

**IN THE CORONERS COURT OF VICTORIA
AT MELBOURNE**

Case No: COR 2016 004615
Date of document: 8 November 2018

IN THE MATTER OF:

AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF JULIA FOLCIK

SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF VICROADS

Purpose of this submission

VicRoads has prepared this submission to provide to the Court a written response to the State Coroner's recommendation in relation to the death of Ms Julia Folcik.

VicRoads also wishes to take this opportunity to express our condolences to the family and friends of Ms Folcik for their loss.

On 27 September 2016, Ms Folcik died due to injuries sustained in a crash at the intersection of Main Road East and Percy Street, St. Albans the day previous.

The Coroner's recommendation

Pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 (Vic), it was recommended that Brimbank City Council assesses the intersection of Main Road East and Percy Street, St Albans with a view to modifying the intersection to increase pedestrian safety.

In a letter from Kate Sanderson, Coroner's Registrar, to Karen Macdonald, VicRoads Legal Services, dated 30 August 2018, it was stated that the recommendation was incorrectly directed to Brimbank City Council and should have been directed to VicRoads who is responsible for managing and maintaining the intersection.

Response to the Coroner's recommendation

1. The speed limit along Main Road East at Percy Street is 60km/h. Near this location are two variable speed limits, as follows:
 - a. A variable speed limit commences at View Street to the west of Percy Street (operating at 40km/h between 8am and 7pm Monday to Saturday) and runs through the shopping precinct to the west and adjacent to Errington Reserve.
 - b. A variable speed limit commences at Walmer Avenue to the east of Percy Street (operating at 40km/h between 8am and 9:30am and between 2:30pm and 4pm on school days) and runs adjacent to St Albans Secondary College.
2. VicRoads has extended the length of the variable speed limit through the shopping precinct (described in 1a above) to Walmer Avenue to improve safety for all road users, more specifically pedestrians that walk along and across Main Road East to access the shopping precinct. The change, which was undertaken after discussions with Brimbank City Council and Victoria Police, was implemented on 1 October 2018.
3. VicRoads is also currently working with the Brimbank City Council and Victoria Police to develop treatments aimed at improving the safety and operation of Main Road East and Main Road West

(between Sunshine Avenue and Station Road) in St Albans. This includes reviewing and updating pavement line marking, opportunity to reallocate road space to provide a painted centre-of-the-road median to help pedestrians cross the road, a single traffic lane in each direction and a bicycle lane which would encourage active and sustainable transport.

4. These treatments would also provide efficient multi-mode access to local services, facilities and jobs, while improving pedestrian permeability along the route.
5. Considering the Coroner's recommendation, VicRoads is currently investigating suitable options to further improve pedestrian safety near Percy Street. Some options being investigated include the installation of a pedestrian refuge area in the middle of Main Road East, pedestrian crossing with traffic lights outside Errington Reserve (west of Percy Street) and a raised traffic island on Percy Street.
6. It should be noted that all of the treatments described in points 3, 4 and 5 (once finalised) will be considered for funding in a future program. Potential time frame regarding developing and funding future improvements are outlined in the next section.


Process and timeframe

7. The outline of the process, from investigation stage to delivery stage of the proposal, is below:
 - a. Investigation and development of proposal.
 - b. Presentation of proposal to project committee.
 - c. Feasibility review and assessment by project committee.
 - d. Project committee endorsement.
 - e. Proposal is submitted for funding consideration to the approval committee.
 - f. Once funding is secured, the project is announced and delivered.
8. Depending on factors/contingencies such as underground services, community consultation, investigation, and ability to secure funding within current bidding cycle, it can take 6-12 months for a project to reach announcement stage.
9. If funding is secured in the near future, it is envisaged that, at the latest, the above improvements could be delivered by mid-2020.

VicRoads hopes that this response provides some assistance to the Coroner and we would be pleased to answer any further questions, or provide more information regarding any of the issues discussed.

Contact Person

Should you require further information, please contact, Mr Robert Kemp, Team Leader Movement & Safety, VicRoads Metropolitan North-West Region, (Mob: 0448 314 625, email: robert.kemp@roads.vic.gov.au).



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8 / 11 / 2018