



Dutton Park Primary P&C Association

Dutton Park State School,
112 Annerley Rd,
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13 September 2025

By email: marchant.ward@bcc.qld.gov.au

Cnr Parry
Infrastructure Committee Acting Chair
Brisbane City Council

Cc: Cnr Trina Massey
The Gabba Ward
By email: thegabba.ward@bcc.qld.gov.au

Cc: Dr Barbara O'Shea MP
Member for South Brisbane
By email: South.Brisbane@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Cnr Parry

Park Road/Merton Road intersection pedestrian crossing – Community safety concerns

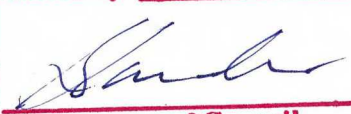
I refer to page 66 of the Infrastructure Committee section, and page 92 of the General Business section, of Council minutes of 2 September in which the issues of Council intersection upgrades, safety risk and community demand are addressed.

The Dutton Park State School P&C is grateful for the opportunity to bring the Park Road pedestrian crossing to your attention for action. This is the intersection addressed by Cnr Massey at page 92. We have long been advocating to have this crossing upgraded. Our request is to move it off the crest of the hill to the other side of Merton Road and to install traffic lights. I have attached a map and close up of the location for your reference at the end of my letter.

Many of our families use this crossing on a daily basis, and it presents significant safety risks for pedestrians. The intersection is also a common site for incidents between motorists attempting to enter Park Road from Merton Road into fast, oncoming traffic. Other safety issues exist, such as the access to the Gabba Hill side streets by "rat running" vehicles at speed.

Park Road is used by vehicular traffic to travel between two major roads – Annerley and Ipswich Road and as a short cut down Merton Road to the freeway access off Stanley Street. Vehicles regularly speed. It is used by local school children to attend school and by other pedestrians to access Park Road Station and the busway. The public transport options will soon become part of the second largest public transport interchange in Queensland. The crossing is located on the crest of a hill which makes visibility extremely problematic, especially in the late afternoon and early mornings when the sun is in motorists' eyes. The crossing is supposed to be monitored during school transit times by a crossing supervisor. However currently the role is not filled and has been vacant since July. The role poses significant safety risks to the holder.

We have explored a variety of options with Council which have been rejected due to the high speeds of the traffic on the road (eg wombat crossing). Our local Councillor has successfully advocated on

Tabled and presented to Council	
at its <u>4777</u>	Meeting held on:
<u>16/09/2025</u>	
Tabled by: <u>CR. MASSEY</u>	
	
Chairperson of Council	

our behalf for more paint markings on the road which were installed in the last year. She is also working with Council on the question of whether flashing lights can be installed from her Ward budget. Our local State member has been assisting us with our advocacy to Transport and Main Roads (TMR).

We are most grateful for this support, but in light of the dangers to our children this crossing represents, we believe a more permanent solution is necessary and we hope you might be able to help with that.

Our request regarding lights has been rejected by Council on the basis that not enough pedestrians use the crossing. We reject this reasoning. The safety risk is extreme and affects many children. Lights would also dramatically assist traffic flows from Merton Road onto Park Road. The use of Park Road will continue to increase due to pressure on roads generally, and its importance as a connection between the above-mentioned other roads and locations. The volume of pedestrians and the need to support active transport in the area will also increase over the coming years with the State's Woolloongabba PDA supporting the development of substantial new apartments on Annerley Road and adjacent locations, as well as the opening of Cross River Rail and expansion of the Metro.

The need is not a future need. The need is now. The location is dangerous and does not currently have a crossing supervisor, ordinarily employed by TMR and the Department of Education. This is not a new scenario. We have had previous issues filling this position. This is not a surprise. The last crossing supervisor reported daily abuse and near misses from motorists in doing his job.

I have attached a chronology for you of the work we have been doing recently to bring this issue to the attention of Council. I have also attached the preliminary results from a survey we are currently running. We commenced this survey when it became clear that TMR is struggling to recruit a crossing supervisor. I will send you updated results when we close it.

Your assistance in elevating this issue would be very gratefully received. We are most grateful to the work that our local Councillor has been doing to date to work with Council to address safety issues within the Ward. This is our highest priority. We have others that we would also be delighted to discuss with you if you have the time.

