

The Hon. Rob Stokes MP
Minister for Planning & Public Spaces
GPO Box 5341
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear The Hon Rob Stokes MP,

Re: The Alexandra Canal Cycleway

We were heartened by your recent announcementⁱ that you wanted to resolve previous conflict with City of Sydney Council over cycleways, and to use public space to encourage walking, running and bike riding.

We ask you to reconsider previous plans to remove the Alexandra Canal Cyclewayⁱⁱ as part of the Sydney Gateway development. Removing this safe, off-road connection for people walking and riding bikes undermines an \$80 million investmentⁱⁱⁱ by City of Sydney Council and Sydney Water in active transport infrastructure.

Cutting the Alexandra Canal Cycleway undermines City of Sydney's efforts to expand the congestion-busting bike network^{iv} that improves the safety of people riding bikes and frees up space for truck freight movement. Plans to replace these links on road are less safe and unsuitable for children, older riders and families. We are also concerned that planned walking and cycling infrastructure has had a history of 'evaporating' before delivery.

We are calling for the Alexandra Canal Cycleway to be retained. If this proves impossible, then we support calls by BikEast and signatories to the online petition^v for shared paths:

- along Alexandra Canal from Tempe Reserve to Coward St (equivalent to or better than current provision) during and after construction.
- from Alexandra Canal connected to the Domestic Terminal and to the Bayside Council eastern cycling network
- from Alexandra Canal to Sydenham Station and to Sydney Park.

We are concerned that safe, separated infrastructure be of a standard suitable for everyone to use. Painted lines on roadways will not be sufficient to achieve the mode-shift to active transport required under the Future 2056 Transport Plan.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further information.

Warm Regards

Alistair Ferguson
Bicycle NSW, CEO

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- ⁱ Caitlin Fitzsimmons, Stokes aims to mend State-Council rift to make Sydney cycle-friendly, Sydney Morning Herald, (2019) [Online 21/5/2019] <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/stokes-aims-to-mend-state-council-rift-to-make-sydney-cycle-friendly-20190504-p51k11.html>
- ⁱⁱ Lester Ranby, Cyclists forced to move aside for new motorway to Sydney Airport, Sydney Morning Herald, (2019) [Online 21/5/2019] <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/cyclists-forced-to-move-aside-for-new-motorway-to-sydney-airport-20190213-p50xja.html>
- ⁱⁱⁱ Bicycle NSW, Stop active transport sabotage, (2019) [Online 21/5/2019] <https://bicyclensw.org.au/stop-active-transport-sabotage/>
- ^{iv} City of Sydney, Growing Sydney's congestion-busting bike network (2018) [Online 21/5/2019] <https://news.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/articles/growing-sydneys-congestion-busting-bike-network>
- ^v BikEast, Save the Alexandra Canal Cycleway petition, Change.org [Online 21/5/2019] https://www.change.org/p/save-the-alexandra-canal-cycleway-ensure-connections-to-existing-and-future-links?recruiter=7592505&utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=copypink&utm_campaign=share_petition