Road Incident Reporting System

Official Vehicle Incident data across Marlborough is drawn largely from police reporting. While this captures serious incidents, it often fails to capture incidents that are less `significant’ such as near misses or accidents/incidents such as those on isolated rural roads where there is no `significant’ injury or damage to property.

In the case of Port Underwood roads, based on NZTA traffic counters, traffic is increasing 20% each year during peak periods (Christmas) and 6% over the low count (September) period. Anecdotally, there are many vehicle accidents and near misses that go unreported and these are increasing each year. The risk of this under reporting is that targeted enforcement, education or infrastructure improvement cannot be informed. It is contended that the under reporting is primarily due to no efficient and robust reporting tool such as a web based system as a component of the Marlborough District Council website.

The Port Underwood Association is aware that there may be similar initiatives to seek council funding and promotion of a web based reporting system to enable motorists and pedestrians to share close call and accident experiences either with cycles, pedestrians or cars. While not to degrade the value of this need, the Port Underwood Association contents that a holistic vehicle incident reporting system would enable wider information to Council to; inform regulatory design and the planning decision processes and promote community safety and welfare.

We are also aware that in the age of mobile phones there will be a number of people that will find it easier and more convenient to use a mobile app to report traffic incidences than working through the Marlborough District Council website.

It is recommended Council:

Note that there is no robust mechanism to capture relevant vehicle incidents

Note that lack of vehicle incident data denies Council the information to fully inform regulatory design, the planning decision processes and promote community safety and welfare.

Approve annual plan budgeting to design and promote a holistic traffic reporting system assessable through the Marlborough District Council website and/or develop a mobile app for that purpose.

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