



Submission on 2023 Bike Plan Refresh

We have only just discovered this plan and we commend Council on the work that it has carried out in the past to make Parramatta River a pleasant active transport link. However we have a few issues with refresh plan

Charles Street Weir to Buttons Bridge

This plan proposes to change the existing shared path along the northern and eastern side of the river from Charles Street Weir to Button Bridge from a shared path to a separated path.

According to page 30 of the Plan this means that the existing shared path would be replaced by two separate paths – one for cyclists (3-4 metres) and another path for walkers (2-3 metres).

While we strongly support separate paths for walkers and cyclists where the traffic volumes are high, this would require another tunnel to be excavated under Lennox Bridge or introduce a dangerous choke point for cyclists and walkers at the existing tunnel under Lennox Bridge.

Wistaria Gardens to Redbank Road Bridge

The plan also proposes separated paths along the western side of the river from Wistaria Gardens to Redbank Road Bridge. A nature trail along this route - Governor Philip Walk – was opened by the Premier in 2012 as part of the Great West Walk from Parramatta to Katoomba. It runs along a very narrow embankment between Cumberland Psychiatric Hospital and the river to avoid any disturbance of hospital patients. It would be almost impossible to construct separated paths (even tiered) on this narrow embankment without disconcerting hospital patients. It should be left as a nature trail for walkers.

Girraween Creek Crossing & McCoys Park

The shared footbridge over Girraween Creek is long overdue and we suggest that the shared path run along the top of the retention basin wall and then wind between the groves of trees and between the car park and the houses.

Palestine Park

The proposed bridge across Toongabbie Creek and through Palestine Park must be carefully routed to ensure that it does not cross any sites that could be used for future archaeological digs.

Newington Nature Reserve

The shared path along the river from Silverwater Bridge to the Armory Wharf desperately need separated paths. On a weekend it is an absolute scrimmage. We strongly suggest a separate gravel pedestrian path winding through the shade of the casuarinas planted along this path leaving the cyclists to the existing concrete path.

We commend Council on the amount of work and detail in the plan and look forward to seeing Council issue a Walk Plan for the City of Parramatta.

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