

General Manager
Waverley Council
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15th December 2022

Dear Waverley Council,

Re: Curlewis Street upgrades – updated design

Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional support for the plans to upgrade Curlewis Street in Bondi with new landscaping, wider footpaths, safer crossings and a bi-directional separated bicycle path.

Bicycle NSW has been the peak bicycle advocacy group in NSW for forty-seven years, and has more than 30 affiliated local Bicycle User Groups. Our mission is to *'create a better environment for all bicycle riders'*, and we support improvements to facilities for pedestrians and cyclists. We advocate for new cycling routes that incorporate dedicated paths within both green corridors and the road environment, to provide connections to jobs, schools and services for daily transport and recreation trips. Bike riding provides a healthy, congestion-reducing, low-carbon form of travel that is quiet, efficient and attractive for all ages with the correct infrastructure design.

Curlewis Street is now the major missing link in the regional bicycle route from the CBD to Bondi Beach. As set out in our June 2022 [submission](#), Bicycle NSW fully supports the proposed Curlewis Street cycleway. We expressed a strong preference for Option One for the western end of Curlewis Street (Figure 1). Option One removes the slip lane from the junction with Old South Head Road to improve pedestrian safety and amenity and allow much needed landscaping to be added to the streetscape. Slip lanes are dangerous as they permit vehicles to turn without slowing down. When the fast movement of vehicles is facilitated, people are less likely to walk or cycle, or allow their children to travel independently.

The updated design, which removes the left hand turn into Simpson St and provides a more direct route to Curlewis Street for pedestrian and bike riders, further improves the Curlewis Street cycleway (Figure 2). Bicycle NSW congratulates Waverley Council for achieving a very high-quality outcome in a dense and contested urban environment.

We would like to reiterate two further points:

1. In June, we advocated for a raised pedestrian/cycle crossing where the shared path crosses Blair St. Cars move very fast down here after turning from Old South Head Road, although it is hoped the removal of the slip lane will tame speed. If a raised crossing isn't possible, please aim to narrow the vehicle lane as much as possible to ensure that vehicles slow down so people of all ages and abilities can cross the road safely.
2. The critical junction of Blair and Curlewis Streets with O'Sullivan, Birriga and Old South Head Roads is a complex mess that hasn't been upgraded since the trams were removed from Birriga and Curlewis. The conditions are extremely poor for pedestrians and cyclists, limiting the benefits of the existing and proposed cycleways that intersect at this point.

It is important to plan now for a safer crossing of Old South Head Road to reach both Birriga Road, for the regional route to Bondi Junction, and O'Sullivan Road, where we hope that Woollahra Council will soon deliver a cycleway to complete the Bondi Beach to Rose Bay connection, improving access to the ferries and reducing pressure from residents and visitors on the Bondi Road buses.

We ask Waverley Council to recognise the importance of this intersection and align with Woollahra Council to lobby Transport for NSW to develop and fund an appropriate design solution as soon as possible.

