

#### **6.4. MM04: Road Safety Near Middle Harbour School**

Macpherson Street is a popular thoroughfare in and out of the city for drivers wanting to avoid Military Road. Out of peak hours cars travel quite fast on this route.

The pedestrian crossing on the corner of Macpherson and Gerard Streets at Cremorne is on a tight corner, which makes it especially difficult for both drivers and pedestrians to discern and react safely. Many residents have shared stories of close calls with me and some tell me they are forced to take longer routes to avoid the pedestrian crossing altogether.

The crossing is heavily used by families and children attending Middle Harbour Public School and residents accessing public transport routes and the Cremorne shops. Elderly residents have been seen sitting on their walker, waiting for a long time to both work up the courage and find a safe moment to cross the road.

The dangerous nature of the intersection was recently raised on the Cremorne Neutral Bay Community Facebook Group and received over 100 comments echoing similar sentiments. A change.org petition has been launched which currently has over 80 signatures.

This is not a new concern. I understand in response to community requests Council has previously considered moving the crossing away from the corner but the Councillors at the time felt that people would not be prepared to walk the additional distance to the crossing.

More recently, the Traffic Committee pursued getting traffic lights installed at the intersection. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Network & Safety Division conducted pedestrian and vehicle counts in February this year but the numbers were below the level required by TfNSW for the installation of signals. TfNSW has further denied our request to vary warrant requirements at this intersection. Another count is scheduled to be conducted in July 2021.

If traffic lights are not currently an option, and moving the crossing increases the risk of jaywalking, we need to look for other measures we can take to protect our residents. These could include traffic calming measures such as speed cushions, the installation of a roundabout, concrete barriers, line markings, increased signage and more.

#### **I therefore recommend:**

- 1. THAT** Council staff prepare a report investigating the options and efficacy of various traffic calming measures to increase safety at the pedestrian crossing at Gerard and Macpherson Street in Cremorne.

**COUNCILLOR JILLY GIBSON  
MAYOR**