

I am happy to provide my testimony under affirmation to express the negative impact of toll increases on the traffic conditions, including pollution, dangerous driving and the risk posed to all members of the community by trucks and trailers running through an otherwise progressive residential area. The damage to the surrounding buildings, infrastructure, community, local businesses, and standard of living is evident to anyone visiting the area. Almost every week increasingly our streets face accidents and near misses that have become so common place. Heavy goods vehicles and cars speed through our streets with complete disregard to the impact caused on this community.

I am a local resident, a pedestrian, a cyclist, Vice President of Bexley Public School P&C, father of two little girls, living and working from my family home on the Stoney Creek Road intersection at Medway Street. Today I am before you in all these capacities. As a parent and community representative carrying the voice of the local school in the documentation before you. I also have a short video to present on behalf of the school.

I have lived in Bexley with my family since 2018 and in this time I have witnessed the marked increase in heavy traffic that starts at 3am and runs throughout the day, well into the night causing and contributing to disrupted sleep, encouraging dangerous risky driving, that culminates in a culture of traffic anxiety where foot traffic on these streets has decreased as the risk increased. Residents drop their kids off at school by car adding to increased congestion. Not having that luxury, I clutch onto my girls tighter now than ever when I walk them up to school. A school that astonishingly does not fall under the school zone so we find trucks and cars speeding up just as they arrive at the school gates running through forest road and shooting down Stoney creek road past parents unable or unwilling to drive their kids to school. This is our daily walk to school. I have witnessed and experienced numerous incidents of trucks and cars running red lights speeding across to cut off pedestrians and other vehicles. Trucks jumping at amber and finding themselves stuck across the Bexley road - harrow road- forest road junction. Vehicles from side streets taking risks to overtake trucks to gain access to the thoroughfare. People become blinded by their priorities they completely miss the pedestrians. In the last week I have personally experienced three near misses with my two girls on the way to school. All by drivers taking risks to rush to the next set of lights or jump into the main road before the trucks resume their impenetrable fleet. Two involved trucks and the third was a neighbour trying to get in front of the trucks to drive into her driveway.

The top of Stoney Creek Road is a runway for all vehicles unhindered by any measure of traffic calming or speed monitoring, huge trucks manoeuvre between lanes as if they were tiny speeders racing the Grande prix. No regard to the speed limit or the residents living in the houses. It is a risk many residents face when attempting to enter or exit their properties via their driveways. The clearways have added to the culture of disregard for the people living here. Even bus drivers speed through and pass bus stops at incredible speed just to keep up with the traffic flow.

Businesses continue to suffer despite the money spent on the pavement and road resurfacing. Traffic lights on Stoney Creek Road are spread out. There are no speed cameras, or traffic calming measures between the top of Stoney creek road and Medway Street that would otherwise operate as a deterrent to frustrated or opportunistic motorists. Nor further down Stoney Creek Road towards Preddy's road.

I'd like to note there is no protection for pedestrians using the pavements on this road. No steel fencing on the nature strip you would expect to offer some form of protection against this chaos. Nothing even at the bus stops. And why would there be, it's not a motorway or is it? The appearance of a community, residential neighbourhood is disappearing as these streets become a motorway escape for commercial and private motorists escaping endless failings to regulate the out-of-control tolling system.

We pay the price of these tolls and have been doing so for a long time with no compensation for our ongoing suffering. Our community, our kids, our businesses, our standard of living, our human right to enjoy a peaceful life in an otherwise progressive and full of potential neighbourhood. Shops, Schools parks and local businesses that are walking distance are driven to by families throughout Bexley. The biggest reason is out of fear of the prevailing risk that this traffic plagued our community. Businesses that don't have adequate parking lose out to the convenience of Westfields in Hurstville and Rockdale Plaza.

Residents were offered discounted sound proofing a couple of years back which was only viable for homeowners who'd lived in their houses for over 8years. This in lieu of addressing the root cause, excess tolls rerouting commercial traffic to our neighbourhood bringing all the nastiness that you see. Our homes are impacted with structural damage from internal cracks on our walls and windows to other damage from the daily vibrations from the huge monstrous trucks and trailers.

Proposals:

1. Steel/iron gating similar to those installed on forest road around the school and throughout stoney creek rd nature strips. Increase block hedging to create a barrier between traffic and pedestrians.
2. Additional traffic lights to enable pedestrians especially the elderly and kids in the area to walk across the road safely bringing speeds down.
3. **Traffic calming ramps** (not speed ramps to halt traffic) to deter traffic from treating the road like a runway. This will slow traffic to bring in line with the proposed speed limit.
4. Speeding cameras and signage notifying drivers of the risk of fines and installing speed monitoring equipment to show the speed.
5. Reducing the speed to 50 on stoney creek rd
6. Bring bexley public school well within the school zone to include the Intersection. Note: this would allow us to install a traffic warden/ lollipop person to help families safely cross the road at the busy intersection.
7. Excluding large trucks and trailers from driving through this area with appropriate signage and communication.
8. Provide truck drivers and large commercial vehicles viable incentives to not use our streets. Discounted toll or fines for driving through our neighbourhood.
9. Signage on the street to encourage vehicles to slow down. Painted on the road.
10. Offer houses affected with effective soundproofing free of charge despite who owns them or how long anyone has lived in them.
11. Compensate the community and inject capital into the area to encourage businesses.
12. Active policing and monitoring of traffic and pedestrian safety measures.

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Resolved to publish Yes / No