

5th November, 2020

Bayside Council
Planning Our Green Spaces Consultation

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Planning our Green Spaces

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the green space plans for Bayside. Bicycle NSW has been the peak bicycle advocacy group now in NSW for over forty-four years, and has over 30 affiliated local Bicycle User Groups.

Bicycle NSW advocates for safe cycling infrastructure suitable for everyone to ride on, from 8-80 years of age. This offers the best chance of ensuring people can ride safely, congestion can be reduced and public health increased.¹ This benefits the whole community, including those who don't ride bikes.

Bayside Council has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve the way green space is used and people move around, through and to this area. The Bardwell Valley Parklands and Wolli Creek² corridor offers the opportunity to improve safe active travel options to the west and north, the Rockdale Wetlands Corridor³ offers similar opportunities to improve north-south connections, whilst the Mill Stream and Botany Wetlands Corridor⁴ can provide them to the east and north.

All three areas need to facilitate connections to and between local schools, stations, sports fields and community facilities. This enables more people to travel without needing to add to road and motor vehicle congestion, and it offers opportunities to reduce school traffic congestion.

Due to the position of Sydney Airport and freight unloading, Bayside Council has an outside impact from heavy vehicle and fast moving traffic. Residents and travelers through and to the area urgently need safe active travel routes to enable around thirty thousand airport staff to travel to and from work, commuters to access workplaces and services to the north and east, and locals to reach schools, transport hubs and services.

Providing safe active transport connections aligns well with the State Government's Future Transport 2056 Strategy⁵ to get more people travelling by foot and bicycle. It also meets the immediate need for road and public transport decongestion to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. At a local level, well developed active travel connections through and along these corridors offer the opportunity to transform the lives of Bayside Council residents for the better.

Yours faithfully,

Bastien Wallace BA LLB
General Manager of Public Affairs
Bicycle NSW

¹ Bicycle NSW Policy pillars [online as at 5/11/2020] <https://bicyclensw.org.au/our-policy/>

² Bayside Council, Bardwell Valley Parklands and Wolli Creek [online as at 5/11/2020] <https://haveyoursay.bayside.nsw.gov.au/planningourgreespaces/maps/bardwellvalley>

³ Bayside Council, Bardwell Valley Parklands and Wolli Creek [online as at 5/11/2020] <https://haveyoursay.bayside.nsw.gov.au/planningourgreespaces/maps/rockdalewetlands>

⁴ Bayside Council, Bardwell Valley Parklands and Wolli Creek [online as at 5/11/2020] <https://haveyoursay.bayside.nsw.gov.au/planningourgreespaces/maps/mill-stream-and-botany-wetlands>

⁵ NSW Government, Future Transport 2056 Strategy [online as at 5/11/2020]