

**Item 7.5 Petition requesting to reduce significant risk of child being hit on  
Liardet St, Port Melbourne by vehicles**

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**Questions from Cr Pearl**

Would officers be able to provide any details of potential alternatives than another costly wombat crossings? Perhaps fencing down the median strip that would stop pedestrians from running across and enhanced fencing arrangements that would stop children from running out of both the childcare centre and also the park?

Has the pedestrians' site lines decreased because of Council's planting of about forty trees in the area in the past two years?

**Response**

**Replacement tree planting impact on sightlines**

In July 2019 as part of Council's Greening Port Phillip program, the replacement tree planting in the median of Liardet Street was undertaken. The works involved tree removal and replacement within the central median. Compacted road base material was also removed from the median to create deep root planting zones for new large canopy trees. The trees planted, *Corymbia eximi*, maintain a single narrow trunk in the lower sections that do not impact on sightlines.

The images below demonstrate sightlines along the frontage of Bubub Womindjeka Family and Children's Centre before and after the tree replacement works.



December 2018 – Travelling west along Liardet Street



October 2019 – Travelling west along Liardet Street

#### Alternatives treatments along Liardet Street

Fencing and other treatments along Liardet Street have been considered. Council's transport team are concerned that fencing is unsafe in that it may lead to pedestrians attempting to cross Liardet Street by walking along the median to avoid the fencing and may result in pedestrians walking along the carriageway given the landscaping within the median.

Alternative treatments to a wombat crossing are available to reduce vehicle speeds. While these options will slow traffic they will not directly assist pedestrians crossing the road. Two alternatives are:

- the use of speed cushions and bollards similar to that installed along Cecil Street. Bollards would be required to ensure drivers do not attempt to use the bike lane to avoid the speed cushions. This is expected to cost between \$10k and \$15k.
- A raised platform without a pedestrian crossing.

Once pedestrian surveys have been completed to assess pedestrian demand across Liardet Street adjacent to Esplanade East, officers will seek support as required from external stakeholders (eg the Department of Transport) and provide a further update on possible treatments.

*\*Please note: answers to any questions in Public Question Time which were answered at the meeting are included in the minutes of that meeting.*