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Bicycle NSW feedback: Coffs Harbour Draft City Spine Renewal Design Guide

1 message

Sarah Bickford <sarah.bickford@bicyclensw.org.au> 26 October 2026 at 17:21
To: Sarah Bickford <sarah.bickford@bicyclensw.org.au>

From: **Have Your Say** <notifications@granicus.com>
Date: Mon, 26 Oct 2026 at 17:03
Subject: Thank you for your submission.
To: <sarah.bickford@bicyclensw.org.au>

Thank you for making a submission.

Your submission is included below for reference.

Please provide feedback on the Draft City Spine Renewal Design Guide

Dear City of Coffs Harbour,

Thank you for inviting us to comment on the Draft City Spine Renewal Design Guide.

Bicycle NSW has been the peak bicycle advocacy group in NSW for fifty years, with 37 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. 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.

Bicycle NSW strongly supports council's plans to reimagine the Pacific Highway for its bypassed future. There is such an exciting opportunity to reallocate road space from vehicles to people.

The Draft City Spine Renewal Design Guide sets out a strategy to convert the current traffic sewer into the centre piece of a thriving town centre. We are pleased to see lower speed limits, improved pedestrian crossings, more tree canopy and streetscape improvements.

However, **we are very concerned that the current plan does not enable people of all ages and abilities to cycle in the city centre**.

There is a short length of separated cycleway planned, but it stops short of the intended destinations at each end. The plans do not achieve the stated outcome of creating 'safe, accessible and legible pedestrian and cycling connections between destinations throughout the City Centre'.

This is major shortcoming in these early proposals that must be addressed before the renewal project progresses.

Recommendations:

- Continue the separated bicycle path to Coffs Street and Orlando Street. It may be necessary to reallocate a little more road space at the intersections. However, safe access for people must be the priority for the future Coffs Harbour. There is already so much space dedicated to the movement and storage of private vehicles in the centre of Coffs.

- Designate the widened footpaths on the Pacific Highway in the city centre as shared paths. There will be far too many vehicles for on road cycling to be an all ages and abilities option here. With the proposed 40km/h speed limit, confident riders may be happy to use the road but there needs to be a shared path for everyone else to access businesses and bus stops on the highway.

- Future proof the streetscape upgrade so a separated cycleway can be added later once demand for bicycle access has increased. This could be achieved by converting a parking lane or a vehicle lane into a separated bicycle path.

- Lower the speed limit in the CBD (except the Pacific Highway) to 30km/h. Mixed traffic cycling is feasible for city centre streets but only with a speed limit of 30km/h and suitable traffic calming. The NSW Cycleway design Toolbox sets out possible treatments to create Quietways.

- Provide plenty of bicycle parking that does not impede the pedestrian realm. In particular, prepare for the future arrival of shared e-bikes with a plan to create on-road parking hubs as needed. Design welcoming spaces for food delivery riders to park, wait for orders and rest between jobs.

- Consult with Bicycle User Groups as the plans are developed. Bicycle NSW has a network of 37 affiliated BUGs. BUG members have local expertise on the best routes, the current challenges, and optimum solutions that would meet the needs of a wide range of bike riders. Bicycle NSW should be invited to workshops and advisory groups as a key stakeholder.

- Don't be concerned about travel times increasing as vehicle speeds are reduced and slip lanes removed. Some delay is a positive outcome. Traffic will move more slowly, create less noise and cause fewer safety issues. People driving more slowly will have a better view of businesses and street life. It will be easier to stop.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email or on 0431 961520 if you would like to discuss the issues raised in this submission. Bicycle NSW looks forward to updates on the city centre renewal plans and future opportunities to contribute to the planning and detailed design.

Many kind regards,

Sarah Bickford

Bike Planner Bicycle NSW

Thanks again

Have Your Say Coffs Harbour