepare for 4 metre wide concrete laying.

The majority of these construction activities occurred in the early stages of the project for the preparation of the shared path and new kerb and gutter installation on the northern side of The Crescent. The remaining works programmed for the end of the year involve the installation of the boardwalk and some minor lighting preparation works, which will not be as noise intrusive as those activities listed above. The next stage of noisy works will be when the contractor returns in the new year to complete the road pavement construction, resurfacing works and construction of pedestrian islands. Residents will be advised in advance on when these works will take place in the new year.

3. Unnecessarily messy and inconvenient stockpiles of equipment and materials; discarded lunch wrappers and drink containers; lighting shining into homes (again without adequate explanation or warning) and no signs of appropriate re-vegetation.

At times the contractor would stockpile materials - such as road base – along The Crescent to facilitate the preparation of the concrete shared path. Any stockpiles on the road itself were only present during business hours and would be cleared before demobilising from the site each day. Other items such as stormwater pipes and boardwalk materials were stockpiled within the shared path construction zone itself. The contractor makes all efforts to avoid stockpiling materials and equipment in inconvenient locations, and endeavours to remove or relocate these stockpiles where inconvenient for motorists or residents. The

contractor undertakes a rubbish clearing run at the end of each day before demobilisation. Regarding the lights shining into homes, we do not know what this may have been from as the contractor does not use lights during day work construction. However, we will take this feedback to improve the management of stockpiles and rubbish along The Crescent moving forward and our team will keep a close eye on works to ensure this is happening.

4. Obstruction of ingress and egress from residences because of heavy vehicles parked across driveways on a regular basis to load, unload, lay concrete etc, necessitating cancellation of important appointments.

Workers avoid parking across vehicular driveways where possible. There may be some instances where this is difficult as materials need to be delivered at certain areas along The Crescent. All efforts are made by the workers onsite to facilitate access for residents in and out of their homes throughout construction, i.e. workers will move vehicles obstructing a driveway when advised by a resident. This feedback has been noted and we will reassert directly with the contractors the need to be respectful of residents.

5. Street closures making it difficult for trades people or visitors to access homes.

Residents were advised on the requirement for detours in the notification letters attached. Detours were implemented predominantly throughout the early to mid-stages of the project to facilitate the construction of the shared path along The Crescent between Kirkham St and Cheltenham Rd. They were only implemented as necessary to enhance the safety for workers and motorists and expedite the construction activities. However, the contractor did facilitate access for residents through these detours who need to reach their properties.

6. Preventing access to even travel down the street such as when this prevents arborists' chipper trucks from reversing in to carry out essential tree maintenance on residences especially when this is needed after heavy winds and rain.

The Council's project team is only aware of one instance where external arborist chipper trucks needed access through The Crescent to complete a job for a resident/s. Our understanding is that this was adequately managed onsite between the civil contractor and the chipper trucks. Following this day there were no follow up concerns from residents raised to the Council.

These reports seem to be regrettable events, especially in a heritage conservation area.

I note that for work on the railway lines there is a letterbox drop advising of what work is proposed, and when, so that residents can plan around work and have confidence that difficulties are advised and, preferably, avoided. Residents are fully aware that they will be inconvenienced as part of any nearby work happening but what is reported seems to be beyond mere inconvenience and, as reported, done with little consideration of the residents.

We have endeavoured to advise residents on upcoming works and detours throughout this project, with contact details from both Council and the contractor provided should they wish to reach out with any concerns. A letter was issued by Council to residents in February 2022 advising on the

commencement of construction works in March 2022. This was followed by a letter from the contractor in early March 2022. Due to inclement weather preventing works from commencing as originally scheduled, a subsequent letter was issued by the contractor in May 2022 advising residents of the new commencement date. A letter in August 2022 was issued to residents along the Crescent between The Promenade and Cheltenham Road advising on temporary access restrictions. Finally, a letter was issued to residents in September 2022 advising on intermittent road closures through to October 2022. A progress update letter will be issued to residents before the 2022 Xmas shutdown advising of the expected completion date for the project. The letters issued to residents to date are attached.

Again I thank you and the Trust for forwarding these issues to Council and trust the advice above is of assistance.

Kind Regards

Steven