Kind regards,



Jean Bursle
President
Dutton Park State School P&C
pandcpresident@duttonparkss.eq.edu.au

Dutton Park State School P&C Correspondence

October 2022	Meeting between the P&C, Council and TMR Representatives to discuss road safety and traffic concerns affecting the school community.
27 April 2023	Follow up from the P&C including an invitation to all stakeholders to attend a P&C general meeting.
15 May 2023	<p>Discussion between P&C President and Council representative of all issues including Park Road crossing. Our record of Council's advice and our position states:</p> <p><i>The intersection on Park Road and Merton St is a known problem area and Council has done all it can to raise visibility. The next step would be to upgrade the intersection to a light but the likelihood of such an upgrade is low because demand for the intersection outside school entry and exit times is low. The need does not justify the cost. We continue to request this upgrade. It is a dangerous intersection, and we suggest that even if the raw demand from school children (from 2 schools) and train station users is not enough to meet Council thresholds, the safety of the location itself should be. We do not want a fatality or significant accident to be the catalyst for an upgrade.</i></p>
13 June 2023	<p>Council Reference 17384627. We submitted a formal request that Council review the traffic safety concerns affected Dutton Park State School. In respect of the Park Road crossing we stated:</p> <p><i>The intersection between Park and Merton Roads is dangerous. You have told me that Council doesn't consider there is enough traffic to upgrade to lights. Can we have the intersection assessed for other alternatives such as a wombat crossing that are effective in slowing motorists down? If further upgrades short of lights have been assessed and ruled out, is an alternative relocating the pedestrian crossing away from the peak of the hill for example - on the other side of Merton Road towards Quarry Road and a second one between School and Merton Roads?</i></p>
15 June 2023	<p>TMR having followed up a range of issues for us. In relation to the question of whether the crossing point would be better relocated, they advised:</p> <p><i>We did also discuss the request that you had raised about the crossing being moved to the other side of the intersection and away from the crest. BCC had investigated this a few years ago and advised that the pedestrian desire line was around that intersection and moving the crossing would mean that pedestrians would still cross at the same location and not use the crossing. BCC further advised that if the crossing was moved it wouldn't meet the requirements for it to be a pedestrian or zebra crossing and would revert to a children's crossing and may be viewed by the community as a less safer option as it would appear to be less visible.</i></p> <p>[We think this needs reassessment as the traffic gets busier and in any event, if a full crossing with a set of lights was relocated, it would get used.]</p>
August 2023	<p>We increased our engagement with our local police and asked that they include speed monitoring (as well as RBT) in their regular local checks. A record of our approach that I sent to Council at the time stated:</p> <p><i>On traffic speed issues, we are grateful for the support of the Dutton Park Police Station and are working more closely with them on traffic issues. As a result of</i></p>

	<p><i>our discussions, they have built in a regular speed check on the inbound lane of Annerley Road or the descent down Park Road to the Annerley Road lights where parents regularly report speeding. Our perceptions have been confirmed by the Police who gave the example of booking 8 cars in a 2 hour period one morning which is quite significant and doesn't even take into account other non-compliances that were likely to be happening during the booking process.</i></p>
28 August 2023	Council Reference 17384627. We followed up the status of our request.
7 September 2023	<p>Council responded to our request reference 17384627. In respect of Park Road, it stated:</p> <p><i>Council is aware of the concerns raised regarding the existing zebra crossing on Park Rd. The zebra at this location does not meet the current standards under the Queensland Government's Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Furthermore, the crossing is located at the very top of the crest, which is good for visibility for pedestrians to cross. However, motorists would not see the zebra markings unless they are almost on top of the crossing. As the zebra crossing is already existing, Council has no plans to remove the crossing unless it is supported by the local Cr. It is worth noting that alternate crossing facility types would be limited as the crossing is vastly underutilised outside of school peak periods to justify an upgrade to signals. I can advise Council has all the appropriate signage and line marking on both approaches to the crossing to highlight to motorists the presence of the zebra crossing.</i></p> <p><i>In regards to wombat crossings, I can advise wombat crossings are vertical deflection devices which can be considered as a 'traffic calming' device and, as such, a key objective of the treatment is to moderate vehicle speeds. Taking into consideration of traffic calming guidelines provided in the MUTCD, raised wombat crossings may only be considered when the following conditions are met:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• The location is a local street with a local or limited collector function (ie. Local Street /Neighbourhood Road).</i> <i>• A speed limit of 50km/h or less applies.</i> <i>• Traffic volumes are less than 400 vehicles per hour in the peak hour.</i> <i>• Truck volumes (4.5 tonnes GMV or greater) are less than 50 vehicles per day.</i> <i>• The longitudinal gradient of the road is less than 5 percent.</i> <i>• The road does not form part of an access to a commercial development (i.e. industrial precinct).</i> <i>• The road is not used extensively for access to emergency service establishments, high density residential developments or public meeting place.</i> <i>• The road does not form part of a bus route unless steps are taken to minimise discomfort to passengers, for example, through the use of long flat-top humps with minimum ramp grades.</i> <p><i>Park Rd is considered as a district access route under Brisbane City Council road hierarchy. As such, wombat crossings are not considered to be an option along a road of this nature.</i></p>
11 Sept 2023	DPSS P&C requested that Council consider whether there are any other ways of slowing the traffic on the Park Road Merton Road intersection and making it safer for children.
17 October 2023	Not further responses from Council.

