

EAST ROAD / WANNEROO ROAD INTERSECTION

PRINCIPAL PETITIONER SUBMISSION

JORDAN WRIGHT



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Background:

This issue has dated back as early as 2004 with ongoing issues at this busy intersection. East Road Intersection is on the boundary of Hocking and Pearsall and is one of the major entry and exit points for Hocking and Pearsall residents.

Advocacy to take action on this project started with Former Councillor Glynis Monks from the City of Wanneroo back in 2004 but as time has gone on, we have had the upgrade of the Ocean Reef Road overpass by Main Roads WA (MRWA) and more developments in the local area.

Community members have been expressing concerns regarding the intersection at East Road and Wanneroo Road for a long period. The State Government Ocean Reef Road Construction Reference Group (ORRCRG) members echoed these apprehensions during discussions with Main Roads WA (MRWA) at the ORRCRG meeting before and after the project was completed. These talks were conducted about the construction of the grade separation project at the Wanneroo Road and Ocean Reef Road intersection.

MRWA carried out further traffic modelling, which encompassed both scenarios pre and post-the-grade separation project. This was done to forecast the traffic volumes. The results showed that the grade separation project would not pose a negative impact on the intersection at Wanneroo Road and East Road however, it is important to note that traffic safety issues persist at the intersection.

The situation has been aggravated since the upgrade of the Wanneroo Road / Ocean Reef Road intersection, which has subsequently made it difficult for motorists to turn from East Road onto Wanneroo Road. This has also led to decreased pedestrian safety crossing Wanneroo Road with many seniors and young people using these crossings to access bus stops and footpaths. This issue primarily impacts the City's residents and ratepayers who use East Road and face difficulties during the morning and afternoon peak periods.

Increased queueing is observed on East Road, which has been further exacerbated by the redirection of the 467-bus service onto East Road. This was an unforeseen consequence of the reconfiguration of the Ocean Reef Road / Wanneroo Road / Woodvale Drive intersections. Councillor Jordan Wright tabled a motion on notice at the City of Wanneroo Ordinary Council

Meeting in May 2022 expressing these concerns and also asked to write to the Minister for Transport at the time. The City of Wanneroo received a letter on 6 September 2022 from the Premier of WA informing that:

“Main Roads are conducting design investigations in response to a Public Transport Authority request to improve sight lines at this intersection, which are impacting bus turning movements from East Road into Wanneroo Road. I am advised that Main Roads is currently preparing documentation to nominate this intersection for Black Spot Funding. I will ensure they keep you updated on progress.”

There have been 13 crashes recorded at the intersection of East Road and Wanneroo Road in the five years from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2021, with 3 of them resulting in casualties. These incidents place the intersection 75th in terms of safety in the City. However, many smaller accidents have not been reported to authorities therefore the data is unreliable as the intersection has been closed off more than 13 times within five years.

A Road Safety Inspection was commissioned by MRWA for the intersection in February 2022, which pointed out numerous problems related to the intersection's configuration, geometry, sight distance, and the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. These issues are compounded by the lack of suitable gaps in the traffic flows during peak times.

Currently, the City of Wanneroo administration is working closely with MRWA to explore potential solutions to these issues. The funding to address these problems could be obtained through a future accident Black Spot grant submission, which could be filed by either MRWA or the City, as deemed appropriate. The City of Wanneroo Traffic Team contacted MRWA and the advice received is that MRWA is assessing Wanneroo Road/East Road intersection for a Blackspot submission and has had a high-level review from their internal Road Traffic Engineering Branch, which has raised a few critical issues, as well some moderate ones. Our Traffic Team continues to raise this intersection with MRWA at regular six-weekly meetings and an update will be provided as further progress is made on developing a suitable solution for this intersection.

As indicated in the State Government's Road safety strategy for Western Australia 2020–2030, which has placed an economic cost on road trauma. Each fatality costs an estimated \$7 million, and each hospitalisation some \$300 000. Road trauma costs Western Australia approximately \$2.4 billion every year. We call on the WA Parliament to take action and please make our local area safer.

Complications and Issues

1. Turning left onto Wanneroo Road from East Road

- ❖ The first issue is when vehicles are turning left onto Wanneroo Road from East Road there is a blind spot with vehicles blocking the clear line of sight of approaching vehicles on Wanneroo Road.



2. Turning right onto Wanneroo Road from East Road

- ❖ The second issue can be broken down into two parts:
 - i. From East Road onto Wanneroo Road, there is no clear vision of sight down Wanneroo Road which makes it difficult for the driver to cross. This can also be difficult for the PTA 467 Bus Drivers.
 - ii. From the median to merge on Wanneroo Road is a sharp turn for drivers to see oncoming vehicles. There are insufficient gaps with very few breaks for vehicles to safely merge.



3. Turning left onto East Road from Wanneroo Road

- ❖ Vehicles turning left onto East Road from Wanneroo face speeding drivers with rear-ended accidents being caused. At the nearby Elliott Road / Wanneroo Road Intersection a slip lane has been engineered to increase safety. A similar approach should be made here.



4. Pedestrian Safety issues

- ❖ Pedestrians cannot cross Wanneroo Road safely as the next traffic lights are at the Wanneroo Rd/ Conlan Ave intersection which is 3.0km away (37-minute walk)
- ❖ The primary users of these pedestrian links include mostly but are not limited to students, seniors and cyclists who usually access Public Transport services.
- ❖ There are inadequate gaps for pedestrians to safely cross at any time of the day without running across.