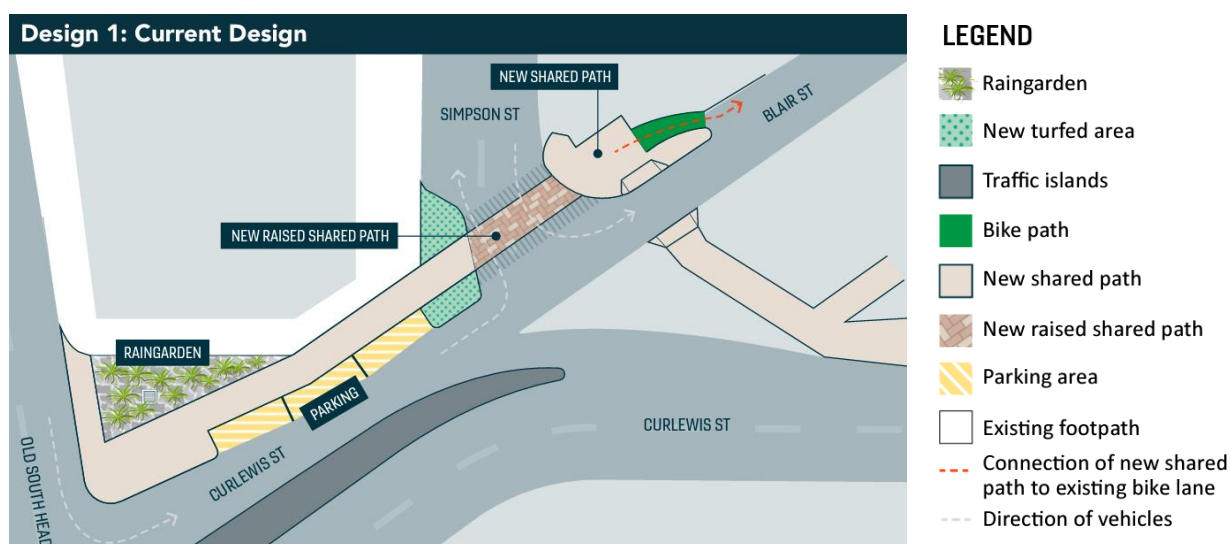


Figure 1: Option One was supported by Bicycle NSW and a majority of community respondents to the engagement surveyⁱ (Source: Waverley Council)

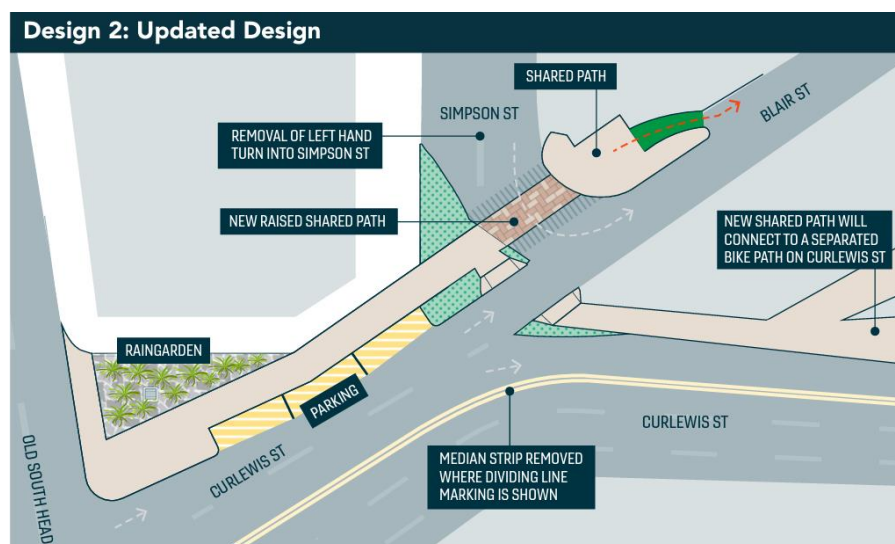


Figure 2: The removal of the left hand turn into Simpson St further improves safety and allows a more direct route for pedestrians and bike riders to Curlewis Street (Source: Waverley Council)

There has never been a better time to build infrastructure for bike riding and active transport. The Minister for Active Transport, Rob Stokes MP, set out in a recent speechⁱⁱ that walking and cycling projects which stitch the suburbs together and enable people of all ages and abilities to get around without a car are more sustainable than megaprojects. He stressed that the NSW Government will focus on completing missing links in the active transport network. Such smaller projects have big benefits, and not only for reducing

pollution and congestion. Active mobility improves public health, activates high streets, helps build social connections and addresses inequality.

We are very excited to see Waverley Council making such progress to deliver high-quality active transport infrastructure. The newly completed cycleway through Bondi Junction is a fantastic facility in a key strategic location. Ridership will undoubtedly grow as more connections to the surrounding residential areas are created. We can't wait to ride from the city centre to Bondi Beach via the completed safe cycleway on Curlewis Street. Please now get on and build it!

Bicycle NSW looks forward to working with Waverley Council to progress the delivery of its integrated cycle network. Please reach out with any questions or help needed. If requested, we would be delighted to assist with advocating for new bicycle infrastructure through our connections with politicians, Transport for NSW and neighbouring metropolitan councils.

Yours faithfully,



Sarah Bickford

Active Transport Planner
Bicycle NSW



Peter McLean

Chief Executive Officer
Bicycle NSW

ⁱ Waverley Council. 2022, July. Curlewis Street consultation report.
https://haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/download_file/3190/1005

ⁱⁱ Stokes, Rob. 2022, Feb 10. Footpaths and cycleways are an act of democracy – ask Steph. Fifth Estate.
<https://thefifthestate.com.au/urbanism/planning/footpaths-and-cycleways-are-an-act-of-democracy-ask-steph/>