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Little Streets (East of Montague Road, West End) Committee  
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Dear Residents

Thank you for your email and submission of 26 February 2016 about the local area traffic management plan for the Little Streets east of Montague Road, West End.

Like you, I want the roads across our city to be as safe as possible for all users and I appreciate you taking the time to raise your concerns. Given its close proximity to the city, West End is growing in popularity with a number of developments currently underway and planned for construction in the coming years.

With this in mind, I can certainly appreciate the concerns of your Committee about the potential increase in traffic using local streets. I asked Mr Taelor Jorgensen from Council's Transport Planning and Strategy branch to investigate. Mr Jorgensen advises me that he has been working with the local Councillor and the Little Streets (East of Montague Road, West End) Committee to consider the issues of residents.

As you may be aware, local area traffic management (or traffic calming) involves the installation of speed platforms, roundabout, traffic islands and kerb build outs to provide a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists, discourage non-local traffic such as 'rat running' and to moderate vehicle speeds.

I understand a local area traffic management plan is already in place with threshold treatments installed on all streets running between Montague Road and Hardgrave Streets. Speed platforms, kerb build outs, roundabouts and traffic islands have also been installed along most of these streets to further discourage non-local traffic.

Mr Jorgensen advises me the most recent traffic study, conducted in October 2015, showed traffic volumes in Ashington Street, Skinner Street, Victoria Street, Drake Street and Gray Street were well within their designations of neighbourhood roads.

I note your concerns about Council's focus on traffic volumes rather than traffic behaviour. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts, Council is unable to deter those drivers who deliberately choose to do the wrong thing such as speeding or parking illegally. While I appreciate this can be frustrating, these are considered matters of poor driver behaviour and are best dealt with by enforcement of the Queensland Road Rules by the Queensland Police Service or enforcement of the parking regulations by Council's Compliance and Regulatory Services.

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There is a high demand for local area traffic management plans across the city and each year Council works with the local Councillors to prioritise those projects that will deliver the greatest benefit in terms of safety and amenity. Given these streets already have significant levels of traffic calming, I am advised further traffic calming is unlikely to be considered a high priority when compared to other locations across the city.

That being said, I appreciate your concerns that the condition of the existing speed platforms and build outs has reduced their effectiveness. I have asked Mr Jorgensen to arrange for Council's Asset Services to conduct a site visit and determine if the existing devices could be replaced. I have also asked Mr Jorgensen to continue to work with the Committee to identify any improvements that can be made to the current local area traffic management plan to further enhance amenity for residents.

I am pleased to advise I have also asked Mr Jorgensen to review your proposal for sign and line modifications across the local road network. As Council needs to install signs and lines in compliance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), I have asked Mr Jorgensen to analyse your proposal against the MUTCD and determine if there may be more suitable treatment options. Mr Jorgensen will provide feedback on your proposal directly to the Committee and to consult with the residents prior to any changes being implemented.

Council agrees that, to reduce the incidence of non-local traffic on small residential streets, it is important we make our major routes as efficient as possible. As you point out, Council has long term plans to widen Montague Road and I can assure you Council is acquiring the land required for this upgrade as developments progress along Montague Road.

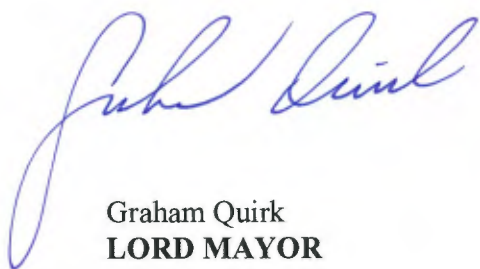
You may also be interested to know that Council has listed the intersection of Montague Road and Victoria Street for future traffic signals. When funding becomes available for their installation, these signals will provide a safer location for pedestrians to cross and will encourage motorists to take Victoria Street as the connecting route between Montague Road and Hardgrave Street.

I appreciate this may not be the outcome you and the Committee were hoping for. However, I can assure you Mr Jorgensen will continue to work with your Committee to explore options to further improve the amenity to local residents.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, you are welcome to contact Mr Jorgensen on 3403 8888.

Once again, thank you for your submission and for bringing these local issues to my attention.

Yours sincerely



Graham Quirk  
**LORD MAYOR**

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