
RE: Community Concerns - Intersection Mapua Drive & SH60

1 message

Andrew James <Andrew.James@nzta.govt.nz>
To: MDCA <info@ourmapua.org>

Mon, May 17, 2021 at 9:32 AM

Hi Marion

I am not sure if there is much more I can add to the letter from Neil Walker. Perhaps if you would like to give me a call sometime I could try to explain the situation from my perspective in more detail.

I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours

Andrew James

System Manager - Top of the South

M 021 428 574

From: MDCA <info@ourmapua.org>
Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 4:30 PM
To: Andrew James <Andrew.James@nzta.govt.nz>
Subject: Community Concerns - Intersection Mapua Drive & SH60

Dear Andrew,

I am writing to you on behalf of the Mapua & Districts Community Association (MDCA) as the result of a suggestion from Cllr David Ogilvie and Neil Walker NZTA's National Manager, Maintenance and Operations.

At MDCA's public meeting held on Monday 12th April concern was raised about the future safety of the intersection at the junction of State Highway 60 (Mamaku Drive) and Māpua Drive.

As a result of the query it was voted that MDCA write to the National Regional Transport Committee via Cllr Anne Turley. Anne forwarded this onto Jamie McPherson, TDC Transport Manager, who in turn forwarded it the Neil Walker. (Please see Neil's response attached)

After receiving a response from Neil Walker, at MDCA's public meeting on the 10th May, it was decided to write to you directly to see whether you have more insight into our local concerns than NZTA's national body may have.

Mapua residents are extremely concerned about the increases to the traffic volumes since the opening of the Ruby Bay Bypass (Mamaku Drive) in December 2010.

The Tasman District has experienced a high level of development and growth over the last ten years and the volume of traffic now using State Highway 60 between Richmond and Motueka has increased significantly.

Couple this, with the high growth rate in and around Māpua and the Ruby Coast, the traffic volumes using this intersection each day to travel to and from either Richmond or Motueka has also increase significantly.

Currently, especially at but not limited to peak times, residents of Māpua and the Ruby Coast are experiencing (what seems like) long delays when either turning right off State Highway 60 into Māpua Drive or when turning right from Māpua Drive north onto State Highway 60.

It is also worth noting the differences between the transition onto and off SH60 at the Stage Coach Road intersection is not only much easier it is also much safe to negotiate than the intersection at Mapua Drive, even at peak times.

MDCA and our community residents are very aware that once the current water and wastewater upgrade is completed much of the land currently zoned 'deferred residential' will very soon be rezoned 'residential'. With this will come many more houses, people, and motorised vehicles

This will not only cause new and concerning traffic issues within Māpua and Ruby Coast itself, but it will also have a major impact on being able to safely enter and exit the intersection at Māpua Drive and State Highway 60.

If we are not careful local residents will start using the Stage Coach Road intersection via Seaton Valley. If this occurs, a new safety issue will be created along Seaton Valley Road, as Seaton Valley Road is not designed to cope with heavy traffic volumes.

At the time of public consultation prior to the bye-pass project commencing in the mid 2000's, I was the Chairperson of the Mapua & Districts Business Assn (MDBA). At this time MDBA were extremely concerned about the future impact motorist would experience due to the proposed road design. Eleven years down the track this concern has now become a reality.

MDCA are also very aware that often preventative measures occur retrospectively and upon the loss of a life or several lives. As a community association we are concerned about the welfare of our residents and would like to see a proactive solution to this growing problem have a much higher priority.

MDCA would appreciate more clarity than Neil Walker has provided and a commitment from NZTA to make changes before someone is maimed or killed:-

1. Within the Zero Strategy 2020 - 2030 what is the priority for the Mapua Drive/SH60 intersection, and where within the 2020 -2030 time frame does changes to the Mapua Drive / SH60 intersection fall?
2. MDCA feel that the current timing of safety improvements for this corridor currently programmed to start in the 2024 - 2027 National Land Transport Programme is too vague, and too precarious when it is subject to investment prioritisation, endorsement and funding availability. MDCA and the communities on the Ruby Coast need more assurance than this.
3. Can you provide any insight to what future improvements maybe considered?
4. Will the residents of Māpua and the Ruby Coast communities have input into this process?

MDCA are available and are willing to be involved in further discussions around this issue and any possible solutions.

We look forward to your response.

Marion Satherley

MDCA Chair

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