9 March 2024 In 2024 the DPSS P&C worked with the Gabba Ward office to request speed monitoring along Annerley and Park Roads as the main roads our children cross daily. We were provided with the following advice based on the SAM data:

"The counts provided are just for the school peak periods. As such, all the information is only related to the traffic between 7-9am and 2-4pm Mon-Fri. I would say that the 85th percentile is considered high for school peak periods."

So this means:

- Park Rd between School St and Merton Rd;
 - Average speed is 39.4km/h
 - 85% of vehicles travel at or below 46km/h. This means 15% of cars are travelling at 47km or above – **208 vehicles each day on average are travelling at these higher speeds during school hours**
- Annerley Rd between Tillot and Nelson St
 - Average speed is 39.9km/h
 - 85% of vehicles travel at or below 49km/h. This means 15% of cars are travelling at 50km or above – **218 vehicle each day on average are travelling at these higher speeds during school hours**

And Kiran thinks the 85% number is higher compared to other school zones.

Which seems to indicate that there is a greater number of people speeding in both of these zones.

April 2024 DPSS P&C and the Gabba Ward followed up the speed data from BCC and police to request from TMR or BCC:

- TMR install a covert speed camera
- School paintwork on the road
- Flashing lights to indicate the crossing

24 April 2024 The response we received was:

- Led flashing warning signs are not being installed for any existing BCC project
- A proposal to discuss a flashing slow down warning sign could be discussed at the end of the financial year
- BCC was supportive of painted school zone thresholds but due to BCC budget constraints they would not be approved and installed until next financial year [these have since been installed].

24 April 2024 The school crossing supervisor at Park Road resigned and the crossing was unsupervised pending recruitment. Correspondence at the time indicated that recruiting for these positions is problematic.

5 November 2024 With the assistance of the Gabba Ward and on the advice of the new crossing supervisor (Sean) about the dangers of Park Road, we again requested paint marking and SAM speed monitoring data of this intersection be addressed.

