

Increasing safety on the Lord Street (Koala Hospital) hill

Submission to Mayor Adam Roberts for PMHC Traffic Committee – March 20 2026

The issue

The parking alongside Lord Street adjacent to Macquarie Nature Reserve (from 135 Lord Street to 105 Lord Street (corner of Crisp Street) is currently posing a traffic hazard and nuisance to bike riders, pedestrians and motorists for the following reasons:

1. Bike riders currently have to dodge parked cars pushing them into the line of traffic
2. This is especially dangerous for inexperienced/ younger cyclists that may weave in and out of parked cars (in a bid to give cars space) unaware this makes them much harder for motorists to see – increasing risk of a collision between cars and bikes.
3. Bikes slowing traffic in this area frequently leads to motorists overtaking over the double lines, often on the blind corner.
4. There is a risk that in overtaking on blind corner motorists could meet oncoming traffic resulting in an accident.
5. On the uphill stretch, there also is a risk that motorists could stick to the inside of the corner and side swipe cyclists not visible due to the blind corner.
6. This is a busy road for bus traffic and the risk of buses side swiping cyclists on the eastern side of the road (going uphill) just around the bend is also significant. The chance of a fatality if this occurred is very high.
7. Once the Koala Hospital reopens in May 2026, there is the additional risk of tourists parking across the road from the Koala Hospital and walking across near the blind corner – putting themselves at risk and creating a hazard.
8. Cars parked on this stretch also pose a risk to cyclists by opening their doors into the roadway – and causing injury through dooring.
9. The road is steep, has blind corners, is very shaded, limiting visibility and the shoulders of the road is often covered in leaf and branch debris – all factors increasing the danger to users of the section of the road.



Better By Bicycle is a bicycle user group for the Port Macquarie-Hastings region.

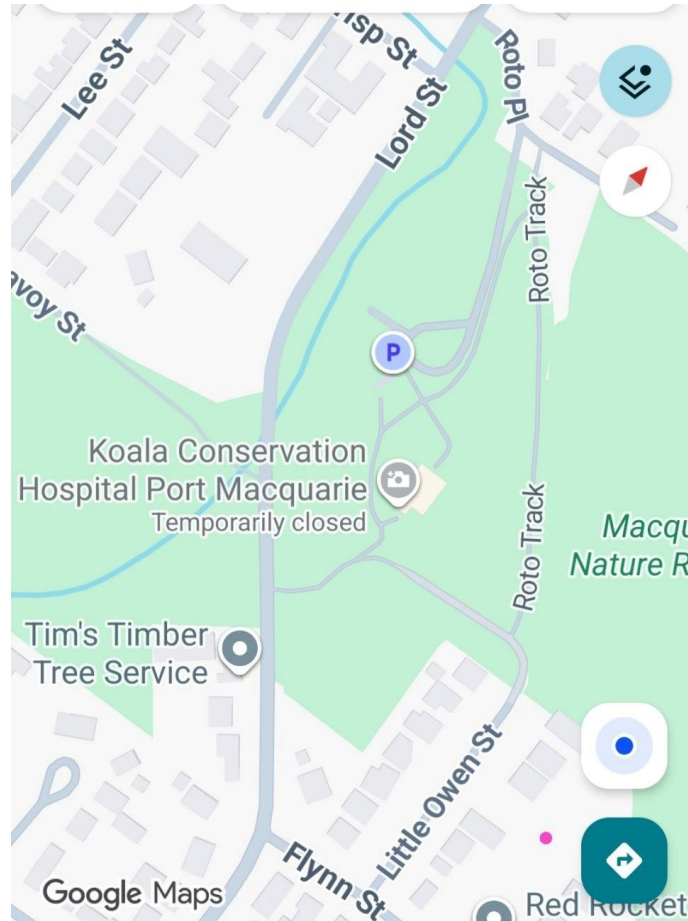


Figure 1: The proposed Lord Street hill no stopping zone would extend from the Crisp Street to the southern end of the Macquarie Nature Reserve – just before Flynn Street.

Suggested Solution

We suggest that in the immediate future:

- This stretch of road becomes a no stopping zone – so that there is no parking on either side of the road - allowing bikes to use the shoulder of the road
- Signage is erected at near Roto Place and Flynn Drive to direct visitors to the two large parking areas at the Koala Hospital and Roto House (one off Roto Place and the other of Little Owen Street).
- The shoulders of the road are regularly cleared of debris – so they can be safely used.
- Raised markings are included on the blind corner (eastern side of the road) to reduce risk of buses side swiping cyclists

These small fixes would massively significantly increase safety and amenity of this section of road for all users.

We suggest that the introduction of no stopping signage is fast tracked to coincide with the reopening of the new Koala Hospital in May – thus making it seem like part of the revamp – and reducing potential push back.



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Future opportunities

- This shoulder area could be converted into a protected cycleway or protected shared cycling and walking path - through the addition of a concrete dividing lip.
- Cycle and walking traffic could be directed through Roto House to Little Owen Street and Flynn Street through signage and resurfacing Roto Track (currently in a poor condition).
- Note: As you can safely ride off road from the CBD to Mallowa Crescent (Wrights Creek Shared Path), just 2 blocks from the entrance to the Koala Hospital, and a shared path is planned on Lord Street (PM 55 PMHC Walking and Cycling Plan), there is a strong argument developing for a City to Koala Hospital Shared trail as a tourism undertaking in future years.

How does this fit with the Walking and Cycling Plan

We note there is a plan for a shared path all the way from Gordon Street to 135 Lord Street in the PMHC Walking and Cycling Plan 2025. We are entirely supportive of this shared path but cognisant that it will need significant investment of money and time and hence not likely in the immediate future.

Our submission is a low-cost solution that could be undertaken in the next PMHC Operational Plan period.

We request that funding and construction of this solution is included in the 2026 PMHC Operational Plan.

How will this affect the Koala Hospital/ Roto House and other neighbouring residents?

There is significant parking available for workers, volunteers and visitors to the Koala Hospital and Roto House - in the large car park off Roto Place and the smaller one off Little Owen Street, so creating a no stopping zone is likely to have minimal impact to these organisations.

We have spoken with the proprietor of Home at Roto House (Jess) and NPWS managers (Libby) and they both have no issue with creating a no stopping zone as outlined in the attached proposal. Although unable to get through to the manager of the Koala Hospital, it is unlikely they would have significant issues with it either, as long as the ambulance entrance on Lord Street is maintained.

On a cadastral map – you can see there is a house at 113 Lord Street. This house is set well back from the road on a long driveway and big block and has no history of using the street frontage for parking.

Other issues to consider

Tim's Timber (resident of 137 Lord Street) has been parking their fleet of vehicles – trucks, mulchers, utility vehicles along this stretch of road for many years – it is likely that there will be flow on effects of Tim's Timber moving his fleet either downhill to near 113 Lord Street or uphill. It is likely that this business will not be supportive of the decision to make the area a no stopping



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zone. However, considering this is the needs of one business in conflict with the safety and amenity of the thousands of motorists, cyclists and walkers that use this section of road daily we believe this inconvenience to a singular individual is justified.

Any questions?

Better By Bicycle Port Macquarie is committed to working with PMHC to improve the safety and amenity of our roads for all users – particularly bike riders. We would love to have the opportunity to talk with and work with the council on this matter further.



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