

Department of Planning  
Wollongong Council

Via email: [council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@wollongong.nsw.gov.au)

30<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Dear Wollongong Council,

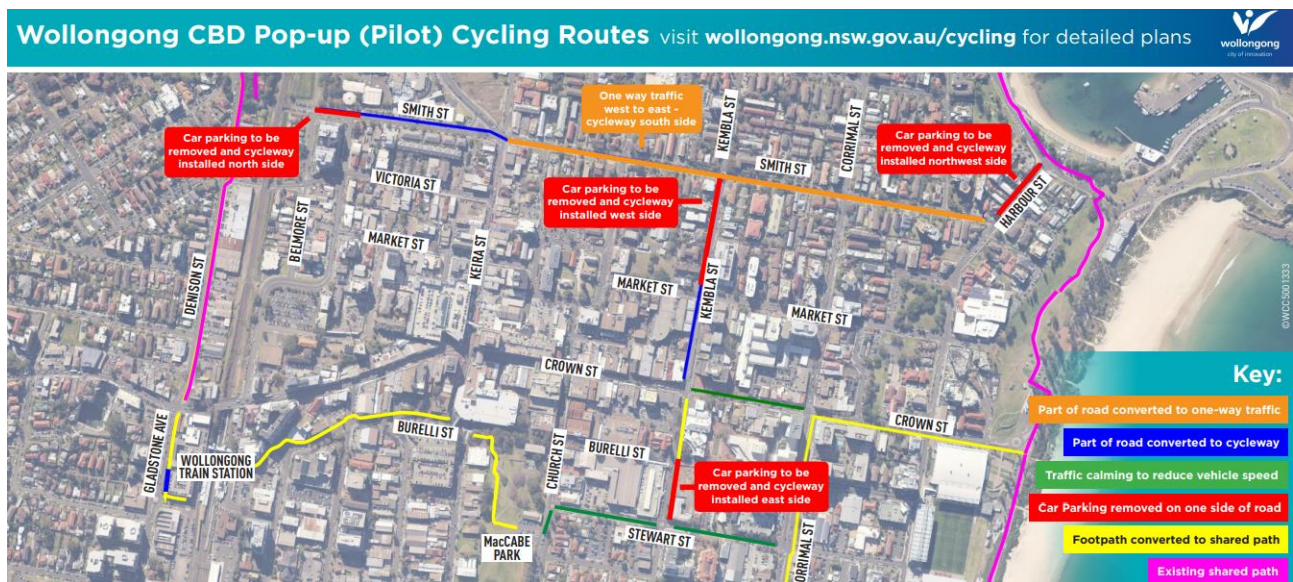
**Re: Provision of pop up cycleways**

Bicycle NSW has been the peak bicycle advocacy group in NSW for over forty-five years, and has more than 30 affiliated local Bicycle User Groups. Our mission is to ‘create a better environment for all bicycle riders’ be they 8 or 80. We support active transport (AT) in all its forms because it is, ‘an innate environmental and human right’ and a vital civilizing influence.

**We write to you to express our strong and enthusiastic support for the provision of pop up cycle ways throughout the City of Wollongong.**

The following pop up cycleways shall be installed in conjunction with traffic calming and the removal or retention of car parking to allow roadspace for active transport:

Smith St between Harbour St and Keira St facing west; Smith St between Keira St and Belmore St facing west; Kembla St between Crown St and Market St facing north; Gladstone Ave outside station carpark facing south; Harbour St between Smith St and Cliff Rd facing northeast; Kembla St between Market St and Smith St facing north; Kembla St between Burelli St and Stewart St facing south; Smith St between Belmore St and Young St facing east.



Pop up bicycle infrastructure has been shown to be the most cost-effective and immediate way to improve the rider experience of safety, comfort, convenience, directness and attractiveness. They are a great way to test the network before committing to permanent infrastructure. In doing so, it enhances walkability by increasing the network of dedicated, separated bicycle infrastructure. Just as widening motorways is proven to increase car traffic and the attendant social and environmental ills, the same law of induced applies to cycleways, and bike riding but with positive socioeconomic and environmental outcomes. As demonstrated in Europe, the US, New Zealand and Sydney, the addition of temporary, safe bicycle infrastructure has been

shown to increase bicycle usage beyond the areas delineated by the infrastructure itself<sup>i</sup>. The global COVID lockdown period from 2020-2022 provided a window whereby pop up cycleways demonstrated the positive relationship between safe bicycle infrastructure and mode shift<sup>ii</sup>. And, so long as the infrastructure remains, so does the uptake of bike riding<sup>iii</sup>.

Bicycle NSW applauds the efforts made by Wollongong Council to enhance pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Return on Investment for bicycle infrastructure varies from 5:1<sup>iv</sup> and 13:1<sup>v</sup> depending on usage and connectedness. The proposed location is in a key, populous quarter of the CBD. For this reason, and the linkages to existing network connections, we would expect maximum return on infrastructure investment.

In order to rapidly decarbonise and improve health, safety and transport equity across the state, Bicycle NSW is committed to increasing mode share from driving to active transport. We are therefore excited about the new pop up cycleways planned for Wollongong and look forward to promoting the outcomes which we expect will inspire other LGAs across regional NSW as they seek to accelerate their own active transport plans.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Francis O'Neill".

Francis O'Neill

Head of Advocacy  
Bicycle NSW

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. McLean".

Peter McLean

Chief Executive Officer  
Bicycle NSW

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<sup>i</sup> Proceedings of The National Academy of Science, <https://www.pnas.org/doi/pdf/10.1073/pnas.2024399118>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://bicyclensw.org.au/mass-increase-in-bike-riders-during-covid-19/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://roads-waterways.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/popup-covid-19-infrastructure/index.html>

<sup>iv</sup> Infrastructure Queensland 2019, *Cycling investment in Queensland*, <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Travel-and-transport/Cycling/Cycling-investment-in-Queensland>

<sup>v</sup> UK Government 2021, *The value of cycling*,

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/509587/value-of-cycling.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/509587/value-of-cycling.pdf)