



Pioneer Street Foster engagement now complete

Community consultation on a proposed trial for Pioneer Street, Foster has now closed.

Residents were encouraged to provide feedback on the proposal which suggested converting a section of Pioneer Street to one-way in an effort to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety.

The placement of a new kindergarten in the education precinct by the Department of Education is expected to substantially increase traffic in peak times on Pioneer Street. The trial was proposed as a response to a Foster Primary School request for assistance.

The engagement did not produce as many results as expected (76 in total), which was likely due to the busy time of year when the survey was released. Feedback from participants also indicated

The results of the engagement revealed that 56 per cent of survey respondents – or 43 people – were not in support of the Pioneer Street Proposal. 44 per cent were in favour.

Many of the respondents who were not supportive of the proposal did, however, indicate that they were concerned about the increased traffic in Pioneer Street, but were not comfortable with the solution proposed by Council.

As a result of this feedback Council will now look at other possible traffic management options, but will not be proceeding with a trial at this time. Council will also consult further with the primary school and kindergarten.

One of the next steps will be to install traffic counters along Pioneer Street to get an accurate idea of the volume of traffic using the street at school times.

South Gippsland Shire Council would like to thank everyone who participated in the engagement process.

Quote attributable to Kerryn Ellis, CEO South Gippsland Shire Council:

“The results of the Pioneer Street engagement revealed that local residents were concerned about increased traffic volume and the safety of the community’s youngest residents. However, on this occasion it seems that the solution proposed did not align with community expectations.”

- Discussed the Pioneer Street, Foster traffic survey results to date. As the current survey results included only a small sample of feedback, ELT decided that a more targeted consultation and engagement approach with the school and kindergarten community would result in more accurate feedback, particularly once the school year has commenced. This will then provide a clearer way forward for Council to implement new traffic flow arrangements (Tony Peterson and Merryn Quilford)

Th feeling was that the timing if the consultation was maybe not conducive to capture all of the stakeholders opinions, so if we can liaise more with the stakeholders and maybe get a feedback from parents etc.

we've already heard from some members of the Foster community (thank you) and now we are going to ensure we've heard from those most impacted / highest priority for safety being the the school community.