

president@northarmcove.nsw.au

From: president@northarmcove.nsw.au
Sent: Friday, 18 October 2024 5:51 PM
To: 'Adrian Panuccio'
Cc: 'cr.thomas.okeefe@midcoast.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: Serious safety issue that needs your involvement - burnouts at North Arm Cove - MCCR&R15861
Attachments: North Arm Cove Burnout photos October 2024.pdf; Burnouts scans 181024.pdf

Good afternoon Adrian,

At Council's Community Conversation at Hawks Nest on 21 November 2023, you advised attendees to email you if there was no response to R&R forms lodged by community members.

There is one relating to North Arm Cove – MCCR&R15861 (3 November 2024) that is a serious safety hazard.

It relates to the burnouts that have been happening at the North Arm Cove entrance on Gooreengi Rd.

In addition to this R&R, I have made a number of requests to Council to take action to make the intersection unsuitable for burnouts, including temporary actions until a permanent solution could be implemented.

As you would know, a burnout in early March resulted in serious injuries to two bystanders and criminal charges for the driver of the burnout vehicle, with it being reported in newspaper, television and social media articles.

Since this tragic happening I have been corresponding with Council's Director of Infrastructure and Engineering requesting that Council take preventive action. Unfortunately no action has been taken and there has been no response to my request of 8 May for an update on progress. (I have been away travelling for the past four months and now that I have returned home I am following up on outstanding issues).

I have attached a copy of relevant correspondence on this issue, including the R&R and media articles.

I have also attached a document with recent photos of the intersection showing the results of the burnouts.

On 21 March this year I put an article on our website about the burnouts (copy included in attachment). This article included the following:

"I told you so"!

This could have been avoided, if the authorities had done their jobs properly when residents first reported the issue to them in mid 2023, it would not have happened.

I hate to use the term "I told you so", but in this case it is warranted. On 15 January in an email to Council I said *"one day someone is going to get seriously injured through this activity, either a motorist or one of the participants/observers"*.

In the same email I also said *"On behalf of our community I am requesting that Council get involved as a matter of urgency to find a traffic engineering solution to this problem – through barriers, median strips or whatever can be done so the intersection is just not suitable for burnouts. Implementing video surveillance would also be useful as it would make the intersection less attractive. Council's help in getting this practice stopped would be greatly appreciated."*

On 26 January Council responded and said that it was looking into coarse angular stone and rumble strips to deter burn-outs.

I responded on 29 January with *"we would be grateful if you could ask your staff to give this priority, especially to implement temporary measures pending a longer term solution."* Unfortunately nothing was done and three lives have now been wrecked.

Key message to authorities:

I feel that the key message that needs to come out of this is that when communities complain to authorities about safety issues or illegal activities, the authorities should respond quickly. When they don't things can easily get worse. In this case they got worse, with three young lives now wrecked. The same message applies to illegal developments, when the Council ignores residents complaints and doesn't do anything to stop them and fails to enforce legal requirements, then things get worse and they keep happening and more and more illegal structures get built, with the local environment gradually being destroyed.

So what's Council doing about it?

Council have told me that they are looking into installing high friction aggregate sheeting and rumble strips at the intersection. Apparently the high friction sheeting shreds tyres quickly making it unattractive for burn-outs. No timetable has been provided, and we don't know if any temporary measures will be done in the interim. Council should also consider installing video surveillance to record any burn-outs and supply the footage to the Police.

In my email of 8 May I said *"If nothing is going to be done soon the lane markings should be redone, they are almost obliterated from the burnouts and this could result in dangerous situations for drivers in misty rain/fog/poor lighting."*

Burnouts are still happening periodically now, with burnout debris being left all over the intersection.

To date nothing has been done by Council to prevent them, either temporarily or permanently.

They are a serious safety issue, impacting on residents and road users.

I am requesting that you get involved and get action taken to make the intersection unsuitable for burnouts and safe for road users.

Since we have an association meeting on 9 November, I would appreciate being advised before then on what Council intends to do about this safety issue, temporarily and permanently, so I can report it to our community at the meeting.

Thank you for considering this request, I look forward to hearing back from you.

Kind regards,

Bob Reid
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From: Danielle Johnston <Danielle.Johnston@MidCoast.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 23 October 2024 10:16 AM
To: president@northarmcove.nsw.au
Cc: Cr Thomas O'Keefe
Subject: FW: Serious safety issue that needs your involvement - burnouts at North Arm Cove - MCCR&R15861
Attachments: threat_extracted_North Arm Cove Burnout photos October 2024.pdf; threat_extracted_Burnouts scans 181024.pdf

Good Morning Mr Reid,

On behalf of the General Manager, I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 18 October 2024.

Adrian is following up with the relevant staff and will respond shortly.

Should you have any further questions or concerns prior to the matter being finalised, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards
Danielle Johnston (on behalf of Adrian)

Adrian Panuccio | General Manager

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MIDCOAST
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We deliver benefits for our community in a way that adds value and builds trust

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