



*Council, at its last meeting resolved:*

*"That a report be provided on the actions to improve and upgrade the median in Belgrave Street and the Elbow Street roundabout".*

*Maintenance of medians has been difficult due to pedestrian abuse, the extended dry period, the inhospitable environment, the shallow depth of soil and the obvious OH&S issues. Also, watering by way of hoses across traffic lanes, particularly at roundabouts, had created public liability risk.*

All work on medians requires a Traffic Control Plan and some have required the drawing up of separate Job Safety Analysis sheets to address site-specific safety issues.

All work on the Smith Street medians is dependent on the issuing of a Road Closure Licence by the RTA who are reluctant to issue these for work on Smith Street during weekdays. It is felt that any such work should be carried out on the weekend!

The upgrading of medians in Belgrave Street has recently been completed. The delays in completing the works can be attributed to concerns expressed by Council's Safety Officer, over the safety of having staff working in medians within 1.2m of moving vehicles and the need to fund the establishment of watering points on the road reserve. Council had previously watered using wastewater from a tanker but OH&S concerns, traffic issues and the cost involved has made this option unviable.

The Smith Street median has been upgraded within the main business precinct. The roundabout and gardens at the intersection of Stuart Street and the Pacific Highway have been abandoned. The need to lay a hose across the roadway to water these areas was deemed to be a high risk activity from a public liability viewpoint.

The grassed median on the Pacific Highway at the northern end of the CBD will be planted out with low maintenance native plant stock as the cost of traffic control and associated OH&S and traffic issues make regular mowing of the median unviable.

This option could also be taken with medians in Rudder Street, East Kempsey, Middleton Street, South Kempsey and Wide and Dangar Streets, West Kempsey. The ongoing maintenance of turf on all or part of these areas is difficult due to dangerous working angles and close proximity to traffic. However, there are insufficient funds to cover this work.

Should Council wish to provide further enhancement, a further \$10,000 per year would be required with the only source available being Working Funds.

It is felt that all medians in new subdivisions, other than those in high profile business or town entrance areas, should be concreted.

Where planting of medians is required it should consist of small garden areas contained within concrete paving. This will reduce maintenance costs and reduce the risk of accident to people crossing the roadway.

*Directors Comment:*

*The extensive dry spell has made maintenance of all civic gardens extremely difficult. Should Council like a higher level of attention, specific funding would need to be provided in addition to that available within the current budget.*

*Implications:*

*There are no financial, policy or statutory implications from the following recommendation.*

***Director Engineering Recommendation:***

***That the information be noted.***

***2003. 923 RESOLVED:***

***Moved: Cl. Sproule  
Seconded: Cl. Sowter***

***That the matter be referred to the Kempsey MasterPlan Committee for consideration.***

*The Kempsey MasterPlan Committee discussed the issue, but made no recommendation. Generally the Committee supported the work Council was doing on the medians and appreciated any foliage in favour concrete infill.*

***REPORT IMPLICATIONS:***

- ***Environmental***

***Nil***

- ***Social***

***The Social Implications of this report are in the obvious Community desire for foliage in the medians.***

- ***Economic (Financial)***

***The cost of maintaining the medians is borne from existing maintenance votes.***

- ***Policy or Statutory***

***Nil***

- *Director's Review*

*Although difficult to maintain, the clear preference to concreting medians is to retain foliage. It is felt the medians are in reasonable condition and provide a variation in shape and texture and, in some places, a splash of colour.*

**RECOMMENDATION:**

*That the information be noted.*

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K J Finnie  
DIRECTOR SHIRE SERVICES