

The Hon. Andrew Constance MP
52 Martin Place,
Sydney NSW 2000

24th March, 2020

Dear Minister Constance

Re: Improving the safety of Transport for NSW Projects for Bike riders

Bicycle NSW has long worked with the NSW government providing advice and advocacy to make NSW a better place for all bicycle riders.

We have a 43-year history of preparing submissions, attending meetings, providing advice, and of specific advocacy where safety issues occur on state significant construction projects. We appreciated your words in budget estimates last year, expressing your expectation that departments listen to our advice.

Unfortunately, major infrastructure projects are failing to share safety audit reports with us, the advice we provide in meetings is often ignored if it involves cost or inconvenience, we are never provided with opportunities for a 'ride through' before detours or projects are opened to the public to test that they are safe, and when we report hazards or dangerous practices they are not rectified in a timely manner.

This fails to conform with the Austroads Guidelines that Transport for NSW is a key contributor to. It does not protect people and it undermines the active transport goals of the NSW Government. It also falls well short of your expectations.

This video analysis [<https://youtu.be/nK6Q3shTHsw>] was produced by a keen cyclist with relevant experience, but independently of Bicycle NSW. Its focus is the Rozelle Interchange project, and we are aware you are not responsible for this project due to the potential for perceived conflict of interest you identified in budget estimates earlier this month. However, many of the same types of issues arose on the Sydney and Newcastle Light Rail projects, and they continue to arise on other projects.

We are confident that if Transport for NSW and the NSW Government were to change the way project managers and contractors work with Bicycle NSW to better conform with the Austroads guidelines and the Transport for NSW training delivered for construction managers on bike related road projects:

- injuries could be prevented, during and post construction
- the government could save money on rectification and injury claims
- litigation could be avoided
- the NSW Government's active transport targets in Future Transport 2056 could be met more rapidly
- health, road congestion and carbon pollution targets could be met as more people feel safe to ride bikes

Covid-19 social distancing requirements are likely to see greater need for bike riding as a form of transport and to deliver goods and food. Hospitals will face enormous pressure and we need to do all we can to improve the safety of active transport, reducing the burden injuries place on strained health services.

We will direct our specific issues related to the Rozelle Interchange project to the Hon. Minister Paul Toole MP. However, we would welcome the opportunity to work with you to develop process improvements that would apply to all NSW Government projects to better enable Bicycle NSW to improve the safety, amenity and effective delivery for bike riding and the community.

Yours faithfully,

Bastien Wallace
General Manager of Public Affairs
Bicycle NSW