

8 August 2023

Rod Best  
President  
Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust  
By email: [president@bcct2119.com.au](mailto:president@bcct2119.com.au)

Dear Rod

### **BEECROFT CHELTENHAM CIVIC TRUST MEETING – OCTOBER 2022**

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Thank you for inviting me to attend the Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust (BCCT) Meeting back in October 2022.

I'd like to respond to a number of queries raised at this meeting and apologise for the lengthy delay in responding:

#### **Background information on the Kirkham Street intersection**

Beecroft Road is a state road under the jurisdiction of the NSW Government agency, Transport for NSW (TfNSW). TfNSW is also responsible for safety at intersections of state roads with minor roads. There has been a longstanding community concern about the safety of the intersection at Beecroft Road and Kirkham Street and Council has lobbied the State Government for over a decade to signalise the intersection to address the safety issues.

There have been twenty-seven (27) crashes recorded at the intersection of Beecroft Road and Kirkham Street since 2010. Sixteen (16) of the crashes have resulted in injuries.

At its meeting in October 2021 Council resolved that to write to the Minister for Transport and Roads, Andrew Constance MP, asking for traffic lights to be installed at the intersection of Beecroft Road and Kirkham Street in Beecroft. Regrettably TfNSW has again declined Council's request, sighting that the traffic signals would cause too many delays along Beecroft Road. Regrettably, the response received was negative. Over the years, Council has written to TfNSW and local members seeking the upgrade to the intersection.

While Council will continue to pursue the upgrade of the intersection with the State Government, it also encourages residents to raise this issue with TfNSW directly by contacting:

<https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/about-us/contact-us>

**Burns Road works** – Ability of BCCT to inform Hornsby Shire Council as to the best use of limited Council funds when informal advice is that these funds cannot be shifted and the work was agreed without recent local resident agreement

The Trust would be aware that these works were ultimately put on hold and the funds were used elsewhere within our local roads improvement program. In terms of providing feedback to Council the earlier that the Trust can provide feedback the better. All our capital work proposals are usually outlined in the draft Operational Plan that is adopted each year as a draft for exhibition and comment in April with a further report in June considering feedback from the community and making a final decision. Feedback at this point is most useful to Council as it allows the opportunity for Council to consider the merits and priority of an individual project and whether the funds can be allocated elsewhere.

### **Current status of bicycle path links to Epping (on the south) and Pennant Hills (on the north)**

#### Route C - Cheltenham to Epping (M2) section.

- Council have completed survey work and are progressing with the detailed concept design for this link between Cheltenham and Epping based on the preferred route which was previously exhibited to the community. The preferred route from Cheltenham Railway Station follows The Crescent and eventually passes over the M2 motorway via a proposed pedestrian/cycleway bridge. A meeting between Hornsby Council, TfNSW, Transurban (the M2 operator) and Parramatta Council was held in May 2022 to discuss the preferred route, and it was resolved that Council could continue progressing the detailed concept design for this route. Concurrently, a feasibility study is being undertaken for the proposed shared pedestrian/cycleway bridge. We hope to release more information on the concept design to the various stakeholders and the community once this is completed later in the year. Construction would not start until funding becomes available from the State Government.

#### Route A - Pennant Hills to Beecroft section

- Council have completed survey work and are progressing with the detailed concept design for this link between Pennant Hills and Beecroft. The preferred route along the railway corridor is not being pursued at this stage due to difficulties obtaining agreement from Sydney Trains. The revised preferred route now being explored would extend along Pennant Hills Road between Pennant Hills Railway Station and Beecroft Road, Beecroft Road between Pennant Hills Road and Albert Road; Albert Road between Beecroft Road and Wongala Crescent; and Wongala Crescent between Albert Road and Beecroft Community Centre. An alternative route link is also being investigated between Wongala Crescent and Pennant Hills Road via Lilla Road. This route would also require a new pedestrian/cycle bridge over Byles Creek, however it has been noted Lilla Road is not desirable for a shared path route due to its steepness and length. Construction would not start until funding for the preferred route becomes available from the State Government.

### **General issues concerning interactions with HSC**

#### **Feedback**

You raised that Council issues draft plans, proposals and the like seeking public comment and that no advice, even on a general level, is provided as to why particular submissions are not adopted. Therefore, due to submissions taking enormous effort, there seems little point in making submissions that will not be considered because of factors outside of the submitter's knowledge. You expressed that this lack of feedback does not allow the BCCT to learn or improve its responsiveness and in turn, does not help the BCCT to improve future submissions so as to better address the needs of Council.

Providing a response to every submission received with an explanation of why or why not the feedback was taken into account is often not within Council's capacity due to the volume of submissions or complexity of the response. There will always be factors outside of the submitter's knowledge and/or understanding of the subject matter, however the general intention of the submission is always taken into consideration. Engagement activities and information provided during consultations are intended to provide as much detail as possible to assist the community in making informed responses. For the larger consultations, there is benefit in closing the loop with key stakeholders in more detail beyond acknowledging their submission and often a consultation report will be prepared.

## Organisation Chart

You mentioned that there does not seem to be an organisation chart on Council's website that describes the areas of responsibility/roles for each part of Council officer responsibilities and whether one could be supplied and possibly added to the website.

Please see link below from our website for the General Manager and Director's, which includes what each division is responsible for - [How Council Works | Hornsby Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.hornsby.nsw.gov.au/How-Council-Works). We are in the process of creating a more detailed organisational chart.

## Calendar of proposed areas of consultation with the public

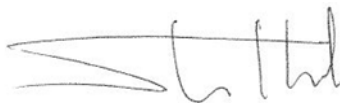
You asked if it was possible to provide a calendar of proposed areas of consultation with the public by Council so that you might have some broad idea as to what is likely to be on the horizon to assist BCCT be better able to allocate work and be better prepared when responding to requests for submissions.

Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide a calendar of proposed areas of consultation as they vary throughout the year and many are dependent on endorsement by Council before public exhibition can take place. I would recommend you review Council's [Delivery Program and Operational Plan](#) for details of upcoming projects and keep an eye on Council's [Your Say Hornsby Page](#) and eNewsletter for details of current exhibitions.

## E-News

You enquired how BCCT might better get Council information to include your E-News. Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide customised content for individual community groups or associations. Council regularly provides updates through our eNewsletter, Mayoral columns, newspaper adverts, social media channels and media releases. Further details are also available on Council's website [Latest News | Hornsby Shire Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#) or [Calendar of Events](#).

Yours sincerely



Steven Head  
General Manager

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