**Extract Council Minutes 14 March 2017 – Motion for school safety projects**

I move that In item 2.3.3.1 Roads Network Resurfacing of the 2016-17 Council Budget, Council transfers $400,000 of the $1,415,000 allocated for resurfacing of Fairfield Rd, Yeerongpilly to 2.3.2.2 Improve Local Transport Networks to undertake construction of road and pedestrian safety projects near Graceville State School at Acacia St and Richardson St, Corinda State School at Pratten St and Cliveden Ave and Christ The King at Randolph St/Addison Rd, Graceville.

Councillor JOHNSTON: Yes, Madam Chairman, and what I will note for the record is this is actually the same motion I moved at the budget last year that you said was competent and had no problems with, Madam Chairman. So we are going to start with pathetic games from this Administration tonight and I think that is just awful, Madam Chairman.

So the motion before us is very clear. It is one that I have moved in this place previously, and that is to transfer $400,000 from a road resurfacing project on Fairfield Road, Yeerongpilly, to three road safety improvements around schools, including Graceville State School, Corinda State School and Christ the King.

So these three projects have now been on the list for Tennyson Ward improvements, some since as far back as 2009. They have been waiting a very, very long time to be funded and it is extremely clear to me that this LORD MAYOR is neglecting his obligation to govern on behalf of the whole city.

I am bringing this motion forward today. It asks for no additional funding, but is a reallocation of existing funds to the highest area of need, that is, safety around schools that would allow the current resurfacing project to continue and these three important road safety projects to be completed.

Now, Madam Chairman, this is a win-win. I know there is $1 million left for the road resurfacing project in Yeerongpilly. That project has not commenced, and even if the scope of that means 100 metres less has to be done, Madam Chairman, going from $1.4 million to $1 million, there is still a huge sum of money for the road resurfacing project.

The important issue here, Madam Chairman, is that all three of these schools are Council Active Travel schools. Corinda actually started in 2008 and the refuges and the build outs that they have been seeking actually came out of that first year of the Active School Travel program. Graceville has been waiting for a very long period of time. They have directly spoken with the LORD MAYOR about this and he has made empty promises to them year after year. Christ the King has also been waiting since 2009 for a refuge.

Now, these projects are quite small but they are very important. They will provide safe crossing points for Active Travel schools. They will help improve road safety around the three schools. They will provide a proper footpath for Graceville State School. There is currently on their main frontage, right where the crossing is, only a metre-wide footpath, and then it drops off down an embankment.

Now, last year a serious accident occurred and a person fell off their bike because there was nowhere to go because of the drop-off, off the embankment. Now, I cannot sit by and allow this Council not to fund these important road projects. We have heard the criticism over and over again from the LORD MAYOR and other Councillors that I should stop whinging and just wait.

Well, Madam Chairman, what I would like to say today is that I have been waiting. We have petitioned, we have written letters, we have spoken to the LORD MAYOR, we have had meetings, we have participated in Active School Travel. Our community has done every single thing that it can to make sure these projects are funded. The only people stopping it are the Administration Councillors in this place who have repeatedly voted against this motion.

They voted against it in 2016 when I moved it in the budget, and I hope that they have changed their minds and will support it today. What I will put on the record is that in this budget program over the past five years, there have been 471 projects funded across the city, plus emerging and various. So, a total of 471 projects. Now, across the 26 wards, that is an average of 18 to 20 projects over the five-year period, and that works out to be around three to four projects a year per ward. So let me say it again. Over five years the average is 18 to 20 projects of this kind, and three to four a year.

Now, Madam Chairman, the sad reality is that over the same five-year period, Tennyson Ward has had one project in the total five years and that was five years ago in 2012-2013, which was also a Safe School Travel project for Sherwood State School which was hard fought, as I know those parents will recall. So in five years whilst other wards have been getting on average 18 to 20 road safety projects in their ward, Tennyson Ward has had one.

