



*Queens Beach State School*

## **SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN**

*2008*



## **INTRODUCTION**

The aim of developing this School Travel Plan is to reduce the number of school trips that students take by car, in favour of more environmentally friendly and healthier ways of travelling, especially walking and cycling. This School Travel Plan sets out actions to encourage students and their parents/carers to change the way they travel, leading to a range of positive outcomes including:

- ▶ Reduced traffic congestion around the school
- ▶ Improved health for students
- ▶ Increased travel choices for students and parents/carers
- ▶ Improved safety for students and their parents/carers.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOOL**

Queens Beach State School is situated at 39 Tracey Street Bowen. Tracey Street is a main thoroughfare through the Queens Beach area. Tracey Street links a five-ways intersection to a large residential area of Queens Beach. The school is set with one main entrance at Tracey Street with alternate access from Marshall Street which is a dead-end street at the rear of the school oval. At the main entrance, there is a designated Bus Zone for mornings and afternoons. Some buses will drop students on the opposite side of Tracey Street and students must use the Supervised Crossing to walk into the school's entry point. There are also 2 personal entry gates along the fence-line in Tracey Street. These gates are mainly used by pedestrians who walked from the western end of Tracey Street.

There are approximately 350 students attending Queens Beach State School from Prep to Years 7. There are 3 bus routes that service the school with an expectation that the current service will expand in the next few years.

The Bicycles Racks are located on the grassed area adjacent to the entrance to the school grounds. There is a generous number of bicycle racks available for bike riders and adequate surveillance to ensure security.



## **THE CURRENT SITUATION**

Currently, 328 students participated in a hands-up survey in Week 1 (Thursday 17 April) of Term 2 and indicated the following modes of transport were used to get to school.

- 211 students (64%) were driven to school on the day of the survey.
- 44 students (13%) walked their whole journey to school.
- 16 students (5%) cycled to school.
- 23 students (7%) were driven some distance and walked some distance.
- 29 students (9%) travelled to school by bus.



## **SUMMARY OF THE SCHOOL TRAVEL ISSUES**

There is significant traffic congestion around the school entrance between 08.30 a.m. – 09.00 a.m. in the morning and 03.00 p.m. and 03.20 p.m. in the afternoons. Parents complain that there are few parking spaces in close proximity available for them at these times. At times, this congestion results in illegal parking and unsafe dropping off of students. Cyclists and pedestrians have to negotiate a five-way intersection / roundabout approximately 500 metres from the school entrance. There are also 2 intersections and 1 T Junction between the roundabout and the school entrance. There are no designated Walkways / Bikeways in Queens Beach Area. Therefore, it is difficult to encourage more children to cycle or walk in high traffic areas which are close to the school. Formed footpaths would assist in making travel for pedestrians and cyclists more attractive.

## **MONITORING AND REVIEW OF THE SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN**

The formation of an Active Travel Committee will assist in monitoring and reviewing the School Travel Plan by meeting at least once per Term. The members of this committee are representatives of major stakeholder cohorts (i.e. Police, Qld Transport, Education Qld, QBSS P & CA, and Health Promotion Connections).



## PROPOSED INITIATIVES

**Objective 1:** (Eg.) Increase the numbers of students walking to and from school

**Target:** (Eg.) Increase the number of students regularly walking by at least 10% by the end of Term 4 this year

Action	Timeline	Responsibility	Anticipated Costs	Potential funding sources
.Pilot Program - WoW (Walk or Wheel One day per Week) with Years 6, and Years 7 (including Years 5/6).	Term 2 2008	Parent Association, Deputy Principal	\$1000	Eat Well Be Active
Promote the dropping off of groups (2 or more of students) at Marshall Street gate.	Term 2 ongoing.	Parents / Carers		
Annual – Walk Safely to School (May) with practice session prior and after the Official Event.	Term 2 (Term1 additional practice)	Parents / Carers	nil	P & C A – fruit platter.



**Objective 2:**

**Target: Bike Education Program for Year 4 students**

Action	Timeline	Responsibility	Costs
Bob Gould provides this Program in Term 3 with Year 4s.	Term 3 2008	Teachers, students.	



**Objective 3:** Lobby local government for walkways / bikeways.

**Target:** Whitsunday Regional Council

<b>Action</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Costs</b>
Apply for funding to get a consultant to construct a plan for future Walkways / Bikeways.	2008	Key Partners	TBA
Request follow-up visit with local council member Mark Gaudry.	2008	Committee Members	Nil.
Inform SafeST Committee and Road Safety Action Advisory Group.	2008	Committee Members	Nil



**Objective 4: Promote Community Awareness**

**Target: Local Media**

Action	Timeline	Responsibility	Costs
Update local newspaper <i>Bowen Independent</i> of campaigns.	2008	Committee Members	Nil.



**Objective 5:**

**Target:**

Action	Timeline	Responsibility	Costs