

The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP  
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parramatta@parliament.nsw.gov.au

17<sup>th</sup> July, 2020

Dear The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP,

**Re: Parramatta Light Rail safety issues for bike riders**

I am writing to you on behalf of our members and bike riders who ride in and through Parramatta. As the peak body representing people who ride bikes in NSW we want to ensure the Parramatta Light Rail Project delivers safety and amenity for bike riders during and post construction. We have learned lessons from the hazards created by the contractor delivering the Sydney Light Rail Project, and from the death of our member as a direct result of poor intersection design on the Newcastle Light Rail Project.

Bicycle NSW recognised the importance of ensuring these mistakes were not repeated in Parramatta. Recent investments by the State Government and Council in Parramatta in building infrastructure have seen a significant rise in bike riding. Whilst this is great news, less experienced riders may find it more difficult to cope with hazards in the riding environment.

The diversity of the community in Parramatta may also mean that a greater proportion of riders have English as an additional language. This is likely to increase the risk to riders if detours or the final network are illegible.

We have advocated strongly for improvements in the legibility of the network and detours on all projects that impact riders. Unfortunately the Sydney Light Rail and Rozelle Interchange Projects fall well short of the standards set out in the Austroads or State Guidelines or the Safe Systems Approach of the NSW State Government.

Bicycle NSW has participated in meetings, prepared our submission<sup>1</sup> and worked in good faith, at our expense. We provided a 'lessons learned report' at the request of Transport for NSW collating many examples of persistent safety failures from the Sydney Light Rail Project in order to ensure these were avoided in Parramatta. We also offered to enhance the way we work on this project through providing ride-through audits prior to detours or final construction being opened to the public.

In spite of our best endeavors, the hard work by Parramatta Council staff, and even objections to elements of the plans based on safety grounds by Transport for NSW staff, we are left with cyclist Network' that is dangerous, disconnected and illegible. Bicycle NSW resorted to dark humor to make a point,<sup>i</sup> when all the meetings, submissions,<sup>ii</sup> letters<sup>iii</sup> and hard work failed.

We believe people in Parramatta deserve to ride safely during and after the light rail project is built. The Premier and Transport Minister need as many of us as possible to travel by bike, to reduce the spread of COVID-19<sup>iv</sup>, and the Prime Minister has identified food delivery workers on bikes as essential<sup>v</sup>. We are seeking your assistance to ensure plans are amended to keep the people of Parramatta safe.

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<sup>1</sup>Bastien Wallace, Bicycle NSW, [Online 26/5/2020] <https://bicyclensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BNSW-Submission-2020.pdf>

A rider paid the ultimate price on Parramatta Road for a failure to adopt modern heavy vehicle safety standards, when he was hit by a Westconnex contractor working on the A3 Tunnel Project. We are calling for all heavy vehicles working on government projects to be fitted with side underrun protection and blind-spot detection.

The current plans propose severing existing connections and delivering a patchwork of disconnected cycling paths:

- through Church Street by turning this into a pedestrian only zone
- by turning a section of Macquarie Street into a pedestrian only zone
- at Horwood Place, the last remaining safe north-south rideable street, by prohibiting through traffic of bikes at George Street and stopping all right turns
- removing existing shared path access without the same facility on Harris Street
- delivering new paths in North Parramatta and from Carlingford that dump riders onto busy roads a block or two away from existing paths
- recreating the same deadly crossing configurations that pose a risk to cyclists, and that killed Danny Egan in Newcastle. Of the 59 cyclist movements across tracks 46 (78% of instances) are at dangerous angles according to your table of measurements.

These plans force cyclists onto busy streets and making large parts of the Parramatta CBD inaccessible to all but the bravest riders. This contravenes the condition of consent and makes a mockery of your undertaking to integrate and conform with the:

- Future Transport 2056 Plan<sup>vi</sup>
- Road Safety Plan 2020 (Towards Zero)<sup>vii</sup>
- Disability Inclusion Plan<sup>viii</sup>
- Tourism & Transport Plan
- Older Persons Transport and Mobility Plan 2018-2022<sup>ix</sup>
- Austroads Guide to Road Design – Part 6A Walking & Cycling<sup>x</sup>
- Australian Standards:
  - AS2890.3 Parking Facilities: Part 3 – Bicycle Parking Facilities
  - AS1742 Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices
  - AS1743 Road Signs - Specifications
- RMS 2013 supplements to the Australian Standards including AS1742 Part 9: Bicycle facilities

It also fails to comply with:

- Austroads Guide to Temporary Traffic Management<sup>xi</sup>
- Austroads Guide to Road Design<sup>2</sup>
- Austroads Guide to Road Safety<sup>3</sup>

The consultation for the pedestrian and cyclist strategy came after the design was finalised. It is completely unworkable, unsafe, fails to comply with the guidelines and regulations for engineering for bicycles. Bicycle NSW has developed Ray's Corner<sup>4</sup> to draw together and visually explain the relevant guidelines, regulations and laws applicable to engineering for bike riders.