Outcomes

Residents and ratepayers are hoping that the following can be achieved by raising this issue to the Environment and Public Affairs Committee:

1. Secure blackspot funding for the full scope of the project from the State Government for an upgrade;
2. Provide a timeframe as to when the upgrade will occur within the next five years;
3. Progress with a design and release to the public for consultation/feedback.

The local community including myself are AGAINST the need for another set of traffic lights as acknowledged by MRWA which was the point of the upgrade of the intersection.

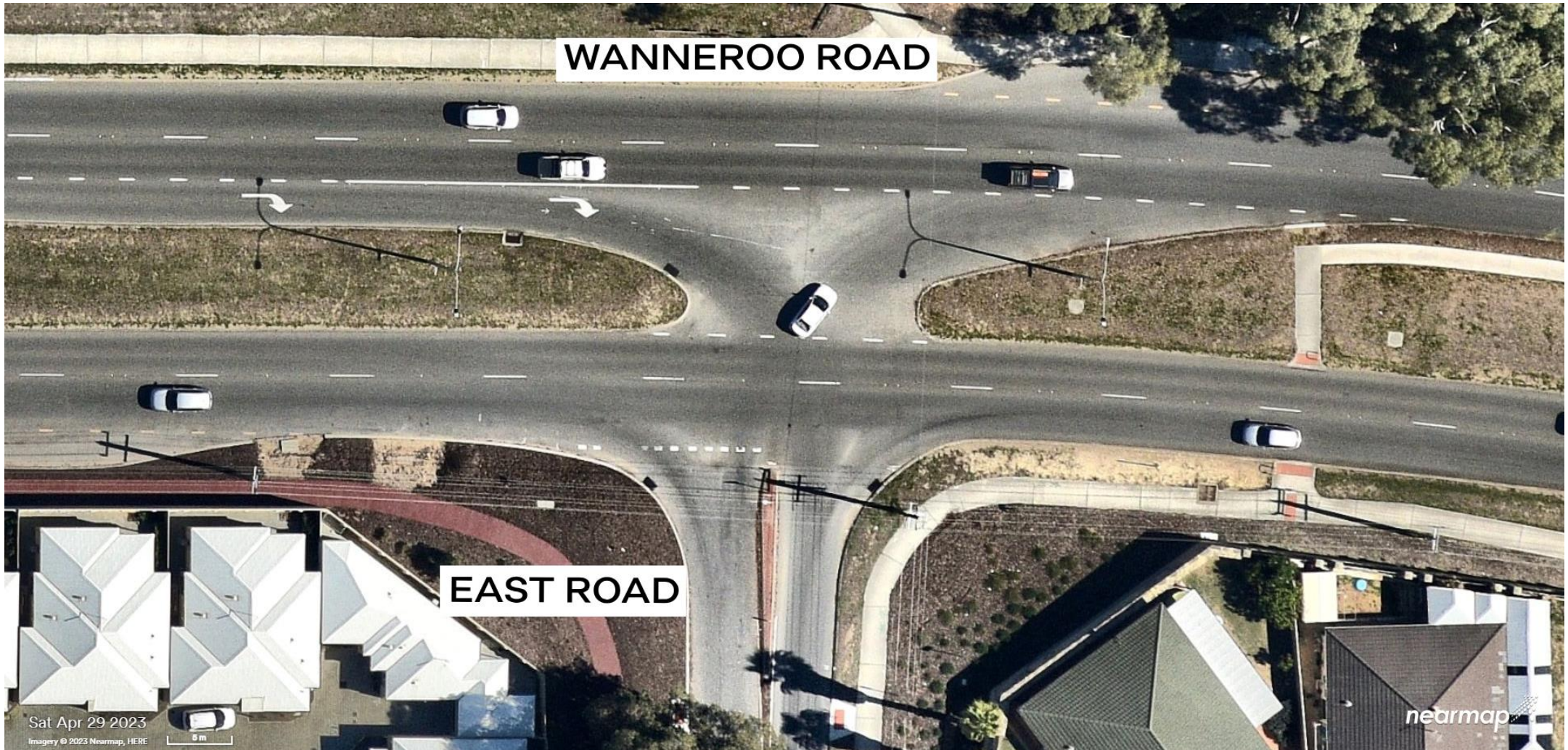
Potential Solutions

However, we believe that the following solutions could work at this site:

- ❖ 3-way roundabout: Connecting Wanneroo Rd with East Rd.
- ❖ 4-way roundabout: Connecting Wanneroo Rd with East Rd and Calabrese Ave (Exit only).
- ❖ Slip-lane for vehicles on Wanneroo Rd turning left onto East Rd.
- ❖ Merge lane for vehicles in the median turning onto Wanneroo Rd.
- ❖ Splitting the lanes on East Rd having space for a left onto Wanneroo Rd and a right onto Wanneroo Rd and ensuring a clear line of sight for vehicles turning left.
- ❖ Merge lane for vehicles turning left onto Wanneroo Rd from East Rd.
- ❖ Overpass bridge for pedestrians to cross Wanneroo Rd safely.

On behalf of the local community and as a fellow Hocking resident I would like to thank the Environment and Public Affairs Committee and State Government for listening to our concerns and hope that a positive outcome can come about from the petition. Kind Regards, Jordan Wright

Attachment 1- Site Overview



Attachment 2- Pedestrian Links

