

Petition No. 10.1 **Middle Pocket Road**
Directorate: Infrastructure Services
Report Author: Evan Elford, Team Leader Infrastructure Planning
File No: I2018/496
5 **Theme:** Community Infrastructure
 Local Roads and Drainage

At Council's Ordinary meeting held on 22 March 2018 Cr Richardson tabled a petition containing 148 signatures which states:

10 "We, the residents of Middle Pocket Road, wish to bring to your attention again:

15 The appalling negligence and duty of care of Middle Pocket Road. This has been tolerated for over 45 years or so. We are calling on something to be done about the Road damage, inadequate drainage and potholes upon potholes on Middle Pocket road. The neglect has brought about a vast increase in car maintenance due to abnormal wear and tear on our vehicles. The council have admitted Middle Pocket Road is in need of a new road but constantly waist money adding to the bumps with an inefficient pot hole top up occasionally. This washes away immediately the rain comes because the drains are higher than the road on most occasions and is not being addressed seriously and adequately. The council tick the "Done Box" and we are still left with the damage a week later. The reasons stated from the council is because there are not enough funds so the false economy continues. This is not a good enough excuse, especially when there have been numerous accidents and some near fatal, due to having to avoid large pot holes for miles.

25 The abhorrent condition of this road is regularly compromised because of flood damage that has not been addressed adequately. We as residents of Middle Pocket Road are now all seriously compromised.

30 Our plea is to encourage you to fix this road and refund all mechanical bills that we have occurred such as: shock absorbers, suspension rebuild, breaks, tires, realignments and so on...not to mention damage due to falling branches and over hanging trees. The turnaround point at the end of Middle Pocket Road for the garbage truck, the school bus, semi trailers and other large vehicles is a nightmare.

35 We the rate payers are tired of miss spent, miss managed public money. Byron does not need more Palm Trees and we need to be safe and not be bombarded with an abnormal amount of mechanical fees.

40 We shall await your feedback, if the council cannot manage its finances to keep its residents safe, then you must appeal to for funding from state and Federal Government as this is a life and death situation".

Comments from Director Infrastructure Services:

45 Council understands the frustrations of the community in this regard and has been working on a number of strategies to address maintenance backlog across all community infrastructure across the shire.

50 The condition of the roads in Byron Shire is a major source of complaint from residents and accordingly, Council has increased spending in this area significantly in recent years. Council is now approaching its second year of a Special Rate Variation and the allocation of funding of roadworks is undertaken in accordance with Council's established risk based management procedures.

55 Because the road network was historically underfunded for many years fixing them, whilst a priority, is a long and slow process.

Information about roadworks is available on the Council's website.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the petition regarding Middle Pocket Road be noted.