

**Meeting at Palana – Friday 28 February 2022**

Council Attendees:	Mayor:	Annie Revie
	General Manager:	Warren Groves
	Manager Infrastructure and Airport:	Chris Wilson
	Administration:	Ange Harley

Palana Residents:

- Carol Cox
- Keith and Kerry Duce
- Audrey Holloway
- Carita Henriksson - Bathman
- Linda Nicol and Tony Griggs
- Ella Turner
- Sacha Richardson
- Naomi Creek
- David and Olywn Harris
- Susie Gronke

Meeting commenced with Mayor Annie Revie stating that the Council representatives were in Palana to listen to the village concerns and seek solutions

Keith Duce started the meeting off by listing some of the major concerns being, reducing the speed limit in the village to enhance the safety of children and wildlife. Keith went on to say that many of the driveways are obscured, so a reduced speed limit would increase the safety for those residents trying to exit their driveways.

At certain times of the year there are a number of cars towing boats that allegedly speed through the village and residents are concerned there may be an accident.

Residents would like lower speed signs, and maybe a warning sign about wildlife.

Annie stated that it is not Council's role to reduce speed limits on the road. This is the role of the Transport Commissioner.

Chris Wilson added that "40" zones were generally for school zones and road works.

There was a discussion about the 40kph sign in Killiecrankie, Carol Cox said that when she was in the role of Mayor, this reduction in speed was requested and granted by the council at the time.

Residents are requesting a reduction in the speed as there is now more traffic and more children in the Palana Village area. It was also noted that the road is narrow and there are no footpaths.

As many of the homes are built on the hillside, the driveways are very steep, and it can be very hazardous to exit the driveways, especially as there is a lot of vegetation that has grown up, obscuring the view. Chris will arrange to have the vegetation in Palana cut back by the end of March.

Even with this assurance, the residents still would like Council support for an application to reduce the speed limit to 40kph.

There was a discussion about the 20kph sign on the narrow part of the road on the way down to the boat ramp. It was not immediately apparent whether this land is Parks land or on the road reserve. If it is on Road reserve, this sign may have been erected without appropriate approval.

The Killiecrankie 40kph sign was discussed. Annie said that she can not find anything in Council records to indicate that Council had any authorisation to erect that sign.

Audrey mentioned placing speed humps on the road. Chris said he believed emergency services would not agree to having this kind of traffic calming on the roads.

Carita asked for the support of council for the reduction of the speed in Palana.

Warren said that other solutions could be, education of drivers, and asking the police for assistance.

Carita said that she didn't think the Council were taking this seriously. Annie stated that Council was taking this matter very seriously, and that is a big part of why we Council staff travelled to Palana today.

Annie said there was nothing to lose by approaching State Growth to ask the question.

It was discussed that the responsibility for wildlife is shared between Council and Parks and Wildlife.

Warren suggested the residents use a number of ways to garner support. Some suggestions were petitions, lobbying local councillors, and get as many community members writing to Council about this issue. This will all add support to the application to State Growth for the reduction of the speed limit.

Kerry brought up that, historically, when the roads have been cleared, the material was left on the side of the road. Chris assured that this would not happen again.

There was a suggestion that the police could be contacted to bring a speed camera up to Palana to accurately check the speed of drivers. Warren suggested to write to the police with residents' concerns, including any records of incidences.

Since Covid, the number of hire cars on the island has increased significantly, consequently increasing the traffic in Palana.

The speed approaching the outskirts of Palana is 80kph and there is no reduction until the 50kph sign.

There are concerns about the number of animals that are killed crossing the road to get to the water source on the other side.

The suggestion was an 80, 60, 40 reducing scale, or maybe a 60km limit at Eden's Road.

Annie said that speed limits need to be credible otherwise people won't slow down.

Annie also talked about the relocation of the speed sign at Lady Barron. This was done through State Growth and took some time to achieve.

Warren said that it was unlikely that multiple descending value speed signs would be effective in reducing speed. If there are too many signs, drivers may not take notice of them.

Linda asked if this meeting would be recorded as part of the support for the reduction in speed in the village.

