



JO HAYLEN MP

STATE MEMBER FOR SUMMER HILL

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Roads
GPO BOX 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

17 April 2020

ACTIVE TRANSPORT LINKS AND COVID-19

Dear Minister,

I have been contacted by a number of active transport stakeholders including Bicycle NSW and Walk Sydney about important proposals to increase access to cycling and active transport in response to the COVID-19 health crisis.

During the pandemic, there has been a noticeable increase in cycling and walking as residents turn to active transport for exercise, to cut their transport costs, or to safely commute to and from work while maintaining healthy social distancing.

Reportedly, a considerable number of health care workers and members of the broader community are opting to ride or walk as an alternative to public transport and we should do more to protect and support these frontline workers as they work to combat the pandemic and keep our community safe.

Unfortunately, as more people walk or ride, our active transport infrastructure is coming under unprecedented pressure and we must act to protect the safety of all those who use it.

Stakeholders have put forward a number of proposals that deserve urgent attention, including:

- **Fully automating all press buttons at pedestrian crossings and intersections across NSW** to assist social distancing and other public health measures to curtail the spread of COVID-19;
- **Reallocating road space for the purposes of cycling and walking** to reduce congestion on cycleways and paths like the BayRun, which have come under extraordinary pressure throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- **Installing temporary cycleways near major NSW hospitals** to assist the rising number of health workers who are opting to ride or walk to work as part of their precautions against catching the virus.

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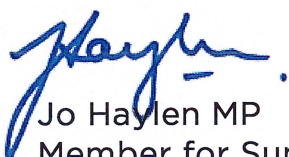
I urge the NSW Government to work with local councils and statutory authorities to adopt these proposals and work with the relevant stakeholders to ensure our active transport infrastructure is safe.

I note that in New Zealand, the Government is expanding footpaths and implementing temporary cycleways to provide people with the opportunity to travel and exercise while staying at least 1.5m from each other. Similarly, in Germany pop-up bike lanes have been rolled out to help with coronavirus physical distancing.

While the health, economic and environmental benefits of active transport are well-established, it is clear that they have never been more pronounced as in this health crisis and I ask that you consider supporting this proposal to expand these important active transport links at a time when they are most in need.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Haylen', with a small horizontal line under the 'n' and a period at the end.

Jo Haylen MP
Member for Summer Hill