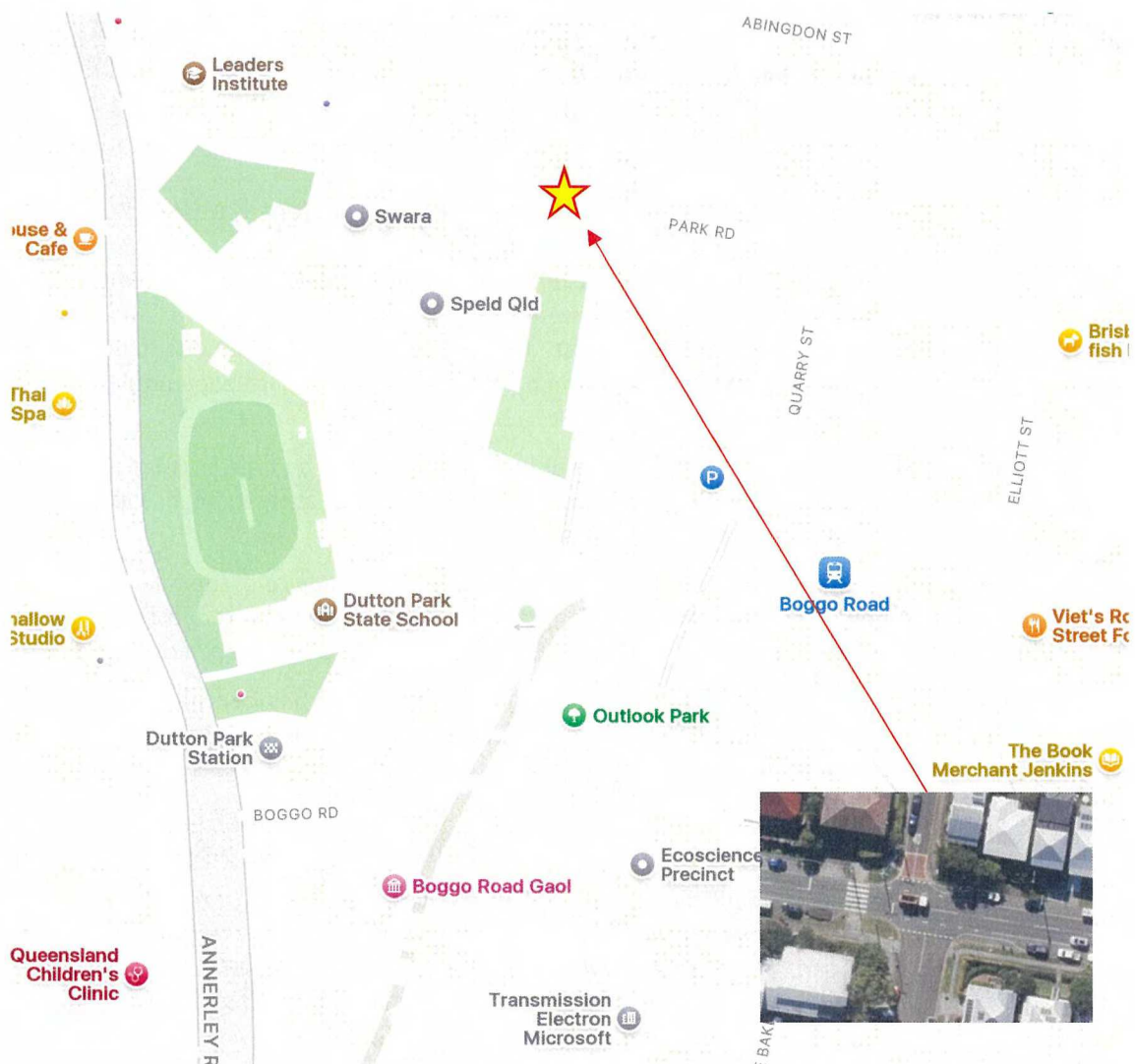
13 November 2024 Given the ongoing risks to pedestrians and the abuse being received by the crossing supervisor, the police began assistance with sporadic inspections of the pedestrian crossing.

14 May 2025 With ongoing issues at the pedestrian crossing, we introduced a check in with the crossing supervisor before each month's meeting. In May, Sean said:

I don't like complaining because I love the kids; the families at the school are great but too many other pedestrians, cyclists and car drivers; their behaviour is uncivilised, it's not safe and it's putting people's lives at risk. I grew up on a farm in Ireland where I did all sorts of injuries to myself. I worked as a bouncer in night clubs. I've been shot at, beaten up, dealt with people on drugs. But this is the one job I've had in my life where each morning before I go up that hill, I do wonder if this will be my last. I wonder if today I will be finally hit.

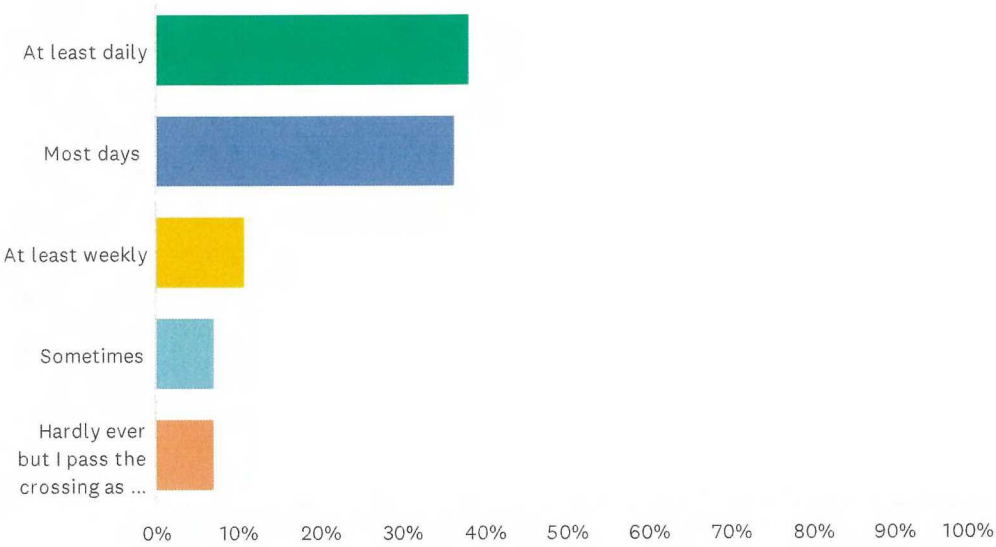
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| 14 May 2025 | DPSS P&C raised with the Gabba Ward the increasing frequency with which large trucks are using Merton Road as a thoroughfare, apparently based on Google Maps advice. |
| 16 July 2025 | A formal complaint was made by a parent to the P&C about the treatment our crossing supervisor Sean was receiving both from motorists but also from his TMR supervisor who was attempting to discuss his performance and his uniform at the crossing, at the same time he was supposed to be performing his duties. The parent reported this conduct was jeopardising the safety of both Sean and pedestrians and was done in an appropriate tone and manner. The P&C passed this onto the school. |
| 17 July 2025 | DPSS community was informed that the Crossing Supervisor was no longer working at Park Road and that a recruitment process was underway. No one has been recruited. |

