

Albion Park Chamber of Commerce Inc.

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Economic and Community Development

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Albion Park Chamber of Commerce is very pleased that on/off ramps have now been provided to Albion Park CBD and Tongarra Rd. We acknowledge that this is the Albion Park Rail Bypass and this is the focus for the RMS but we believe that this project cannot be treated in isolation to the traffic problems at Albion Park. There is an opportunity now to improve traffic flow through Albion Park on a state government Illawarra highway.

Albion Park and the Illawarra Highway is the access to the southern highlands, plus with sales at Calderwood Valley exceeding expectations there is every chance that the traffic through Albion Park will increase quicker than planned and create a bottleneck on the Illawarra Highway. The highway also has to cater for growing traffic volume from the three (3) high schools, three (3) primary schools and ten (10) Preschools/kindergartens. Some only recently opened.

The RMS Traffic and Assessment Report Vol 1 P172 issue 3 (WCC) states that the CBD intersection will fail by 2020 without Tripoli Way.

The RMS have always stated that their objective was not to fix flooding in Albion Park just not make it any worse. Albion Park residents major concern is the frequency with which we get flood bound after storms and yet after hundreds of millions of dollars spent, they will be still flood bound. There seems to be some inaccuracies in the RMS report, Vol 1 p158 (SCC) reports that Taylor Rd only floods for 30mins, which is not what residents see when the roads close for days at a time. There is a justifiable need to act now.

Albion Park Chamber of Commerce believe now is the ideal time to factor in access ramps on/off the Bypass to be flood proof. Even if this means sourcing additional funding for the projects.

Community Concerns

1. Flooding, every year Albion Park becomes flood bound during rain periods. With the Bypass coming there needs to protection from known flood issues when developing the following areas;
 - a. Within the CBD, is often cut off at Taylor Rd, at the culvert along the Illawarra Highway and along Tongarra Rd
 - b. At the on/off ramps, the 1 in 2, 5, 10-year periods do not clearly clarify the flood risk to residents. Homes are 1 in 100 why are these roads so much less?
 - c. On the new East/West link it regularly floods on the low ground east of Woollybutt Drive but what are the plans for this? Are they 1 in 2, 5, 10, or 100-year periods?

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2. Tripoli Way needs to be built and media reports that Shellharbour City Council will go ahead with this work. It was reported by RMS staff that areas lost at the Croome Rd sporting complex due to the Bypass would be replaced. However, there are reports that the RMS are expecting Shellharbour City Council to rebuild the Croome Rd sporting complex which would impact on funding for Tripoli Way. Could this be clarified please?

3. Agricultural land loss. The farmland on the flood plain is prime agricultural land and the dairy is a major supplier of milk to Australian families. There is a lot of negative comments about the loss of so much this land. The RMS flood study originally planned for a 4m x 8m underpass for the cattle and farmers to move under the Bypass from one paddock to another. The current plan is for a 3m x 3 m underpass which will cause land scouring if they can get the cattle to pass through the proposed underpass, and it is not flooded from the rain.

The Albion Park community ask that the government find the funds to rectify the growing traffic concerns in Albion Park that will have the additional benefit of alleviating the flooding problems.

Albion Park Chamber of Commerce are concerned that the plan design is being pushed by funding shortfalls rather than best practice.

Marilyn Grebert

Secretary Albion Park Chamber of Commerce



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