

Kilbirnie School Submission Regarding the Proposed Changes to Ruahine Street and Other Kilbirnie/Hataitai Roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission regarding the proposed roading changes. This document sets out the concerns of the Kilbirnie School Board of Trustees, which are primarily to do with safety and traffic around the streets of Moxham Ave, Hamilton Road, Raupo St, Goa St and Wellington Road.

Kilbirnie School:

Kilbirnie School is a primary school located at 72 Hamilton Road. The School boundaries stretch between Hamilton Road, Moxham Ave and Raupo Street. There are well used pedestrian entryways on both Moxham Ave and Raupo Street. Hamilton Road has pedestrian access as well as a school driveway to accommodate teacher parking. One of our neighbours is Hataitai Playcentre.

The school has a population of 250 students and 19 staff all of whom arrive at the school between 8:00 and 9:00am. The majority of the 250 students will arrive at 08.45am.

The students are again required to cross Moxham Avenue, Hamilton Road etc at 3:00pm to get into cars, onto buses, or walk as the case may be.

Many of our children live in the surrounding streets and walk, scooter or bike to school. Others live some way away and are driven to school.

Our school community includes many families living in Kilbirnie, who in addition to crossing the streets immediately surrounding the school, have to cross Wellington Road.

Also, virtually every week, some part of the school visits either the Wellington Aquatic Centre or the Kilbirnie Library, requiring classes of children to cross Wellington Road.

Caregivers of younger school students or Playcentre children need to park to walk their children to their class or Playcentre. Dropping off their children is not an option.

Whether walking or driven, it is necessary for almost every student to cross either Hamilton Road, Moxham Ave, or Raupo St.

Current traffic around the school is busy and problematic:

At drop off and pick-up, it can often be very hard to find a park to drop-off students, resulting in cars needing to circle the school, looking for a park in any of these streets or double-park. Despite the schools best efforts to promote safe entry and egress from the school there will always remain those who double park or illegally park in order to drop of kids near the entrance to the school. The school remains committed to raising the profile of safety in this area and engages community notices, Kilbirnie Police and city Council parking wardens to assist.

After school, caregivers park all along Hamilton Road, a long way up and down Moxham Ave (past Goa St), and throughout Goa St.

Commuters into the city have begun parking vehicles in residential streets surrounding Kilbirnie School during business hours. They are then taking public transport into the central

city. In this way they avoid parking fees in the city and do not have to wait for less frequent buses in the outer suburbs of Seatoun, Lyall Bay etc.

Hamilton Road is a narrow, winding, and in part steep road with a high level of residential parking on both sides of the road that narrows the carriageway. Cars are regularly required to wait for others so they can proceed up or down the street. We also find cars parking on yellow lines in Hamilton Road.

The location of both Kilbirnie School and Hataitai Playcentre next door results in a large number of children using Hamilton Road walking or scootering to school. Many of the children need to cross this street.

There is currently no pedestrian crossing on Hamilton Road to help our children cross safely.

Raupo St is another steep narrow street with parking on both sides of the street. Cars are regularly required to wait for others so they can proceed up or down the street.

There are often not enough parks on this street so often cars resort to double parking at the top of the street outside the school entryway to drop children off, (despite the school's efforts to discourage this), blocking the road.

It has a narrow entryway at the bottom of the street from Moxham Ave which is liable to block.

Moxham Avenue is already a busy street, with not only cars but the consistent passage of public and private buses past the school on Moxham. Currently, in the morning it can be hard for parents to pull up to let children off for school. Some cars can be required to circle the school looking for a spot to stop, and some (despite our efforts to discourage this) stop on the yellow lines.

Many of our parents drive north up Moxham Avenue in the morning to drop off their children for school. The children cross the road currently at our "Road Patrolled" zebra crossing which is right outside the school gates. Parents heading into the city then head up the road and use Taurima Road to turn into the Mt Vic tunnel.

The Wellington Road/Hamilton Road Intersection:

Children walking or scootering to school from Kilbirnie are currently unsafe. Traffic turning onto Wellington Road often ignore the green man phase and "race" to beat pedestrians. This has resulted in several near misses. The additional time phasing introduced in the past has helped but not removed the risk.

This situation is even worse when it is a class crossing on the way to or from community resources in Kilbirnie. A class cannot make it across this road in time. Turning cars get impatient and it feels very unsafe. In addition, the presence of cars driving straight ahead (thus beside the students) makes it difficult to get a class to "bunch up" to cross in a speedy fashion.

Kilbirnie School's Submissions On The Proposal:

We believe that the streets surrounding Kilbirnie School will be **significantly more dangerous** for children for the following reasons:

Traffic Flow:

Blocking the turn to the Mt Vic tunnel from Taurima Street will cause additional traffic to drive down Moxham Avenue past Kilbirnie School.

Cars travelling to the city or to the south from Hataitai will travel south along Hamilton Road to try and avoid the traffic lights on Moxham Ave.

In addition, our own parents dropping children at School will also be more likely to use Hamilton Road travelling either north or south to avoid the traffic lights on Moxham Ave.

Those driving caregivers who would currently go north on Moxham Ave after dropping their children off are likely to turn up into Raupo St, and then back down onto Hamilton Road.

Due to increased traffic, it is very likely that there will be road jams both on Raupo St and Hamilton Road.

Car Parking:

Parallel parking outside the school will be very difficult with the increased traffic, and likely queues from the Goa St/Moxham Ave traffic lights. The consistent passage of buses on this road only compounds the problem. The parking is directly where traffic would queue.

Car parking is already at a premium. Any loss of car-parks would be a concern to our community.

Pedestrian Safety:

We are concerned about the status of the school crossing at our main gate on Moxham Ave.

It is a significant part of our school's culture to run a road patrol with senior students taking on additional responsibility for the care of their peers.

It is a key signal to drivers that they are passing a school and hopefully raises awareness of children on the streets.

Crossing at a school patrolled crossing enables slower pedestrians to cross safely—there is control over how long the cars have to stop.

We are concerned that if the school crossing is removed due to the proximity of the proposed traffic lights, caregivers will cross the road immediately outside our school gate, not bothering to walk any extra distance to the traffic lights (which may be in the wrong direction for their car).

Traffic lights at Goa Street should allow a long crossing phase to allow time for small children and parents to cross. Also, we have a number of deaf children at the school so their needs need to be considered.

If the school crossing is not removed, then we are concerned about the safety of the crossing with the increased traffic.

There is no pedestrian crossing on Hamilton Road. Children currently have to step out from parked cars to cross this street. This situation will only get more dangerous with increased traffic on this road.

The traffic lights at the Wellington Road/Hamilton Road intersection should be changed to a "Barnes dance" system where all traffic is stopped to allow pedestrians to cross in any direction. This would not only help families, but also allow classes crossing to spread out thus enabling a class to get across the road in good time.

In conclusion, we see that with this proposal there will be increased traffic surrounding our school, which will make driving and parking around the school more difficult, and road crossings more dangerous for our children.

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline Becker
Kilbirnie School Board of Trustees