Location of the Park Road Pedestrian Crossing



Q1 We (I or my children) use the pedestrian crossing on Park Rd near Merton Rd

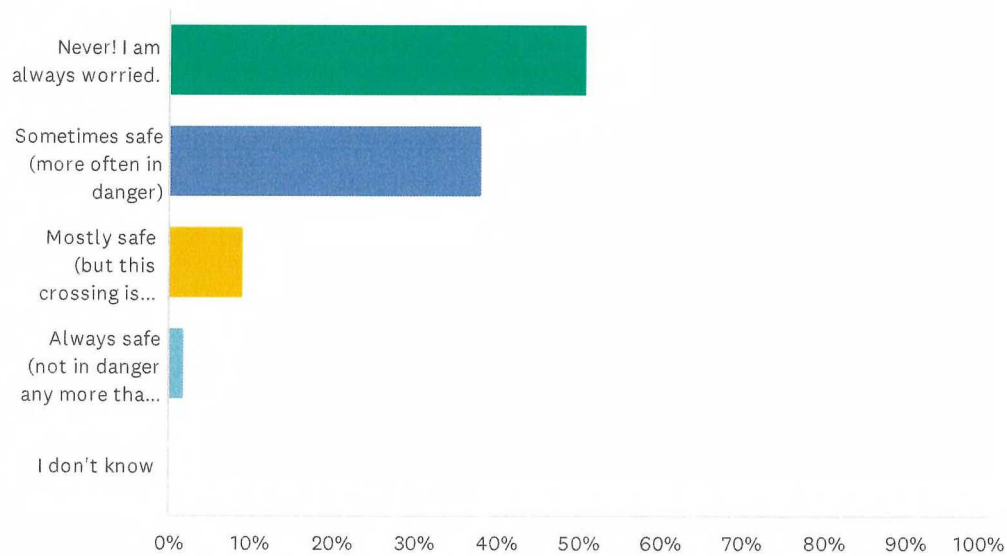
Answered: 55 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
At least daily	38.18%	21
Most days	36.36%	20
At least weekly	10.91%	6
Sometimes	7.27%	4
Hardly ever but I pass the crossing as a driver	7.27%	4
TOTAL		55

Q2 I feel pedestrians are safe using this crossing

Answered: 55 Skipped: 0



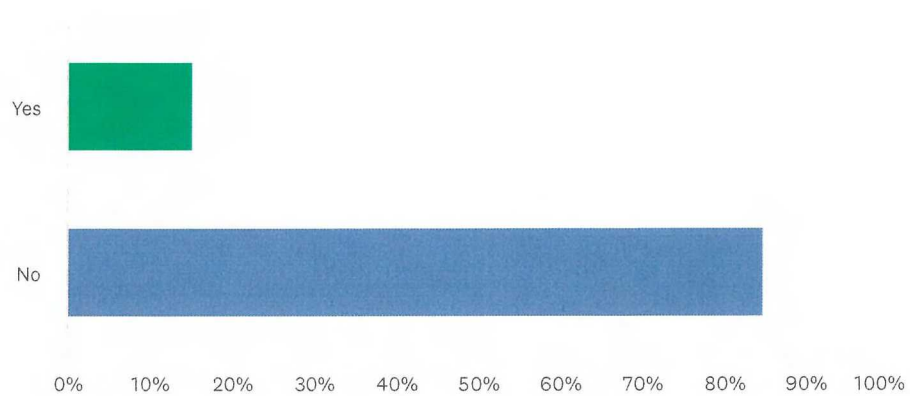
ANSWER CHOICES

RESPONSES

Never! I am always worried.	50.91%	28
Sometimes safe (more often in danger)	38.18%	21
Mostly safe (but this crossing is still more dangerous than many crossings)	9.09%	5
Always safe (not in danger any more than a pedestrian usually is)	1.82%	1
I don't know	0.00%	0
TOTAL		55

