PETITION – STROMBUS AVENUE TRINITY BEACH

M Ringer | 1/3/21 | #6029181

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Advises the lead petitioner that it is planning a pedestrian and cycle path linking Strombus Avenue to Poolwood Road and not a road connection at this time.

2. Reaffirms the proposed higher order road connection between Trinity Beach and Kewarra Beach by extending Miami Road adjacent to the Trinity Beach sporting precinct currently scheduled for construction over the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This report responds to a petition received by Council objecting to an extension of Strombus Avenue in Trinity Beach to Poolwood Road in Kewarra Beach.

Council has identified road connections in Cairns Plan for the future connection of Trinity Beach and Kewarra Beach. These include road links at Strombus Avenue (Attachment 1) and Miami Road (Attachment 2).

Given the impact to residents on Strombus Avenue and the increased benefit of a higher order road connection at Miami Road, it is recommended that a pedestrian and cycle path linking Strombus Avenue to Poolwood Road be provided and not a road connection at this time.

BACKGROUND:

Council received a petition (136 petitioners) at the Ordinary Meeting on 13 March 2019 objecting to an extension of Strombus Avenue in Trinity Beach to Poolwood Road in Kewarra Beach.

Cairns Plan identified future road connections to eliminate the need to access the Captain Cook Highway to travel between the suburbs and to reduce local vehicle trip times. These options include a road connection as an extension of Strombus Avenue from Trinity Beach through to Poolwood Road Kewarra Beach, and a higher order road connection as an extension of Miami Road from Kewarra Beach through to Trinity Beach Road.

Strombus Avenue is currently a residential street, approximately 550m long, running north from the eastern end of Trinity Beach Road. The Avenue terminates in Poolwood Reserve approximately 200m from Poolwood Road in Kewarra Beach.
Miami Road currently extends for approximately 300m from Poolwood Road towards Trinity Beach Road and terminates just short of a concrete drain. There are no residential dwellings fronting the current road. The proposed extension traverses approximately 200m on reserve land adjacent to Trinity Beach Sporting Precinct with no residential dwellings with the exception of two houses at the Trinity Beach Road end. One of these is owned by the Department of transport and Main Roads.

There are currently four existing pedestrian pathways connecting the two suburbs at various locations.

The petition is in response to the option to extend Strombus Avenue and connect it to Poolwood Road. The petition called for Council to abandon the concept due to an increase in traffic and traffic noise, the connection will not alleviate traffic issues involving Kewarra Beach residents accessing the Captain Cook Highway, and impacts on wildlife in the area.

**COMMENT:**

A new Strombus Avenue to Poolwood Road connection would provide for local vehicular trips between Kewarra Beach and Trinity Beach without the need to use the Captain Cook Highway. The road would be a 6.5m wide with kerb and channel, footpath, street lighting and adequately cater for expected traffic volumes being up to 1000 vehicles per day. The new road would not meet the design standards for a bus route.

The petition talks about impacts due to an increase in traffic and traffic noise, inadequate design of existing roads, limited benefit in alleviating traffic issues at the Captain Cook Highway, and impacts to wildlife in the area. It is understood agile wallabies use the open space land at the northern end of Strombus Avenue.

The new connection would significantly increase current traffic volumes and to some extent change the character of Strombus Street.

The proposed extension of Miami Road to Trinity Beach Road would provide for local vehicular trips between Kewarra Beach and Trinity Beach and also allow the bus route to service the two suburbs without the need to use the Captain Cook Highway. The new road integrates well with the future upgrade of the Trinity Beach Sporting Precinct (refer Attachment 3).

The connection road would be 10 metre wide with kerb and channel, footpath and street lighting. There will be less impact on residents because existing properties do not front the road, and a large portion of the proposed road extension runs adjacent to the Trinity Beach Sporting Precinct and not residential dwellings.

The location of Miami Road proposed connection is highly likely to attract more vehicle movements between Trinity Beach and Kewarra Beach than Strombus Avenue as it is more central to both residential suburbs.
With regard to the Strombus connection, considering the constraints of the existing road infrastructure, the limited benefits the connection will provide when compared to the Miami Road connection, the residential nature of the street and the potential impacts on the Strombus Avenue residents, it is recommended that the Miami Road connection be pursued as Council’s preferred connection at this time.

There is benefit in developing an additional pedestrian and cycling connection between Strombus Avenue and Poolwood Road as part of the Northern Beaches Leisure Trail network as this would provide a more direct connection that the existing nearby one via Edge Close. Consideration should also be given to including a footpath along Strombus Ave as part of the Cycling and Walking Strategy.

**OPTIONS:**

Option 1: (Recommended)

That Council:

Advises the lead petitioner that it is planning a pedestrian and cycle path linking Strombus Avenue to Poolwood Road and not a road connection at this time.

Reaffirms the proposed higher order road connection between Trinity Beach and Kewarra Beach by extending Miami Road adjacent to the Trinity Beach sporting precinct currently scheduled for construction over the 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.

Or

Option 2:

That Council advises the lead petitioner that planning and design will continue with respect to the extension of Strombus Avenue linking to Poolwood Road.

**CONSIDERATIONS:**

Risk Management

The risk of adverse impacts to the residents on Strombus Avenue is mitigated by planning for the future extension of Miami Road, not Strombus Avenue, connecting Poolwood Road to Trinity Beach Road. Designing a pedestrian and cycle connection to Strombus Avenue will provide an active transport connection whilst mitigating the risk of increased traffic impacts and the effects on wildlife in the area.

Council Finance and Local Economy:

The Capital Works program currently has Trinity Beach suburban road connection funded with $2.6 million over 2023/24 and 2024/25 financial years.
Corporate and Operational Plans:

The report relates primarily to the Strategic Goal of Liveability and the Strategic objective of Improving Transport.

Statutory:

Council has statutory obligations under the Sustainable Planning Act 2009 and the Local Government Act 2009 for the planning and provision of roads in its local government area.

Policy:

Council’s Planning Scheme, CairnsPlan 2016, defines the Transport network overlay – Road hierarchy and major transport corridors. Council’s Local Government Infrastructure Plan (LGIP) identifies the future extension of Miami Road, connecting to Trinity Beach Road.

CONSULTATION:

The lead petitioner and the divisional Councillor have been consulted on these matters. The lead petitioner objects to the road connection, but does not object to a pedestrian and cycle connection.

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 - Planned Strombus Avenue extension
Attachment 2 - Future Miami Road link

Michael Ringer
Acting Manager Infrastructure Planning

Bruce Gardiner
General Manager Infrastructure Services
Attachment 1 – Planned Strombus Avenue extension
Attachment 3 – Future Miami Road link