

Pushing traffic through a bypassed town once again

IN relation to a recent *Goulburn Post* article with comments made from Cr Maureen Eddy in regards to 'Where Safety and Growth Intersect', Marulan Rural Fire Brigade members want to comment on remarks seeking closure of the southern end of Marulan's access.

We don't feel that much thought has been spent of the closure of this exit, as well as much thought has been given in making this intersection more safer. Marulan Rural Fire Brigade attended in excess of 40 callouts being motor vehicle accidents, grass and house fires, and a major gas leak at a highway service centre since January 1, 2007.

We are regularly called to numerous critical hazardous materials spills. With the above callouts in mind all to the south of the township and various times of the day and night including during school 40km/h zones, we would be forced to travel another 3.5km extra and costing an extra four minutes of crucial time wasted, whilst someone is trapped in an accident or bushfire.

At the moment where possible we currently use Portland Ave, rather than using George Street.

Marulan Rural Fire Brigade already has had to deal with the closure of Stoney Creek Road crossing, causing separation of one town into two, causing delays responding to callouts and further more, pushing vehicles into the main street, through school zones. With this proposed closure, no one except for Marulan Rural Fire Brigade objected to its closure. Everyone just sat back and didn't even try to prevent it from happening.



• VIGIL: Cr Maureen Eddy, a Marulan resident, at the intersection mooted for closure.

Marulan has a Village Fire Plan in place, which includes an evacuation plan in the event of a major bushfire threatening Marulan, which includes the said closure. With the medium closure this would make an evacuation task a lot more difficult.

If the above road was closed, it would provide no exit from Marulan to the south. And there was a incident in the main street, such as there was in January 2007 when the main street was closed due to a incident, or when the exit and ingress was closed due to a accident underneath the highway bridge, and another underneath the railway bridge on a separate occasion.

If there was a problem with the outdated railway bridge in George Street and there was weight limits put on the bridge that would prevent trucks entering or leaving our town.

If Marulan brigade vehicles are forced to use the southbound exit under the highway bridge more time will be lost from having to slow down on the sharp left hand bend than trying to enter three lanes of traffic, two from the highway and one from the weighbridge which is all up hill.

Also if the above road was closed, traffic wishing to visit Truckstop 31 or KFC or any other business will be made to go a further kilometre to complete a u-turn at either South Marulan corner or the intersection in front of the Feltham's property, which is far more dangerous.

The intersection at Marulan southern exit is not more dangerous than the Highland Way intersection or the Marulan South intersection. The Highland Way intersection is on a crest of a hill, also on a slight bend, which you need your wits about when crossing, and more cars frequent it and it has claimed lives and many accidents.

The South Marulan intersection

is on a sharp bend with quite a few accidents in all conditions.

The Marulan township exit intersection only needs the bottlebrush removing from the centre medium strip in either direction and the medium strip kept mowed and visibility can be seen for many kilometres in both directions.

Furthermore the closure of the southbound exit is not just closing off the exit from the town it's also closing off the entrance to the town for industrial traffic going to the industrial area, pushing this traffic through the once bypassed town yet again.

And, since we are the only emergency group in Marulan, it would have been nice to have been consulted.