Q3 I have witnessed or been involved in an accident at this crossing

Answered: 53 Skipped: 2

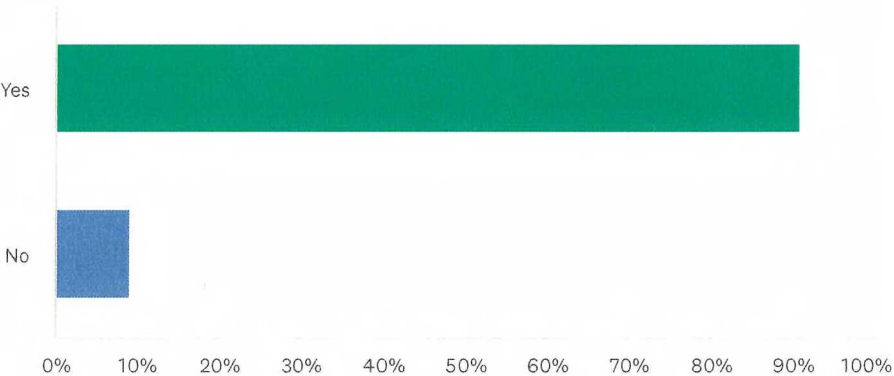
**ANSWER CHOICES**

Yes	15.09%	8
No	84.91%	45
TOTAL		53

RESPONSES

Q4 I have witnessed or been involved in a near miss at this crossing

Answered: 54 Skipped: 1

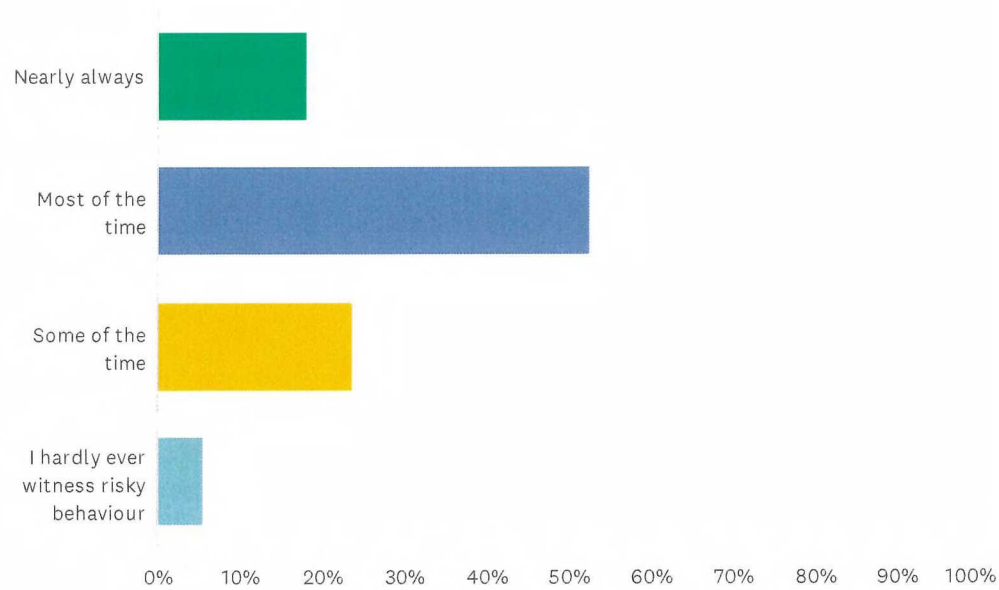


ANSWER CHOICES

Yes	90.74%	49
No	9.26%	5
TOTAL		54

Q5 How often do you witness/experience unsafe driving or other behaviour at this crossing?

