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Court Ref: COR 2018 005792

10 February 2020

Caitlin English
Acting State Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
65 Kavanagh Street
SOUTHBANK VIC 3006



Dear Coroner English

Investigation into the Death of Jayden K Morgan - COR 2018 005792

The City of Casey has prepared this submission to provide the Court a written response to the recommendations outlined in your Finding in relation to the death of Mr Jayden K Morgan.

The City of Casey also wishes to take this opportunity to express our condolences to the family and friends of Mr Morgan for their loss.

The Coroner's Recommendation

Pursuant to Section 72(2) of the Coroners Act 2008 (Vic), it was recommended that:

1. That Casey City Council consider installing streetlighting and pedestrian footpaths at the location at which the collision occurred.
2. That VicRoads consider reducing the speed limit on Pearcedale Road, Cranbourne South, given the lack of streetlighting and safe pedestrian access.

Response to the Coroner's Recommendations

1. The City of Casey has considered the Coroner's recommendations and is unable at this time to implement those recommendations. Outlined below are the matters that the City of Casey has considered in reaching this position.

Recommendation 1 - Pedestrian footpath installation

2. Pearcedale Road is situated in a semi-rural environment in which infrastructure standards differ from fully developed areas.
3. There is an existing footpath along the eastern side of Pearcedale Road in the subject section between Cranbourne-Frankston Road & Browns Road and sealed road verge/shoulder for majority of its length along this section.

4. City of Casey has a Linking Paths Program that provides annual funding for the installation of footpaths to provide a strategic path network across the municipality. Paths in this program are prioritised and assessed based on their expected value in providing an alternative transport mode to activity centres that are likely to be a destination for pedestrians or cyclists, such as shops, schools, community and recreational facilities. In addition, the value of the path in providing a connection of existing paths or the completion of missing links in the network is considered.
5. The provision of a path along the western side of Pearcedale Road ranks as a low priority within the program. Therefore, due to resource implications and the need to prioritise its footpath works, the City of Casey is unable to implement the recommendation to install a pedestrian footpath at the location at this time.

Recommendation 1 – Streetlighting installation

6. As noted above, Pearcedale Road is in a semi-rural road environment. This location has “flag” lighting (i.e., minor lighting at intersections to highlight the intersections without lighting to a particular standard) which is consistent with lighting standards for semi-rural based roads in accordance with AS1158.1.1-2005 and VicRoads TCG 006: Guidelines to Street Lighting Design Dec 2018.
7. The two major intersections through this section of Pearcedale Road (at Botanic Ridge Boulevard and Browns Road) have upgraded lighting which was installed as part of development works.
8. City of Casey does not generally provide lighting along footpaths considering the cost implications which can be associated with these installations. The installation of footpath lighting would need a program to be developed and locations identified and prioritised for street lighting.
9. Typically, within semi-rural or rural road environments, street lighting is provided at intersections or locations where the road environment needs to be highlighted such as bends, presence of traffic islands etc. It is not a standard practice to provide mid-block lighting on roads of this nature.
10. In light of the above, the City of Casey is not proposing to install further lighting along this section of Pearcedale Road at this time.

Recommendation 2 - Speed limit reduction

11. The second recommendation of the Coroner is directed to VicRoads. However, the City of Casey has considered this in light of its connection to the first recommendation. Outlined below are those considerations:
 - a. Pearcedale Road is a major local road which the City of Casey is the managing road authority. Speeds limits are considered Major Traffic Control Items which require they are set in accordance with Department of Transport Speed Zoning Guidelines. Approval is required by the Department of Transport for all speed zone changes.

- b. An assessment of Pearcedale Road has been undertaken by City of Casey in accordance with the Speed Zoning Guidelines and found that 80 km/hr is an appropriate speed limit for the road environment and surrounding development. The lowering of the speed limit in locations where the road environment does not support the lower speed limit can lead to a high level of non-compliance with a lower posted speed limit.

12. The City of Casey is not considering submitting an application to the Department of Transport for a reduction in speed limit for this section of Pearcedale Road at this time.

Should you require further information, please contact Anitha Ajay, Team Leader Traffic & Drainage Operations, City of Casey 03 9705 5200.

Yours faithfully



Keri New
Manager City and Asset Planning