

Road Safety Concerns Clarence Council Prevention is Best

Several years ago I wrote to the Clarence Council re safety issues. Their reply was 'Thankyou for your reply, however our statistics show.....' I don't hold out much hope with action from the council.

Statistics do not tell the real story. Statistics do not show drivers failing to give way to the right, failing to indicate, tail gating or crossing solid white lines. Nor do statistics show road rage, frustration, drivers taking unwarranted risks, or just drivers being bullies, displaying selfish, arrogant and threatening actions.

So I am writing to you to ask for your help.

I wish I could help you see the reality of driving these days in a small car! I have spoken to a lot of people who are feeling the same, and are as concerned as I am.

Please excuse typos!

Thankyou



Maree Morris



Areas of Concern

Traffic Lights

All traffic lights need to be updated as the traffic is so much heavier now.

Lights at Bayfield Street/Cambridge Road

Addition of green arrows to remove the risk of accidents. Cars travelling down upper Bayfield and needing to turn right onto Cambridge, can only see two cars either turning left into Cambridge or travelling straight ahead, as the cars in lower Bayfield waiting to turn right into Cambridge block visibility. I have seen close call many times.

The lights on Gordons Hill Rd need to be adjusted to keep the flow of traffic on Cambridge Rd. Flowing.

Lights on Rokeby Hill where both Tollard Drive and Pass Road intersect with South Arm Rd. Problem is – cars travelling up Pass Road and needing to turn right onto South Arm Road find it very difficult, as cars travelling straight ahead from Tollard mean that only 3 cars get the opportunity to turn right. As a result, traffic stops on Pass Rd, and a backlog goes well past the roundabout and stops traffic wishing to turn left into Pass Rd from Goodwins Rd. Frustrating.

Cars in Tollard and waiting to turn right onto South Arm Rd have a real difficulty. Cars travelling up Pass Rd and turning left or going straight ahead are only visible to cars turning onto South Arm two at a time, as there is a line up of the other lane turning right plus the road is built on a hill and cars are only visible at top of rise. Cars turning right from Tollard have to cross a four lane road. Also close calls on a regular basis.

Pedestrian Islands (PI)

Not enough of these. Bellerive outside Cripps Bakery. People wanting to cross Percy Street is a real challenge. Lots of traffic in that area all day. People crossing need to be aware and check traffic turning into Percy from Cambridge Rd – two way - cars leaving Cripps carpark and cars travelling down Percy St. Pedestrians are all ages – seniors, school children, Young mothers with prams and toddlers. There are three car spaces outside Cripps and also there are two or three spaces on opposite side which could be removed and a PI installed.

On Scott Street, there is a Salamanca Fresh store, and opposite is St Marks Church. This street is very wide, and constant traffic enters from Clarence Street, Church Street, cars leaving Salamanca carpark and traffic from the other end of Scott Street. Many people cross from the church to the fruit store and vice versa. There is already a PI at the beginning Scott Street, but it is not used for people crossing Scott Street from/to church/Salamanca.. It is scary to see older people trying to cross in a hurry.

South Arm Road, from the traffic lights on top of Rokeby Hill. This is horrendous. There are two bus stops on South Arm Road (also called Rokeby Hill). Once passengers get off the buses, they are left waiting for quite some time to cross the road, especially at peak hour times and in wet weather. It is two lane road, and I have several times counted over 40 cars without a break for the people to cross. Lighting is poor also, and in winter it is so dangerous. Apart from people getting off buses, all the way down Rokeby Hill there are several places where more people try to cross the road - again young mothers with prams and toddlers, kids on bikes and skateboards etc.

This is an area which needs overpasses Ideally – obviously won't happen, but PI's and extra lighting would be a great help. Prevention is the key word.

PI in Oakdowns. The roads on the bus route are wide. PI's would be very valuable on these roads. Parents would be relieved and thankful. However, PI's would be valuable at regular intervals in Oakdowns, Cavenor and Horsham. Unfortunately, there is a hill on Oakdowns which mean that cars travelling towards the roundabout fly over a hill and cars leaving driveways are vulnerable to being hit by speeding cars. Many cars exceed the 50 limit daily....by a long way.

Oakdowns Race Tracks

There are two streets which are renowned speed tracks. Oakdowns Parade and Cavenor Drive. Majority of drivers travel at speed way over the 50 limit. These two streets are on the bus routes. These streets are wide, and some of the children crossing the roads are quite young.

Oakdowns Pde. A lot of cars enter Oakdowns from South Arm Rd roundabout. Drivers are already travelling in excess of 60 limit, and unfortunately when they enter Oakdowns there speed increases and does no decrease. There are added concerns here.

1. Once cars turn into Oakdowns Pde, the start of the footpath (it is very old) protrudes out onto the road which means some cars swerve a bit to the other side of the road. Please a solid yellow line is a must.
2. Cars try to park at the beginning of Oakdowns Pde which leaves buses and heavy truck having to avoid hitting the car of the island. Yellow lines would be helpful.
3. Bus Stop. This bustop is far too near to the roundabout. Children and adults having to cross the road do not have a safety net, as cars turn into Oakdowns Pde and increase their speed....a lot. The bus stop needs to be moved to just above Estramina Drive which would give the drivers time to see kids crossing road, and also pedestrians time to cross in safety.

The bus stop near the roundabout is more unsafe now that Estrimina Dr has homes built in it. Drivers travelling down Estrimina and turning left, are looking to their right to check on traffic, but come out into Oakdowns and are upon school kids crossing Oakdowns.

Maria Crescent. Maria is a horseshoe street. Erica PI is entered on a 90 degree corner on Maria. Cars travelling towards Erica cut the corner on a regular basis. The corner needs a mirror (curved) and some small bumps on the road showing them to stay on the left side of the road. Also, for some reason, a car regularly decides to park only half a metre from the corner which means a car entering Erica (coming in from Carvenor) has to drive in the

middle of the road to check if any traffic is coming towards them. A yellow line may be helpful to discourage parking in a ridiculous spot.

Lauderdale Primary School Acton Rd/South Arm Road

I am hoping that the white pole which was put up a few months ago may be monitoring the dangerous intersection. Cars are daily backed up to a corner on Acton and beyond.

At the intersection there are two lanes for traffic to leave Acton Rd. One to turn right and the other to turn left. Unfortunately, the left lane blocks all visibility for the car turning right, particularly seeing that that lane extends a bit further and there are so many tradie utes which are high and wide.

Cars travelling towards Oakdowns and Lauderdale means that traffic from Acton Rd have no choice but to give way. The wait time can be up to 10 minutes or more in peak hour traffic.

Also, traffic travelling from Sandford etc do not have the School zone flashing light. For some reason there are two of these signs both facing Oakdowns, even though one is past the School. I have called the school twice, but they did not see a problem. School children walk on the path commencing near Foreshore Tavern.