

30 June 2026

The Hon Ros Spence MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety
Shop D00-02B, Craigieburn Central
340 Craigieburn Road
Craigieburn VIC 3064
By email: ros.spence@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister Spence

Subject: Urgent Safety Review — Burwood Highway and Dorset Road Intersection, Ferntree Gully

I write on behalf of Knox City Council to formally request an urgent review of the safety and operational performance of the Burwood Highway and Dorset Road intersection in Ferntree Gully. This request follows a Notice of Motion resolved by Council and reflects growing community concern about the risk of serious incidents at this location.

Background

Council has identified a number of safety concerns arising from the current configuration and traffic management arrangements at this intersection. Of particular concern is the practice of vehicles travelling in the direction of Ferntree Gully undertaking U-turns from the designated U-turn lane to return toward the city. This manoeuvre appears to be occurring with increasing frequency, yet is not supported by dedicated signal phases or controls designed to manage it safely.

Council is concerned that the sight lines of vehicles performing U-turn movements may be significantly obstructed by vehicles queued in the two right-turn lanes turning from Burwood Highway into Dorset Road. This obstruction creates an elevated risk of collision and represents a serious hazard to all road users at this location. Additionally, Council considers that the current line marking, signage, and driver notification relating to U-turn movements at the intersection are insufficient to adequately inform and protect motorists.

Requested Review

Council respectfully requests that the Department of Transport and Planning conduct an urgent safety review of this intersection. Council requests that the review specifically examine:

- The practice of vehicles undertaking U-turns from the U-turn lane at the intersection, returning toward the city;
- The absence of dedicated U-turn signal phases or controls, despite the increasing use of this manoeuvre;
- The potential for sight lines of vehicles performing U-turn movements to be obstructed by vehicles queued in the two right-turn lanes turning from Burwood Highway into Dorset Road, creating an elevated risk of collision; and
- The adequacy of existing line marking, signage, and driver notification relating to U-turn movements at this intersection.

Requested Improvements

Following the completion of the review, Council requests that the Department investigate and, where appropriate, implement:

- Installation of dedicated U-turn facilities and/or signal phases to provide safe and clearly regulated opportunities for U-turn movements;
- Improvements to traffic signal sequencing and lane management to better accommodate observed traffic behaviour;
- Enhanced signage and road markings to more clearly alert motorists to the conditions and risks associated with U-turn movements at this intersection; and
- Any other engineering or safety measures considered appropriate to reduce the incidence of near-misses and collisions.

Council's Advocacy Role

Council acknowledges that the Burwood Highway and Dorset Road intersection falls under State Government jurisdiction and that responsibility for its design, operation, and safety management rests with the Department of Transport and Planning. However, Knox City Council has a responsibility to advocate on behalf of the community it serves, and the safety concerns raised in this letter are of sufficient gravity to warrant formal representation to the State Government. Council is committed to working constructively with the State Government to support timely investigation and implementation of any necessary improvements.

Response Requested

Council respectfully requests that the Minister provide a written response no later than 30 September 2026, outlining the steps to be taken in response to this advocacy. The response should include details of any investigations commenced, findings made, or works proposed or programmed as a result of this request.

Council thanks the Minister for her attention to this matter and looks forward to a collaborative response that prioritises the safety of all road users at this location.

Yours sincerely



Cr Paige Kennett
Mayor

Enquiries: Grant Thorne
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cc Ms Daniela De Martino MP - State Member for Monbulk
Mr Jackson Taylor MP - State Member for Bayswater



The Hon Ros Spence MP

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Cr Paige Kennett
Mayor
Knox City Council
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Dear Mayor

Thank you for your letter of 30 June 2026 regarding the Burwood Highway and Dorset Road intersection in Ferntree Gully.

As you may appreciate, the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) regularly receives suggestions for changes across the state's transport network. These are considered based on various factors, including the extent to which a solution would improve safety or congestion, the number of road users travelling along the road, the need to cater for vulnerable road users, historical safety records, and the impact that treating the intersection would have on the performance of the surrounding road network.

While DTP has advised there are currently no plans to implement changes at this location, feedback received will be considered as part of DTP's management of Victoria's road network.

Thank you again for raising this matter.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Ros Spence MP
Minister for Roads and Road Safety

Cc: Daniela De Martino MP, Member for Monbulk
Jackson Taylor MP, Member for Bayswater