

7 Apr. SA.  
27 Apr. Council

## **A Position Paper - Provision of a Footpath along Kangaroo Valley Rd, Berry**

- There has been no Council provision of footpaths and other forms of safe access to support the expansion of Berry along and off Kangaroo Valley Road. Extracts from 2018 demographic figures indicate that over 12% of those who reside in this area (excluding Huntingdale Estate) are aged below fourteen years, and 45% are aged over sixty years. There is increasing concern for the safety of those who must use the road, and particularly for these vulnerable groups.
- Kangaroo Valley Road is an increasingly busy artery. It is also a road where many vehicles fail to observe the speed limit. For much of its length this is 60kph, not 50kph as would be expected in what has become an urbanised area. These factors make it an increasingly dangerous place for pedestrians to share space with vehicles.
- While there are some stretches where people can walk on grassed verges, much of the time they have no option but to walk on the road. Steep banks, uneven verges, broken road edges and, for significant lengths, very large eucalypt trees provide no other option other than to use the roadway.
- Demographic changes (stated above) indicate growing numbers of children in this area, many of whom wait on the roadside for school buses or walk or ride bicycles to the local school. Any observation of the road, particularly at school traffic times, will show parents pushing prams or shepherding children on foot or bicycles along the road. There is no time that is safe for children to use the road unsupervised.
- At peril from the traffic are the many residents, some with dogs, who walk along the road for exercise. Lack of access also forces a number of mobility scooters on to the road. At weekends and holiday times, these numbers are increased by visitors walking to and from the village.
- Included in the Berry Strategic Plan is a vision of Berry as a "walking town." In recent years, the provision of shared pathways and footpaths have made it possible to circumnavigate the entire "old" village and to safely access the sporting fields and hospital. It signals a division in the community that this facility does not extend to residents west of the freeway.
- The issue is a two-way street. Those heading into the village have no safe access but, equally residents east of the bypass and those in Huntingdale Estate do not consider Kangaroo Valley Road a safe route to use for recreational purposes or social purposes. The lack of safe passage for pedestrians, bike users and those with disability aids affects the whole of Berry.
- There is no provision of social infrastructure west of the freeway, including in Huntingdale Estate, despite the fact that this area will soon have more homes than the original village. Residents and visitors there must access the township for schools, shopping, medical, recreational and social activities. They can either walk or utilise wheeled transport; in either case there is no alternative but to use the road.
- The safety and amenity of people living and staying in the Kangaroo Valley Road area is of utmost importance. A footpath running from the roundabout west of the freeway overpass to the Bundewallah Road intersection is vital and should be a high priority for Council. For aesthetic and cost reasons as well as to limit damage to existing trees the path need not be all concrete; an above ground walkway construction along "difficult" stretches could be a more flexible and cost-effective option.