

# Agenda

**Submitters Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday 20 September 2023 at 7:00pm**  
**Held online and livestreamed at [mrsc.vic.gov.au](https://www.mrsc.vic.gov.au)**



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## **1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY**

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past, and present.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

## **2 RECORDING AND LIVESTREAMING OF THIS COMMITTEE MEETING**

This meeting is being recorded and streamed live on the internet, in accordance with Council's 'Live Streaming and Publishing Recordings of Meetings' policy, which can be viewed on Council's website.

## **3 PRESENT**

## **4 APOLOGIES**

## **5 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

## **6 PURPOSE OF SUBMITTERS DELEGATED COMMITTEE**

Council receives written submissions on a variety of matters which need to be considered by Council during the decision-making process. The Submitters Delegated Committee affords people who have made a submission a specific opportunity to appear in person to expand on their submission, if they wish to do so, for the nominated matters above as outlined in the instrument of delegation.

## **7 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

NIL

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**8 REPORTS**

<b>8.1</b>	<b>HEARING OF SUBMITTERS ON THE PROPOSED ROAD DISCONTINUANCE OF A SECTION OF RAGLAN STREET, LANCEFIELD</b>
<b>Officer:</b>	<b>Eng Lim, Manager Engineering and Resource Recovery</b>
<b>Council Plan relationship:</b>	<b>2. Healthy environment, healthy people 4. Delivering strong and reliable government</b>
<b>Attachments:</b>	<b>Collated Submissions - Redacted (under separate cover)</b>

**Summary**

Community consultation has been undertaken under Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* for Council's Public Notice to discontinue part of Raglan Street in Lancefield, as requested by St Mary's Primary School. Following Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* and as part of Council's Community Engagement Policy, those who make submissions can present at a Submitters' Delegated Committee.

The subject part of the road for consideration of future discontinuance is Raglan Street between Chauncey Street and Dunsford Street.

Council received eighty six (86) submissions at the end of the 28-day submission period which commenced on 1 August and closed at 5 pm on 28 August 2023. These submissions are presented as an attachment to this report. Following privacy principles, the submitters' personal details have been redacted.

**Recommendation****That the Committee:**

- 1. Notes the submissions received on the proposed road discontinuance of part of Raglan Street in Lancefield;**
- 2. Notes the verbal presentations to those submissions; and**
- 3. Requests that recommendations be prepared, based on all relevant information, including the submissions received, for consideration and determination at the next Scheduled Council Meeting on 25 October 2023.**

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**Background**

St Mary's Primary School developed their Master Plan in 2019 to address the needs of its growing enrolment. For the past 35 years, Raglan Street, Lancefield, has had boom gates closed during school hours, closing the road to vehicles.

The school foresees a pressing need to construct more buildings on their land west of Raglan Street. Therefore, St Mary's Primary School seeks to utilise the section of Raglan Street and the road reserve abutting the school to facilitate a permanent safe environment for their students.

The school believes the proposed road discontinuance will create a safer and better-connected school environment where students can move freely through this area between buildings in the future.

### Discussion

At the 26 July 2023 Scheduled Council meeting, under Section 223 and Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council resolved the following:

#### That Council:

- 1. Endorses the commencement of a four-week community consultation process on the proposed Road Closure of Raglan Street Lancefield;**
- 2. Schedules an online Submitters Delegated Committee meeting at 7 pm on Wednesday, 20 September 2023, to provide the community with an opportunity for verbal presentation in support of their submission on the proposed road closure of Raglan Street, Lancefield;**
- 3. Notes following the consultation and Submitters Delegated Committee (if required), officers will provide a report on the proposed Road Closure of Raglan Street, Lancefield to a future Scheduled Council Meeting.**

The information provided in the submitter meeting is part of the process towards final council consideration of the request for the discontinuance of this section of Raglan Street.

It should be noted that Raglan Street, Lancefield is Crown Land and not Council-owned.

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and Council reviewed the school's plan as part of the process.

DTP approved the intent on 10 November 2022 with conditions for the school to undertake civil works at the intersection of Raglan Street and Chauncey Street at the school's cost.

During this same period, officers also reviewed the traffic report. Officers noted that the daily volume of around 100 vehicles on this section of Raglan Street will not negatively impact other surrounding streets if the community supports the proposed road discontinuance.

### Consultation and engagement

As part of the community consultation plan following Council's Community Engagement Policy and Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, officers undertook the following actions:

- A public notice was published in the local newspaper Midland Express on 1 August 2023;
- Project webpage was created on Council's 'Have Your Say' website to seek feedback for 28 days from 1 to 28 August 2023;
- St Mary's Primary School organised two drop-in sessions at the school on Wednesday 16 August 2023 (from 2.30 pm to 4.00 pm) and Sunday 20 August 2023 (from 10.30 am to 12 pm);
- Notification letters were sent to all adjoining property owners and occupiers on Raglan Street as well as owners and occupiers in the nearby area (Dunsford Street and bounded by High Street in the north, Foy Street in the west, Chauncey Street in the south and The Crescent in the east) who are likely to be affected by this discontinuance, advising them of the proposal and the consultation process;

- Emergency services were informed via emails on the impact of the road discontinuance seeking their feedback;
- Interested community members were informed to make written submissions on their views on the road discontinuance, and if they wish, clearly state their request to be heard by Council within their written submission.

The submission period commenced on 1 August 2023 and ended on 28 August 2023. By the closing date of 28 August 2023, 86 submissions were received. These submissions are presented as an attachment to this report. Following privacy principles, the submitters' personal details have been redacted. Councillors have been separately provided with an unredacted version of each submission.

