ORDINARY MEETING 28 OCTOBER 2026	5.13

PETITION – LITTLES AND DEXTER ROADS GORDONVALE SPEED LIMIT

CIA | 81/1/13 | #7958501

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council receives the petition and requests a response to the principal petitioner by an Officer in line with the information outlined in this report.

INTERESTED PARTIES:

Residents and ratepayers of Gordonvale
Signatories of the petition

Note: The identification of interested parties is provided on a best endeavours basis by Council Officers and may not be exhaustive.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On 18 September 2026, Council received three letters followed by a subsequent petition on 15 October signed by 27 residents of Littles, Dexter and Hall Roads Gordonvale drawing Council's attention to the unsafe current speed limit on Littles and Dexter Roads and requesting a reduction in the speed limit for Littles Road and Dexter Road to 50 km/h. Residents believe the reasoning behind why Council hasn't further reduced the speed is inadequate, and they request further studies and justification.

BACKGROUND:

On 15 October 2026 a petition with 27 signatures, three letters were also received via the Council Customer Service email inbox:

"The petition of Residents of East Meringa and concerned members of the public draws to Council's attention, the unsafe current speed limit on Littles Road and Dexter Road.

Residents have ongoing concerns regarding vehicle speeds along these roads and the potential risks to motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and residents. Petitioners believe that the current speed limit does not adequately reflect the nature of these roads of the safety concerns experiences by those who use and live alongside them.

We the petitioners, therefore, request that Cairns Regional Council, after consulting with local residents and considering their concerns and experiences, reduce the speed limit on Littles Road and Dexter Road to 50 kilometres her hour."

COMMENT:

Council officers understand that the petition highlights various resident concerns across the entirety of Dexter Road and Littles Road.

In relation to the action requested in the petition, the following actions have been completed or are underway:

1. A Speed Limit Review in December 2022 supported a reduction in the speed limit from 100 km/h to 70 km/h. The speed limit reduction was implemented mid-2023.

2. Speed limit reductions in Queensland are governed by statutory frameworks and technical standards managed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. In accordance with the technical standard, *Queensland Road Safety Technical User Volumes, Guide to Speed Management, March 2025*, the next speed limit review is scheduled in 2028.

3. On 17 August 2026, a Council Officer advised the principal petitioner that:
    - A 50 km/h speed limit is typically applied in urban or built-up areas where there is a high level of roadside activity, property access, and pedestrian or cyclist interaction. These characteristics are not evident at this (rural) location.
    - Based on the available speed data, the 85th percentile speed complies with posted speed and drivers are traversing curves at a lower speed as expected. Therefore, a further reduction in the posted speed limit to 50 km/h is unlikely to result in a significant change in vehicle speeds at this location given current road geometry.
    - Based on experience, a formal Speed Limit Review is unlikely to support a reduction to 50 km/h.

    The customer subsequently advised that she intended to escalate the matter further.

4. A letter acknowledging the receipt of the petition, signed by CEO Ken Gouldhorp, was sent to the lead petitioner on 30 September 2026.

A number of supporting letters were received with the petition. The letters raised several issues which have been broadly summarised below as:

- **Road Safety and Speed Concerns:** Residents believe the current 70 km/h speed limit is inappropriate for the road conditions and increasing traffic volumes, citing speeding, overtaking, near misses and vehicles failing to negotiate key corners. They are seeking a lower speed limit and stronger enforcement to improve safety for all road users, including cyclists, school children and horse riders.
- **Increasing Traffic and Heavy Vehicle Impacts:** Residents report significant growth in traffic due to surrounding development, highway upgrades, detours and use of the route as a shortcut. Concerns centre on the increasing number of heavy vehicles using roads and intersections that are perceived as unsuitable for current traffic demands.

- **Infrastructure Limitations and Community Expectations:** Residents consider the existing road network, including the single-lane bridge, intersections and lack of pedestrian and cycling facilities, to be inadequate for current and future use. They are requesting a review of infrastructure suitability and heavy vehicle access, along with greater consultation before decisions are finalised.

Following the speed limit reduction in 2022, Council initiated a project to implement safety improvements for Littles Road and Dexter Road (between Hall Road and Crossland Road). This project is currently included in the three-year capex program for delivery. As part of ongoing standard project planning and Council policy, officers will undertake community consultation and further technical analysis to ensure the project adequately responds to the issues identified on site.

OPTIONS:

That Council receives the petition and requests a response to the principal petitioner by an Officer in line with the information outlined in this report.

Option 2

That Council does not support the recommendation and adopts an alternate course of action.

CONSIDERATIONS:

Corporate and Operational Plans:

The issue relates to the following focus area of the Corporate Plan:

- Focused Council (focus 5): Delivering for community through strong governance and informed decision-making.
  - Maintain and drive a safety culture of everyone home safe and well today and every day.
  - Deliver a positive customer experience to the community.
  - Maintain strong financial management including robust long-term modelling.
  - Delivery of quality services to the community.
  - Informed decision-making that is collaborative, transparent and accountable.

CONSULTATION:

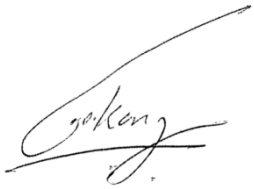
Further consultation with residents is recommended as part of ongoing planning for the active capital project for Safety Improvements on Dexter and Littles Road in accordance with Council's Community Engagement General Policy.

ATTACHMENT:

Location plan.



Tyron Curcuruto
Executive Manager Strategic Asset Management and Planning



Gagan Kang
Associate Director Engineering Services



Mark Wuth
Director Cairns Infrastructure and Assets

Attachment - Location Plan – Littles, Dexter & Hall Roads Gordonvale

