

ITEM 21

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR MITHRA COX - GUIDELINES FOR THE
INSTALLATION OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

Councillor Mithra Cox has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

- 1 Council follow the lead of the City of Parramatta Council, in developing our own set of guidelines for the installation of pedestrian crossings on Council roads.
- 2 Draft guidelines be presented to Councillors by the end of 2021.”

Background provided by Councillor Cox:

Wollongong Council has very few pedestrian crossings, and this makes it very difficult for kids walking to school, older people and anyone with a mobility issues, and indeed everyone trying to cross when the roads are busy. Where there is no priority for pedestrians on busier roads, they simply have to wait and wait until there is a gap in the endless stream of traffic, and then take their chances and run across. Streets around schools are very busy at exactly the same time that many children are also walking to school.

Wollongong's lack of pedestrian crossings has always been attributed to the fact that we can never meet the “warrants” set down by Transport for NSW - strict guidelines that mean we cannot install crossings where there are too few or too many cars or pedestrians. Developing our own guidelines would enable us to put pedestrian priority crossings in much needed areas like school walking catchments and village shopping precincts.

The City of Paramatta recently replaced the TfNSW requirements that are the major obstacle for priority crossings with its own set of guidelines in relation to the number of pedestrians and vehicles for a pedestrian crossing to be installed (Interim Guidelines for the Selection of Pedestrian Crossing Facilities in the Parramatta Local Government Area on Streets with a Speed Limit of 50km/h or less). TfNSW has provided advice that “the pedestrian crossing warrants do not apply to local roads and Council has discretion to install pedestrian crossings just referring to the Australian standard and the Austroads guides. Council may choose to use the warrants however are under no obligation to do so.”