In addition, St Mary's Primary School has advised that no one attended the Wednesday drop-in session the school organised, and only one person attended the Sunday drop-in session. The single attendee came from Three Chain Road in Newham and was concerned about the access by the local community to the nearby Uniting Church and emergency services to access Raglan Street in case of an emergency. The school staff advised them that the pedestrian gates would be opened outside of school hours, that locals would continue to be able to use the footpath to walk to church and that emergency services would have alternative access via Foy Street or The Crescent. The attendee was also provided with a copy of the presentation materials and the traffic report prepared by the school for them to take back to the church for further review. They were also advised to write formally to the Council on their support or opposition to the proposed discontinuance.

Summary of submissions

Of the 86 submissions Council received, 78 favoured the proposed discontinuance of part of Raglan Street, and 8 did not. Approximately 91% of the respondents voiced their appreciation for this initiative. A common theme in responses highlighted its potential to enhance the safety of children and provide a more secure environment for students.

Below is a compilation of the most recurrent feedback received:

Feedback	Number of Respondents	Supporting Discontinuance (Y/N)
The discontinuance will facilitate the school's seamless and safe operation more seamlessly and safely for their children. This will allow for two sections of the school to become one whole space where students can move freely through this area between buildings that, in the future, will be on both sides of the road.	51	Y
The discontinuance will facilitate a safer operation of the school and enable them to focus on the education and personal development of the students.	33	Y
The permanent discontinuance of Raglan Street is important and enables the Primary School to develop its facilities in a greater capacity to support future enrolments and will also provide improved safety for children currently attending St Mary's Primary School.  Include permanent fences across the road reserve where the boom gates currently are with no public vehicle access at any time.	14	Y



Feedback	Number of Respondents	Supporting Discontinuance (Y/N)
The safety benefits for the school community outweigh the negligible impact and disruption on the broader community since it essentially formalises and makes the existing boom gate arrangement permanent.	6	Y
The discontinuance will create a great sense of safety and comfort for the students and create a setting where the students can play carefree while supporting teaching staff to monitor the students out in the yard during break times.	3	Y
Raglan Street is a through road that connects the shopping precinct's top end to Chauncey Street; hence, closing all access from Raglan Street to Chauncey St will disrupt the connective walkable town layout.	3	N
Raglan Street closure has been a subject of ongoing discussion for many years.	2	Y
The gates work perfectly well and are a reasonable compromise during school hours.	2	N
The permanent road closure will increase traffic through Chauncey Street and other nearby streets, particularly due to drop-off and pick-up traffic.	2	N
The road closure may limit the movement of emergency vehicles, including fire trucks and ambulances.	2	N
The safety of children at the school should be paramount.	1	Y
The discontinuance will benefit only a small section of the community, and the irreversible change will impact the Lancefield grid road layout and affect the accessibility, safety and overall functionality of the nearby streets.	1	N
The discontinuance of the road does not improve safety for the children as the boom gates already achieve that purpose and only give convenience to the Catholic School, which operates on a constrained site, where their convenience is at the expense of the entire community.	1	N
Lancefield is a well-planned country town with a long history, often known as the Centre of Victoria, and denying full public use of Raglan St at weekends will be a failure of the Macedon Shire to the Ratepayers of Lancefield Community.	1	N

Five (5) individuals formally requested to present to Council at the Submitters' Delegated Meeting scheduled for 20 September 2023.

### Collaboration

The proposed road discontinuance is a request from St Mary's Primary School (Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne), where the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) is involved in consideration of the traffic report, the Department of Energy, Environment and

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Climate Action (DEECA) is involved in issuance of a license for the school to use Crown Land (Raglan Street) and Council providing support in its role of the road manager with the authority to discontinue the road in line with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

### **Innovation and continuous improvement**

Not applicable.

### **Relevant law**

*Local Government Act (1989)*, this submitters process is guided by Section 223 and Schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

In accordance with the *Gender Equality Act 2020*, a Gender Impact Assessment was undertaken in relation to the subject matter before the community consultation; where it was assessed at that at this stage, there is no significant difference in the impact of road discontinuance on a specific gender. During the community consultation in August, officers received no feedback on specific gender-based needs during this process.

### **Relevant regional, state and national plans and policies**

The *Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030* has a vision to create a safer road environment and wants to ensure all Victorians are safe and feel safe on our roads. It has a target to reduce by half the road deaths and serious injuries by 2030, with a focus on vulnerable and unprotected road users, which in this case applies to students.

### **Relevant Council plans and policies**

- *Community Engagement Policy 2021*
- *Road Discontinuance Policy 2014*
- *Engineering Requirements for Infrastructure Construction Policy 2010*
- *Pedestrian Access Strategy 2010*

### **Financial viability**

As St Mary's Primary School requested the proposed road discontinuance, Council has not funded this project. Where Council is not the party requesting the road discontinuance, our process states that the requesting party bears the costs. The school will pay Council a capped amount regarding out-of-pocket expenses related to this process.

Also, as part of the November 2022 approval from the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), the department stipulated conditions for the school to undertake civil works at the intersection of Raglan Street and Chauncey Street, with the costs borne by the school. There are no additional cost impacts to the Council.

### **Sustainability implications**

This report impacts social sustainability, and officers believe that proceeding with the road discontinuance process supports this social sustainability.

### **Officer declaration of conflicts of interest**

All officers involved in preparing this report have declared that they do not have a conflict of interest relating to the subject matter.