Now, let me remind everybody in the Chamber again today that this motion does not ask for funding from anyone else. It is a project within my own ward, and I am asking for those funds to be reallocated from the road resurfacing project to the school safety projects. Now, I am hopeful we may not even need the whole $400,000. The Council officers of course need to scope this in some detail and I suspect the footpath will be reasonably complicated because of the embankment drop off.

But I know that the Council Traffic Planning and Strategy officers support these projects. Every year I meet with them, every year we discuss the priorities, and every year I advise them these are the top three priorities in Tennyson Ward. But as I have just outlined, for the past five years, whilst every other Councillor in this place has had three to four projects a year on average, Tennyson Ward has had none.

Now, Madam Chairman, I am not asking for any additional funding. I can make this work with the allocation that has been made to Tennyson by reallocating part of the road resurfacing to this school’s projects. It is a simple motion. It will do the right thing by three schools that have worked so hard on their Active School Travel program, that have week after week, done the right thing by this Council, supporting a great program that Council has, and it is now Council’s turn to support our schools.

It is unreasonable for the Administration Councillors to block this motion again because this does not impact on them. No one is missing out here. The only thing that will happen is that three projects that are desperately needed in this ward will be funded, and there will be a little bit of equity come back into budget allocation in Tennyson Ward. That would work out to be, if we had three done with this, four projects over the whole five-year period.

So let me be clear. Every other ward over the past five years has had 18 to 20 projects on average and Tennyson Ward, Madam Chairman, has had one. Now, that is not reasonable. We are elected to govern in the interests of the whole city and it is just simply unreasonable for this Council to block the motion.

So I remain ever hopeful that today there will be a change of heart and this Administration will be voting for this motion because, as I said, and most importantly, I am not asking for any additional money, I am not asking for money to come from anybody else’s ward. I am asking for an existing project to have part of that funding moved over to fund the road safety projects, to support three valuable, hardworking, Active Travel schools who have been waiting and waiting and waiting for this Administration to put party politics aside and do the right thing by our community.

Chairman: Further speakers? Councillor GRIFFITHS.

Councillor GRIFFITHS: Yes, thanks, Madam Chairman, I will be brief.

I just rise to support Councillor JOHNSTON with this motion. She is seeking to reallocate funding from within her ward budget, nothing more, nothing less. We share a boundary and we share students. Many of the students who reside in my ward attend Corinda State School and would benefit from the work that Councillor JOHNSTON is proposing. This work that is proposed will benefit children and families across both wards.

I believe, as Councillor JOHNSTON has clearly detailed, that it really does reinforce the work that has been undertaken both by our Council officers and by the Active School Travel program that this request would fit in building on the work that has been done within those schools. I believe this motion is genuine, and most importantly I believe it meets the needs of the community that Councillor JOHNSTON represents.

Chairman: Further debate?

As there was no further debate, the Chairman submitted the amended motion to the Chamber and it was declared **lost** on the voices.

Thereupon, Councillors Nicole JOHNSTON and Peter CUMMING immediately rose and called for a division, which resulted in the motion being declared **lost.**

The voting was as follows\*:

**AYES**: 6 - The Leader of the OPPOSITION, Councillor Peter CUMMING, and Councillors Jared CASSIDY, Steve GRIFFITHS, Charles STRUNK, Shayne SUTTON, and Nicole JOHNSTON.

**NOES**: 19 - The DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor Adrian SCHRINNER, and Councillors Krista ADAMS, Adam ALLAN, Matthew BOURKE, Amanda COOPER, Vicki HOWARD, Steven HUANG, Fiona KING, Kim MARX, Peter MATIC, Ian McKENZIE, David McLACHLAN, Ryan MURPHY, Angela OWEN, Kate RICHARDS, Julian SIMMONDS, Steven TOOMEY, AndrewWINES, and NormWYNDHAM.

\*Cr Sri and the Lord Mayor were absent