Carita suggested a petition – Annie thought this was a good idea.

Tony asked about a wildlife sign, and also about concealed entrance signs for those driveways that are obscured by vegetation, or on corners.

There was a discussion about the amount of wildlife on the road at night. Carol said that there can be up to 50 wombats in a small area.

Sacha suggested a "Welcome to Palana" sign. This could include information about kids, animals, concealed driveways etc.

Keith suggested the residents could contribute to the cost of the sign.

There was a discussion about where the sign would be, and the repercussions of having the sign on private land versus Council land with regards to planning approval etc. A formal application needs to be submitted to Council for this sign.

An electronic speed measuring sign was mentioned, Warren said that these signs can have the opposite effect as some drivers attempt to see how high they can get the number on the sign by speeding up to it.

Annie suggested to the group, that it may be a matter of trying a number of things to attempt to reduce the speed of the drivers in the area. Some suggestions were, promoting the village atmosphere and the family environment of Palana.

Warren reiterated to keep trying different strategies, whilst also acknowledging that there is a small percentage of any population that will not abide by the rules.

Ella would like drivers to slow down for wildlife.

Warren suggested that some information could be included in the Sharp inflight magazine.

Audrey spoke about the death of some kangaroos that she was feeding, possibly due to speeding drivers.

Linda listed items that could be used in support of the request to State Growth.

- This meeting
- Petition
- Letters to Council

Warren suggested a spokesperson is appointed to liaise on behalf of the group with the GM or Chris to put ideas through to Council.

The nominees were Naomi, Linda, and Carita as back up if Naomi and Linda are off the island.

Annie said that any nominations to Council, need to be received 1 week prior to the monthly Council meeting.

There was another discussion about how to sign the petition if people were off island, and who could sign the petition. Residents were encouraged to sign the petition and if the resident is not on the island the petition may be signed digitally. The group would seek assistance with the petition template from Council.

Carol then talked about drainage on the island.

Chris talked about the years of neglect with regard to the drainage across the whole island. Chris advised that there is currently a LRCI (Local roads and community infrastructure) grant available worth \$600,000, which would support the clearing of table drains on the main roads on the island.

The idea is to commence with the drainage in the townships first, then continue on to all areas of the island.

Annie talked about a presentation that Chris presented to Council regarding the drainage issues.

If this grant becomes available to the Council, the funds will need to be spent by June 2023.

Carol expressed thanks for the recent works on Coast Road.

Warren talked about the recruiting process when Chris was appointed. He talked about the specific standards and attitude that Council was looking for when recruiting a manager. Warren said there was still a lot of work to do, but that we are starting to see things turning around under Chris's management.

Discussion about the grant application for the sealing of Palana Road. This has been identified as a priority project. Once completed, the plan is to hand ownership of this road to the State Growth Department.

Annie then summarised the meeting:

- Create a petition

- Design a sign that highlights some of the cautions, concealed entrances, children playing, wildlife etc.

- Submit a request based on the results of the petition

- Contact the police and obtain some evidence of the speeding drivers

- Approach the Transport Commissioner to request the 50kph sign is moved further south on Palana Road

- Have some additional information in the Visitor Pack that is provided by Council.

Linda asked for Annie to publish a piece in the Island News to highlight the concerns of the residents of Palana.

Naomi asked about a wildlife sign.

Kerry stated that she thinks the speed sign should be back at Eden's Road.

There was then a discussion about the priorities.

The petition was discussed, and to have that to the next Council meeting it would need to be in by the 8<sup>th</sup> of March. All thought that was too soon.

Carol and Naomi both said that the 40kph sign was more of a priority.

Warren said to ask for both the 40kph sign, and if not move the 50kph sign, as better to make one application with all the requests rather than two separate applications.

Discussion about the Palana Village sign. Chris said it needed to be reflective, and sized 1200x900.

Carita requested that the Palana Village sign go on the Road Reserve, therefore the design would need to be submitted to Council for consideration.

Annie said that she would send the template of the petition.

Meeting concluded 15:58