

Artarmon Progress Association
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ARTARMON NSW 1570

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Mr Daniel Sui
Traffic and Transport Team Leader
Willoughby City Council
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cc Georgie.Roussac@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

Dear Daniel,

PROPOSED INTERSECTION SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS, ARTARMON ROAD/COONEY ROAD,
ARTARMON

The Artarmon Progress Association (APA) strongly supports the safety and traffic calming improvements within the area of Artarmon Road around Cooney Road, the Cordia Way bridge and Sydney Street.

These issues have been discussed at several APA meetings. Council's solutions have met with broad approval from the Executive and those members of the community who attended the meeting. The issue of local traffic calming, heavy vehicles and safety have been discussed in various articles in the Gazette.

Our judgement is based on the following rationale:

Pedestrian safety on the section of Artarmon Road between Pyrl Road and the Wyalong Street roundabout.

- Artarmon Rd is already a busy road, and vehicles often exceed the speed limit, especially away from the already constructed traffic calming measures. In the view of the APA, the area between Pyrl and the roundabout is hazardous for pedestrians crossing Artarmon Road.
- The eastern section of Artarmon Road is poorly served for pedestrian crossings/refuges with one at Harden Road and another at Chelmsford Ave. This represents two crossings at either end of a 900 metre stretch of roadway.

- This results in a disadvantage for those that live within the north eastern part of the suburb. Artarmon is attracting an increased number of younger families who wish to access community facilities on the southern side of Artarmon Road. These include:
 - The excellent playground facilities for young children near Burra Rd
 - Artarmon Oval and exercise facilities for teens and adults
 - The soon-to-be completed Artarmon Parklands community building
 - Bushwalks through Artarmon Reserve
 - The Naremburn cycleway
 - Park run
 - Community garden
 - Dog walkers
- With the increased popularity of these facilities, parking is becoming a key issue around lower Burra Road. Many locals therefore choose to walk from their homes to access the area.
- In contrast the western section of Artarmon Rd is quite well served for pedestrian-safe crossings. From Harden Rd to Elizabeth St there are 5 or 6 crossings over a distance of some 500 metres.
- We note as well, that there is no safe pedestrian crossing or refuge at the intersection of Sydney Street, nor are there pedestrian friendly access points at the roundabout at Wyalong St. We understand Council is considering installation of a similar pedestrian refuge between the Cordia Way bridge and Sydney Street in FY26. The APA is, in principle, supportive of this strategy, subject to consultation.

Traffic Speed Reduction

- There can be no question that speeds on this section of Artarmon Road can be excessive. Members of the APA and several community members who live in the area are of the view that many cars on Artarmon Rd often exceed the 50km/hr speed limit.
- The APA considers that the installation of traffic calming measures in the form of pedestrian refuges is an appropriate solution.
- The APA would not be in favour of speed humps which can create significant noise disturbance for local residents.

Enhanced visibility

- Visibility at the intersection of Cooney and Artarmon Roads is certainly an issue. This is due to overhanging tree branches to the east (around the bridge), and in the afternoon, direct sunlight from the west.
- Cooney Road and this intersection are becoming increasingly busy with non-residents exiting from activities in the oval and children's playground. These include families and park run on weekends, the touch footballers and school users arriving by bus during the week.
- To extend the holding line at the Cooney St intersection is a sensible solution to what is becoming a riskier intersection.

Clear parking spaces

- The APA supports the installation of an edge line which will mark safe parking areas, ensuring that parked vehicles are separated from moving traffic.
- We suggest that current parking restrictions along this section of Artarmon Road be reviewed following installation of the pedestrian refuge. This should be undertaken in conjunction with local residents.

Heavy traffic access

- The APA is pleased that Council has responded so quickly to the issue of unwanted heavy vehicles entering the suburb.
- This, we believe, will be another solution for traffic calming and consequent safety improvement in the suburb.

We are aware there are likely to be objections to the current proposal. The net loss of 3 parking spaces is regrettable, but more than offset, by the improved safety outcome. There is typically ample parking along Artarmon Road and Cooney Road in close proximity to the intersection.

Representatives of the APA have surveyed this section of Artarmon Road and note that all houses have off-street parking.

We also note that building work near the intersection of Artarmon and Cooney Roads has been active for the past 18 months and has, no doubt, been creating frustrations. This work is now approaching completion.

Many thanks to you and your team for the work being undertaken on this issue. On behalf of local residents, the Artarmon Progress Association appreciates the speed with which you have acted to address safety and traffic issues on this busy road.

Yours sincerely,

Glenda Hewitt

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and

Chris Baker

Vice President and Traffic lead

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The Artarmon Progress Association, Inc. (APA) was founded in 1906 as a not-for-profit group and our objectives are to promote the welfare, physical and intellectual advancement of the suburb of Artarmon and the City of Willoughby, to protect the interests of the residents, and to encourage a keener spirit of citizenship and mutual help amongst residents.

Our newsletter, the Artarmon Gazette, is distributed quarterly to over 5,000 homes and businesses in Artarmon. We regularly communicate with residents and act as a conduit between local residents and elected representatives on matters concerning our local community.