

• **LIFE AND DEATH:** Cr Maureen Eddy and planners want the Hume Highway median at Marulan closed for safety reasons, given added pressure from a proposed 600-lot subdivision. It would mean only left turning traffic could access the town's main street from this entrance.



Where safety and growth intersect

By **LOUISE THROWER**

COUNCILLOR Maureen Eddy has seen too many accidents, including two recent deaths, at the Hume Highway crossing at Marulan.

With the inclusion of a 600-lot residential estate near the town, she's even more concerned about people's safety.

Along with council planners, she's calling for the median to be closed at what's known as the "at grade" intersection into the town's main street, allowing only left turning traffic to access Marulan's main street from the highway. She also wants an alternate access created. The Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), police and the NSW Department of Planning will be consulted.

"We pushed for years to keep

it open, but with the number of accidents, it becomes a life and death situation and I can't in all conscience continue that fight," Cr Eddy said.

"It was put on us by the RTA when the bypass opened and now the Department of Planning and the RTA have to do something better for Marulan people if it is closed."

Cr Eddy acknowledges that the median's closure will inconvenience people living on the east side, but says with added traffic pressure from the Tailored Property subdivision, there is little choice.

When the 1000-lot Medway subdivision was proposed, Cr Eddy said people were happy that it included safe highway access and a means of crossing to the east. Now that development has

been excluded from the new Local Environmental Plan, in favour of Tailored Property's 600-lot estate in Wilson Drive.

"It will be very busy with that development, the three approved take away outlets and the new motel approved near the corner (of the intersection). It will be bedlam," Cr Eddy said.

At its meeting last week, councillors endorsed the chief planner's recommendation that Tailored Property modify the "at grade" intersection of George St and the Hume Highway to left turning traffic only.

"This is no longer simply a planning dilemma. It is essential that serious consideration be given to the potential for increased use and risks at the intersection," planning and community services director Chris Berry said.

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