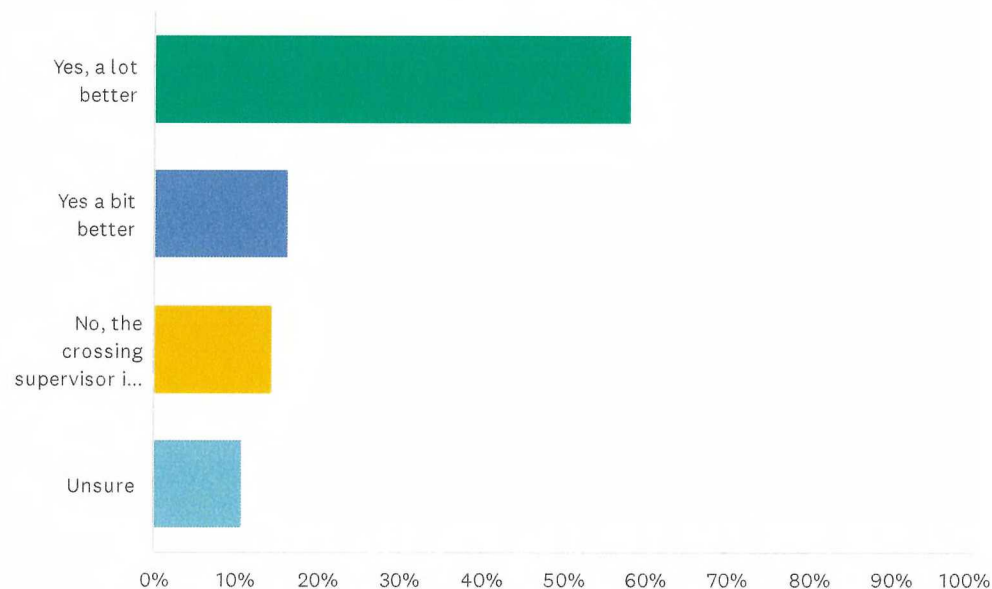
Answered: 55 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Nearly always	18.18%	10
Most of the time	52.73%	29
Some of the time	23.64%	13
I hardly ever witness risky behaviour	5.45%	3
TOTAL		55

Q6 Is driver behaviour better with a crossing supervisor?

Answered: 55 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes, a lot better	58.18%	32
Yes a bit better	16.36%	9
No, the crossing supervisor is also in danger from driver behaviour at this location	14.55%	8
Unsure	10.91%	6
TOTAL		55

Q7 Please comment on any changes you would like to see at this crossing

Answered: 36 Skipped: 19

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	I think the crossing supervisor does make the crossing more visible. However I have also witnessed a car driving straight through ignoring the actions of the crossing supervisor. I think police at least need to have more of a presence here as a starting point and perhaps an electronic cross assist that only stops traffic when someone activates it	9/12/2025 7:23 PM
2	Most of the drivers doesn't stop even they saw people are waiting to cross the road. The negligence is real.	9/12/2025 2:48 PM
3	Installation of stop lights. Installation of flashing lights. A 40 km per hour speed restriction. More visibility for the crossing eg no parking with 30 M, relocation of light pole that blocks visibility of pedestrian sign. Speed humps to slow the traffic.	9/10/2025 4:42 PM
4	Need traffic lights at the pedestrian crossing	9/8/2025 5:02 PM
5	I would like to see the crossing supervisor back at this crossing regularly	9/8/2025 4:43 PM
6	Exceptionally dangerous crossing. Drivers can't see it and speed through it. In the afternoon drivers driving west (in particular) drive through the crossing even with people already crossing, it's extremely common to have near misses here.	9/5/2025 5:29 PM
7	Camera or light crossing required for safety. I'm sick of the near misses I experience weekly!	9/5/2025 3:12 PM
8	This is urgent for our children!	9/5/2025 1:06 PM
9	Living locally, I'm both a driver and pedestrian of this crossing and have equally been just as anxious driving and walking. I'd love for a flashing light to signal pedestrians crossing, I think that'd be helpful for drivers especially in the afternoon when the western sun is in your eyes and it's difficult to see. When I'm a pedestrian, I stand at the crossing for awhile anyway just waiting for cars to stop. Also removing the last carpark on the western side of the crossing would allow drivers to be able to see the sides of the crossing better. With the number of parked cars and side streets, it might even be beneficial to reduce the speed limit to 40. I hate it when speed limits are reduced unnecessarily normally, but driving on Park Rd everyday I do find myself going 40 anyway and it'd make it easier to stop at the crossing. As the Boggo Rd train/bus gets more and more busy, I feel the area would warrant a 40 speed limit.	9/5/2025 10:24 AM
10	We need traffic lights as this is the brow of a hill with two side roads and often drivers are blinded by the Western Sun. I have nearly been hit 3 times in the last year.	9/4/2025 3:59 PM
11	Needs a supervisor in the morning and afternoon	9/4/2025 3:37 PM
12	In general we need more crossings with zeepra walk in Dutton Park	9/3/2025 9:19 PM
13	What happened to the lolly pop man?	9/3/2025 8:55 PM
14	I have never crossed while the crossing supervisor is in place but I imagine a crossing guard in hi-vis would improve visibility of this crossing for drivers. The crossing is difficult to see for drivers who are unfamiliar with this section of road.	9/3/2025 8:02 PM
15	The crossing is on a rise in the road and often drivers don't see people crossing until they are quite close or they just drive through without slowing down.	9/3/2025 5:20 PM
16	Some car deterrent before the pedestrian crossing like a hump over the road to slow traffic down please	9/1/2025 9:57 PM
17	The crossing really needs to be more visible as drivers often don't realise there is a crossing at the top of the hill, and more often than not they are speeding. Ideally a proper pedestrian crossing with traffic lights should be installed as I believe that is the best way to achieve safety for everyone, including, and especially, our children.	9/1/2025 10:58 AM
18	This is one of the most unsafe crossings we use on a daily basis. Even with kids in uniforms there are cars who don't stop! You are never sure it's safe to cross, and as an	8/30/2025 6:36 AM

