

PAW Lot 200 Anthony Road to David Drive - Written submissions

Written submission 1

As homeowners residing directly opposite the David Drive intersection of the Anthony Road and David Drive Public Access Walkway (PAW), we wish to see the PAW permanently closed. We appreciate the efforts that the City of Busselton has put in thus far in its trial closure of the PAW in response to the concerns of residents who live in close proximity to the PAW. The trial closure has been one hundred per cent successful in its impact in restoring the immediate community to a safer, cleaner one which we can enjoy, free of anti-social, intimidating and at times disturbing behaviour. It has been wonderful to enjoy a Christmas/Summer season without feeling constantly on edge. One would only have to contact the Busselton Police Branch to confirm this as there would definitely be a reduction in the number of reports on record for this locality in comparison to pre PAW trial closure.

Since the trial closure of the PAW the following observations and/or conclusions have been made:

1. With children no longer coming out of the PAW on their bicycles, scooters, skateboards or running straight onto the road, there have been no near accidents; resulting in a much safer situation for children, pedestrians and motorists.
2. With the PAW no longer being used as an extension to Luke Street by motorbike, motor scooter and off-road motorbike riders for either for 'hooning' at high speeds or simply because they could; the immediate community is much safer, noise free and less prone to filthy, offensive or disrespectful language being shouted at local residents. On occasions, prior to the trial closure of the PAW, there were even Harley Davidson bikes and small motor vehicles witnessed travelling at high speeds through the access way. The PAW had become as much like a 'speedway' as a walkway. The 'T' junction of Luke Street and David Drive is deemed as a potentially dangerous junction and for that reason a stop sign has been erected. Generally, when the motorbike, scooter and off-road motorbike riders travelled east out of the public access walkway across David Drive and into Luke Street, they did not stop at all. Members of the neighbourhood had contacted the police on several occasions but the dangerous misuse of the access way continued, even at all hours of the night. Does it take a fatality or a serious accident for something permanent to be done? Thanks to the trial closure, residents living in very close proximity alongside the PAW or directly opposite, have been able to enjoy being outside in their gardens without having to listen to filthy language as an immediate response by these 'hoon motor riders' when simply asked to refrain from riding through the access way on motorised modes of transport.
3. With the closure of the PAW there has been no anti-social behaviour such as drug taking, drug dealing, fornicating, drinking of alcohol, bottle smashing, urinating and congregating in general. These incidents of anti-social behaviour mainly occurred

throughout the night and in the early hours of the morning. At times there were groups of up to ten youths yelling out using foul language and it was extremely frightening! No-one should ever have to put up with that!

4. With the trial closure of the PAW, the bottle smashing in the PAW is non-existent and smashed glass in the Guerin Park has been minimised. When the PAW was open it created a direct route from the liquor store to Guerin Park where youths would often partake in their drinking. The only reason that the PAW and Guerin Park were litter-free during that time was due to the civic-mindedness of the locals who constantly picked up or swept up broken glass, junk food wrappers, used condoms and various other forms of litter which made the neighbourhood look like a 'slum'. These locals were often out picking up the filth in the early hours of the morning because they had been awake all night fearing for their own safety and that of their properties. What other walkways are there in the City of Busselton located in such close proximity to liquor outlets?
5. With the closure of the PAW the residents living in very close proximity alongside the PAW or directly opposite have not had to put up with rocks, stones, tree roots, a pine post from the park itself and other projectiles being thrown at their homes. When the PAW was open the PAW itself was also used as an escape route for youths who had targeted other properties in the neighbourhood.
6. With the closure of the PAW the local residents do not have to be confronted with filthy language written on the fences of the PAW or chalked onto the bitumen of the PAW.

We acknowledge that there were some frequent users of this PAW who are now inconvenienced by having to take another route. However, many of these users were, and still are, unaware of the ongoing problems associated with the PAW because they don't live close enough to be affected by the anti-social behaviour which occurred. If they realised the extent of the anti-social, intimidating behaviour we have had to endure over the years, the continual fear for our and safety and properties; not to mention the affect on our emotional health and lifestyle, we are certain there would be overwhelming support for the permanent closure of the PAW.

With the current trial closure of the Public Access Walkway (PAW), along with the improvements to Guerin Park and the local beach, our neighbourhood is being restored back to a community we can feel proud of, returning our properties to their potential value and most importantly; allowing us to live free of anti-social behaviour and intimidation in our residential area of choice.

Therefore, we wish to make a formal request to the City of Busselton for the permanent closure of the Public Access Walkway (PAW) between Anthony Road and David Drive in Geographe.

Your consideration of this formal request would be greatly appreciated as we are very keen to reside in a safe and civic-minded neighbourhood.

Written submission 2

My house backs on to the park on Guerin Street.

On a number of occasions I have noticed anti social behavior of young people misusing the playground equipment in the park.

On one occasion I rang the police as young men appeared to be attempting to wreck the equipment.

It seemed to me that with the existence of the PAW, people on bikes, skate boards and occasional motorised vehicles etc., had easy and rapid access from the Bayside shops to the park and points beyond using a network of mainly pedestrian ways.

Since the closure of the PAW between Anthony Road and David Drive I have not observed the same level of anti social behavior in the park that I had observed prior to the closure.

Written submission 3

There are some further points I would like to draw to your attention, regarding the new survey.

I think that on behalf of all the residents close to the 'PAW' what a huge difference the closing of the 'PAW' has done around here.

Since receiving this survey form, I have been around to the houses, and asked the people who live there what they have thought. They all remarked that since it has been closed off. How safe they now feel at night, and during the day. How we don't get the gangs of young lads walking around during the night, and day. No lads on motorised bikes going through the 'paw', revving up the engines thinking it was a huge joke. Leaving all there mess in the 'paw' as I use to clean and maintain it, with all the littering, graffiti, damage to property. I don't have to buy litres of disaffection to swill it to take away the smell of dogs and human toilets that where left there. I could go on.

I went to the police and spoke to the Sergeant there. He remarked that since it has been closed they have not been called to so many incidents, so has saved them lots of time. They are very happy to it staying closed.

I have also talked to some shire workers, who say that they have not been called to repair any damage around here, or graffiti. So with the 'PAW' now since it has been closed it has saved time and money. But most of all it has gave ALL the residents around here peace of mind.

The impact on anti —social behaviour around here has greatly improved. As I say people feel safe at nights, not wondering what will happen in the 'paw' with bricks being thrown on the roof, or at garage doors. As they know it is a waste of time calling the police they no they are safe to get away before the police can get here. As I have said we stopped ringing the police for that reason.

On behalf of all the residents around here we thank you very much, and just hope for the safety and peace of mind of everyone it remains closed.