

This question is lodged by the Hampton Neighbourhood Association.

**Background to Question:**

1. The 40 plus community members attending the Community Workshop regarding the entry and exit of traffic to the Hampton Activity Centre and associated re-alignment of Koolkunna Lane unanimously voted to request Council Officers to document the criteria that will be used to evaluate the alternatives and recommend a preferred solution. Most importantly the community requested the relative importance assigned to each criteria be made clear as, for example, a different outcome would result if traffic engineering, public transport or maximising development outcomes were weighted higher/lower than impacts on retail traders or local residents.
2. This information was seen as essential for an open and transparent process and provided the best prospects that community members and retailers would understand the basis for decisions that may have substantial negative effects upon their business and homes.
3. The decision-making criteria contained in the agenda for the community meeting and which prompted the question from the Association were listed as:
  - Overall planning for the area (i.e. amenity, safety, precinct functionality, good design, land efficiency and opportunity)
  - Engineering and traffic advice
4. In response to the meeting request Council provided the following response  
“When Council officers prepare a recommendation to Council on which alignment option to adopt, the following matters will inform the officer recommendation:
  - Amenity considerations – for both current and future residents;
  - Community consultation process, including Council’s online forum, written submissions, the community workshop and individual meetings;
  - Efficient use of land;
  - Orderly planning of the area;
  - Pedestrian safety;
  - Traffic engineering advice; and
  - Urban design and functionality”
5. The Association regards this response as falling far short of what was reasonably requested in that the response is “motherhood”, is little different from the information contained in the meeting agenda and contains no information on the key issue of the relative importance of each factor in making the decision.

**Question:**

Are Council officers declining to provide a further reasonable explanation of the decision making criteria they intend to use and the relative importance that they assign to each criteria and if so how can an open and transparent decision making process and an outcome that can be understood by residents and traders be achieved?