



**Singleton Public School  
School Council**

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Mr Gary Woodman,  
Acting General Manager  
Singleton Council  
Queen St,  
SINGLETON NSW 2330

28/05/09

CC: Crs Sue Moore; Paul Nichols; Godfrey Adamthwaite; Colby Crane; Fred Harvison; Alison Howlett; Lee Gallagher; Lyn Macbain; John Martin; Tony McNamara; Val Scott; Maxine Smith.

RE: Request for the introduction of a Light Traffic Thoroughfare in Hunter St, Singleton.

Dear Mr Woodman,

As you are aware there has been some concern lately regarding the proposed use of Hunter St in Singleton's CBD as a designated route for heavy vehicles wishing to enter the CBD. As parents of children attending Singleton Public School we have been very vocal in our objections to this proposal which we believe will place our children in danger on a daily basis.

On Thursday May 7, 2009 the following sign was erected by the Roads and Transit Authority on George St (New England Highway) just before the Hunter St intersection.



Our school community were extremely distressed by the presence of this sign for several reasons. First and foremost being that as long as Hunter St is not identified as a light traffic thoroughfare, this sign is an open invitation for any heavy vehicle to drive down Hunter St, as well as increasing the number of standard vehicles driving past our school. The sign is easily twice as large, and in a more prominent position than any other sign directing traffic to John St from the Highway. We were profoundly disappointed to discover that the Roads and Traffic Authority had managed to erect this sign apparently without consultation with your staff, and were mortified that it could be erected without *any* discussion with the school, Police and Church who all are major stakeholders in Hunter St and have communities

which will be affected by such a change. It is our understanding that both Local Council and the Roads and Traffic Authority are obliged to consult with such community groups before deciding to execute a designated heavy vehicle route.

After some telephone discussion with the relevant parties, the sign was removed on Friday May 8, and we are thankful for the speed in which your staff and the RTA responded to our concerns. However, we would like an assurance that the same situation does not arise in the future. In accordance with Section 269A Local Government Act 1919, we therefore request that a *light traffic thoroughfare* be installed in Hunter St for environmental and safety reasons.

Our concerns are based on the following grounds:

- Safety: the safety of our children is our first priority, we hope that Singleton Council not only understands our position, but shares it.
- Width of the Road: Hunter St is basically too narrow to fit the parking that its community requires and large vehicles. It is just not a practical choice for heavy vehicle drivers.
- Heritage: Hunter St holds many precious buildings, most of which are in our school grounds. Our school has buildings that are 133 years old; St Andrews Church has also been standing for 105 years. Why put these buildings in danger unnecessarily? Hunter St also has its original gutters, still in excellent condition, but for how long?
- Noise: Hunter St is a residential street, why should the residents be subjected to excess noise for the convenience of truck drivers? With limited access from heavy vehicles, our children will be more able to concentrate during class time.
- Access: This road is not only used by the school community. The Police need to be able to get out of their driveway as quickly as possible; this access will be safer with less large vehicles on the road.

For more detail, please refer to our submission to Council Re: [Singleton Town Centre Traffic and Parking Strategy and Investigation](#).

We would like to explain that we do not object to all heavy vehicles travelling Hunter St. We understand that we do share a street with commercial properties that have needs that must be considered. It is our understanding that, under a light traffic thoroughfare zoning, trucks that need to access properties in Hunter St will still be able to do so. It is our desire to eliminate the vehicles that are completely unnecessary. There is no need for a truck to use Hunter St to access the CBD from the New England Highway. Campbell St, The Golden Highway and Putty Rd are in place as heavy vehicle routes and should be used accordingly.

Whilst Hunter St is our primary concern we would be grateful if Elizabeth St could be investigated as well.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and know you will understand that this is merely a brief summary of our concerns. We would be glad for the opportunity to meet with any staff of Singleton Council or Councillors in person to discuss this issue in more detail. We look forward to having this matter heard in open Council in the near future and will take public access in the meeting to expand on these issues.

Yours Sincerely,  
Rebecca Williams  
President  
School Council  
Singleton Public School

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