	adult I've had to stop cars with hand signs, make eye contact and then let the kids cross.	
19	Positioning of signage is quite poor - one of the signs is behind a power pole and the painting on the road is too far from the crossing. Cars always speed and seem quite oblivious that the crossing even exists! I would feel much safer with a signalised crossing, park road keeps getting busier over time and more pedestrians will be crossing there (not just school children) once cross river rail is completed.	8/29/2025 8:24 PM
20	Speed bumps and a crossing supervisor asap for school times. It is extremely dangerous for kids without a supervisor and I would not let my kids walk to or from school alone without a supervisor.	8/29/2025 8:18 PM
21	Improved signage	8/29/2025 8:18 PM
22	Crossing supervisor for school times, implemented immediately, while investigating options to make safer such as traffic lights, mechanisms to slow traffic etc.	8/29/2025 4:44 PM
23	School crossings on hill needs supervision	8/29/2025 2:25 PM
24	Police enforcement of speed limits. Painted road signage helps, but people still speed or don't consider the pedestrian crossing.	8/29/2025 1:42 PM
25	It needs to be a wombat (raised platform) crossing, or a traffic light. And there needs to be a supervisor.	8/29/2025 1:34 PM
26	Traffic lights!	8/29/2025 12:36 PM
27	It would be nice to see more safety elements on both sides of the crossing eg: speed bumps, and supervisor crossing during drop off/pick up times.	8/29/2025 12:07 PM
28	More awareness for drivers that a crossing is coming up as many have little idea that they need to stop. Thanks	8/29/2025 11:36 AM
29	The crossing supervisor is key to making this crossing safe for our young children. Without the supervisor I am not comfortable using the crossing.	8/29/2025 11:12 AM
30	The crossing is dangerous even with a supervisor	8/29/2025 11:11 AM
31	Poor visibility of crossing in both directions. Poor signage. Have flagged with council and state government with poor/inadequate response. Someone (probably a child) will get killed without an improvement in the crossing supervision and signage/visibility of the crossing	8/29/2025 11:10 AM
32	Crossing supervisor was always putting his life at risk to protect children. Park Road needs traffic calming at the least, as drivers are using it as a rat run short cutting through our neighbourhood. I'm very been involved in a number of near misses, both with myself and others close by. Drivers do not see the crossing and regularly speed through.	8/29/2025 10:54 AM
33	It needs to be moved off the crest of the hill. It needs lights.	8/29/2025 10:48 AM
34	Drivers aren't always behaving badly, it's just that the crossing is on the top of the hill and in the afternoon the sun is directly in their eyes as they come up the hill heading towards Annerley Rd. Drivers speed up the hill from both sides and don't notice there is a crossing until quite late, and slam on the brakes. Perhaps additional signage on the way up the hill, flashing lights might help especially at school time.	8/29/2025 10:47 AM
35	Greater warning the crossing is coming up for drivers Slow point maybe Lights	8/29/2025 10:45 AM
36	I would never let my kids cross here unsupervised. Drivers do not see it.	8/29/2025 10:42 AM