

Whitfield State School –

Responding to Safety, Access & drainage failures on McManus Street, Whitfield

Aim: Every day – Safe kids, improved access & modern infrastructure that reflects the value of our school to its community

Current Situation:



Figure 1- McManus Street aspect Looking south



Figure 2- McManus Street aspect Looking North – constantly overgrown drain



Figure 3- McManus Street aspect Looking North-East – unsafe parking and bike access.

- **School Perspective** - For many years, the school frontage on McManus Street has been a poor public infrastructure outcome and successive SafeST and P&Cs have advocated for improvements that will lead to better public value & safety for this community.
- **Cairns Regional Council** - the school has been placed in a natural waterway with the result of a drain on 3 sides - these drains are functional.
- **Department of Education** - issues outside of the school fence line are not within their remit to resolve.

Preferred Outcome – A strategic response to increase *Bicycle & Pedestrian safety, enhance traffic flow, improve aesthetics to precinct & continue flood mitigation.*



Figure 4- Possible outcome from combined action



Figure 5 – School-side head wall degradation - potential to decrease flow restriction by covered pit. Access via grate or other



Figure 6 & 7 – Proposed example - large drainage protection on park side drain entrance to minimise safety & over-topping of road



Issue 1: Ground water Impacts

A Hydrologist Report (H2O Consultants) commissioned by DoE has confirmed that at several points along the earth wall adjacent to the drain on the school fence-line, as well as further into the grounds, there is constant ground water seepage from the McManus Street Drain causing very wet areas all along the drain line which significantly impacts on our school's facilities and operations.

Impacts: 1/3 of year play area out of bounds, rusting stumps impacted building requiring removal (2022), parking impacts, mosquito borne disease and rodent borne disease/ infestation



Figure 8 - Car Park 10 days after rain event



Figure 9 – Example Impact on building supports requiring building removal

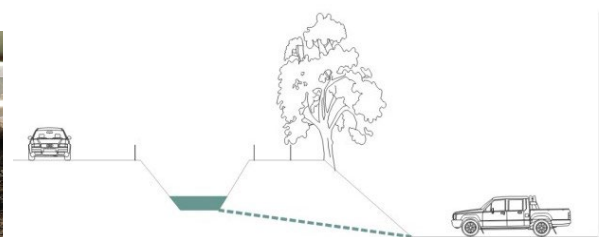


Figure 10 - Hydrologist diagram of water impacts

Issue 2: Public and Student - Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety



Figure 11- North end of school – McManus Street bike path



Figure 12- Adjacent to McManus St drain – Pseudo bike path



Figure 13- South end of school – McManus Street bike path continues

Bike Path width 1.5m

Bike Path width 60cm

Bike Path width 1.5m



Figure 14 & 15 – Extended view - McManus Street bike path/ pseudo bike path continues without appropriate safety measures.



Figure 16 - McManus Street grass access – not used in wet season & result is bike & car passengers using 60cm pseudo bike lane concurrently



Figure 17- McManus Street path – access is directed to road-side of fence into shared pseudo bike/ pedestrian lane

Grass width 1.8m

Concrete paths width 2m

Issue 3: Other Impacts

Community Parking and Traffic Anger: There is significant dissatisfaction from parents/ school community members over many years with the aesthetic and functionality impact of the drain in its current form on our school, as well as the impact of the above. The current lack of parking provides an opportunity for increased/ enhanced parking facilities in this area. Parking access is also a 'hot button' issue locally with significant anger at times.

Expected Whitfield Education Precinct Growth - ITK Enterprises Pty Ltd have submitted a Material Change of Use and construction approval to the Cairns City Council for the delivery of 95 child (Ages 0-5 years) Day Care licence to be built directly opposite the school on Marino Street. Reflecting the impact of other day cares and Kindergartens in the area. This business has the potential to increase enrolments from working families by 15 - 28 children per year and significant traffic numbers into a bottle necked street ending at the kindergarten.