

## Item 10: Operations

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### 10.1 Cox Street Rail Crossing

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OPERATIONS  
TO 18 MAY 2022 ORDINARY MEETING  
GOV400098, TRA300009

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### That Council:

- 1. receive the report by the Director Operations on the Cox Street Rail Crossing;**
- 2. not pursue opening the Cox St Rail crossing at this time; and**
- 3. consider any rail crossing openings in line with an updated Traffic Management Study for the Mudgee Township.**

#### Executive summary

Council at its 18 March 2020 meeting passed the following Notice of Motion from Councillor Holden:

*“Council investigate the re-opening of the crossing over the rail line on Cox St”.*

The opening of rail level crossing requires approval of the relevant rail authority, TfNSW and needs to comply with TfNSW ‘Construction of New Level Crossing policy’

To minimise the risk to the public TfNSW has developed a policy position that building new level crossings is to be avoided wherever possible and all other options including grade separation and use of existing level crossings should be explored before a new level crossing is proposed.

While the rail line through Mudgee is not operational at this time it is not a closed line. Should the line become operational in the future Council could be required to close the crossing, fund a separated grade crossing or significantly upgrade the crossing.

The Mudgee Township Traffic Management Study 2014, specifically investigated the opening of the Cox St rail crossing and found the opening of this crossing was not required from a traffic point of view. While the study is now eight years old it did project future traffic volumes. It is considered this study should be updated in relation to the opening of the rail crossing.

Considering the policy position of TfNSW and Council’s finding in the 2014 Traffic Management Study, it is not recommended to open the rail crossing on Cox St at this time.

#### Disclosure of Interest

Nil

## Detailed report

Council at its 18 March 2020 meeting passed the following Notice of Motion from Councillor Holden:

*“Council investigate the re-opening of the crossing over the rail line on Cox St”.*

The opening of rail level crossing require approval of the relevant rail authority TfNSW and comply with the ‘Construction of New Level Crossing policy’

To minimise the risk to the public TfNSW has developed a policy position that building new level crossings is to be avoided wherever possible and all other options including grade separation and use of existing level crossings should be explored before a new level crossing is proposed.

Advice was also sought from John Holland Rail who managed the Country Network for TfNSW. Advice from John Holland Rail was that for TfNSW to consider a new level crossing Council would need to provide evidence that:

- Council had exhausted every other avenue available in relation to access including grade separation;
- An analysis of possible risks associated with a new level crossing and the management measures proposed to mitigate these risks;
- Any opportunities to use existing level crossings, and;
- A comprehensive analysis of traffic patterns supporting the proposal.

While the rail line through Mudgee is not operational at this time it is not a closed line. Should the line become operational in the future Council could be required to close the level crossing, fund a separated grade crossing or significantly upgrade the crossing.

The Mudgee Township Traffic Management Study 2014, specifically investigated the opening of the Cox St rail crossing. The Study found:

*“the re-opening of Cox St at the rail crossing is not considered necessary from a traffic point of view. However, as this matter has been raised in the past, Council may consider as development takes place in the west and south-west Mudgee, the need to provide an additional railway crossing by re-opening Cox Street”*

This study is now eight years old and traffic volumes and patterns may have changed with development over that time. Prior to further considering the re-opening of the Cox Street rail crossing it is considered imperative that the 2014 Traffic Management Study be updated to consider the growth of Mudgee, impact on nearby intersections and be able to demonstrate the need for the opening of the rail crossing.

## Community Plan implications

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Connecting Our Region</b>
Goal	High quality road network that is safe and efficient
Strategy	Provide traffic management solutions that promote safer local roads and minimise traffic congestion

## Strategic implications

### **Council Strategies**

Mudgee Township Traffic Management Study 2014

### **Council Policies**

Not applicable

## **Legislation**

Transport for NSW Construction of New Level Crossing Policy

## Financial implications

There are no financial implications from this report. Updating the 2014 Traffic Management Study or undertaking a specific traffic study just relating to Cox St Rail Crossing will require a budget amendment to the Operational Plan.

## Associated Risks

Nil

JULIAN GEDDES  
DIRECTOR OPERATIONS

12 April 2022

*Attachments:* Nil

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM  
GENERAL MANAGER