Bicycle NSW recommends re-designing this plan to actually become a facilities strategy for cyclists that provides a safe, well connected, coherent network of cycleways, shared paths and safe spaces suitable for riders of all ages to use. We are prepared to provide more detailed engagement and help ensure that this project meets the needs of people in Parramatta now and in the future.

<sup>2</sup> Austroads Guide to Road Design (2019) [Online 1/4/2020] <https://austroads.com.au/publications/road-design/agrd-set>

<sup>3</sup> Austroads Guide to Road Safety (2019) [Online 1/4/2020] <https://austroads.com.au/publications/road-safety/agrs-set>

<sup>4</sup> Bicycle NSW [Online 26/5/2020] <https://bicyclensw.org.au/rays-corner/>

Dr Lee are you able to help us please? We want this project to deliver on the investment the people of NSW have made in its success through providing safe active transport that connects with public transport and communities.

Yours faithfully,

Bastien Wallace BA LLB  
General Manager – Public Affairs  
Bicycle NSW

<sup>i</sup> Bicycle NSW (27/5/2020) [Online 17/7/2020] <https://bicyclensw.org.au/your-safety-is-no-joke-parramatta-light-rail/>

<sup>ii</sup> Bicycle NSW (2/4/2020) [Online 17/7/2020] <https://bicyclensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/BNSW-Submission-2020.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> Bicycle NSW (27/5/2020) [Online 17/7/2020] <https://bicyclensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Response-to-cyclist-facilitates-strategy.pdf> Bastien Wallace, Bicycle NSW, [Online 17/7/2020] [https://bicyclensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200324-Improving-the-safety-of-Transport-for-NSW-Projects-for-Bike-riders\\_Constance.pdf](https://bicyclensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200324-Improving-the-safety-of-Transport-for-NSW-Projects-for-Bike-riders_Constance.pdf) Bastien Wallace, Bicycle NSW, [Online 17/7/2020] [https://bicyclensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200324-Improving-the-safety-of-Transport-for-NSW-Projects-for-Bike-riders\\_Toole.pdf](https://bicyclensw.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/20200324-Improving-the-safety-of-Transport-for-NSW-Projects-for-Bike-riders_Toole.pdf)

<sup>iv</sup> [Eden Gillespie](#), 10 daily (18/5/2020) [Online 26/5/2020] <https://10daily.com.au/news/politics/a200512iqksm/nsw-introduces-pop-up-carparks-and-bike-lanes-to-limit-spread-of-coronavirus-20200517>

<sup>v</sup> Prime Minister of Australia, The Australian Government (24/3/2020) [Online 26/5/2020] <https://www.pm.gov.au/media/update-coronavirus-measures-24-March-2020>

<sup>vi</sup> NSW Government, Future Transport 2056 [Online 1/4/2020] <https://future.transport.nsw.gov.au/plans/future-transport-strategy/future-transport-greater-sydney>, Points 3-5

<sup>vii</sup> NSW Government, Road Safety Plan 2020(Towards Zero) (2018) [Online 1/4/2020] <https://towardszero.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2018-02/road-safety-plan.pdf>

<sup>viii</sup> NSW Government, Disability Inclusion Plan (2015) [Online 1/4/2020] <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/download?file=313495>

<sup>ix</sup> NSW Government, Older Persons Transport and Mobility Plan 2018-2022 (2018) [Online 1/4/2020] [https://future.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/media/documents/2018/Older%20Persons%20Transport%20and%20Mobility%20Plan\\_0.pdf](https://future.transport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/media/documents/2018/Older%20Persons%20Transport%20and%20Mobility%20Plan_0.pdf)

<sup>x</sup> Austroads Guide to Road Design – Part 6A Walking & Cycling (2017) [Online 1/4/2020] <https://austroads.com.au/publications/road-design/agrd06a>

<sup>xi</sup> Austroads Guide to Temporary Traffic Management (2019) [Online 1/4/2020] <https://austroads.com.au/publications/temporary-traffic-management/agttm-set>