

Dear City of Parramatta Council,

Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD), Centre for Population Health (CPH) welcomes the opportunity to comment on City of Parramatta's (CoP) Draft Parramatta Bike Plan 2023.

The CPH acknowledges the achievements in infrastructure delivery to date via implementation of the 2017 Bike Plan, to enhance the accessibility, sustainability, productivity and liveability of Parramatta. It is encouraging to read in the annual Epping to Carlingford Travel Survey from 2019-2023, that community attitudes and behaviour towards cycling have improved and there has been a distinct increase in the number of participants who cycle overall.

The CPH fully endorse the Draft Parramatta Bike Plan 2023 acknowledging Council's commitment to the health and wellbeing of the CoP community, evidenced by the draft plan content.

### **Informed by Policy**

We congratulate Council on the explicit references to State and Local policy documents that support the transition to a cycling city. These documents strongly align with the health and wellbeing of the community, noting in particular:

- [Active Transport Strategy 2022](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [NSW Movement and Place Framework](#)<sup>2</sup>
- Parramatta Bike Plan 2017
- Parramatta Ways Walking Strategy 2017

### **Extensive community engagement**

We commend Council's commitment to extensive community engagement to inform their vision to be *Sydney's Central City – inspired by our communities*. By raising your level of engagement with path users, this will help manage any behaviours and conflict, as well as inform programs to support riding to education and employment destinations. We are pleased to have worked collaboratively with CoP to date on community engagement initiatives outlined in the Bike Plan 2017. We look forward to continued collaboration on liveability projects, including the Bike Plan 2023, that strongly aligns with the [NSW Healthy Eating Active Living Strategy](#)<sup>3</sup>.

### **Tailored behavioural programs**

We support the four core behavioural programs based on outcomes of the community engagement phase in the development of the Bike Plan 2017. Of note:

- Program 1: Riding to education. 1.1 Support safe routes to school and 1.2 Provide educational development and advice.
- Program 3: Supporting the community to ride.

These initiatives are closely aligned to [NSW Healthy Eating Active Living Strategy](#). Strategic Direction 4, which highlights the importance of active travel (for children to education), and for the broader population to help adopt active living behaviours.

- CPH are keen to continue to work with CoP through our partnership, to support and promote projects that aim to increase active travel in the community.

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<sup>1</sup> [NSW Active Transport Strategy](#)

<sup>2</sup> [NSW Movement and Place Framework](#)

<sup>3</sup> [NSW Healthy Eating Active Living Strategy 2022-2032](#)

## **Meeting the changing needs of the community**

We congratulate Council on the more detailed cycling network that will enhance active travel connectivity, where there have been changes in land use, including the Camellia Rosehill Place Strategy. We look forward to working with CoP on the Camellia Rosehill Place Strategy to enhance the liveability of this precinct for residents.

## **Wayfinding**

As reported in the draft Bike Plan 2023, 62% of residents do not use English as their first language at home. As a result, the importance of wayfinding becomes a critical navigator of a successful cycling network. CPH congratulates CoP on the tools and typology outlined in the plan that allows cyclists to easily explore, whilst providing safer journeys.

## **Specific recommendations**

### **1. Connecting with Country Framework**

**CPH recommends** the utilisation of the Connecting with Country framework<sup>4</sup> within the Bike Plan 2023. 'Connecting with Country' will contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities. Design and activation of spaces that reflect Aboriginal cultures and heritage; provide an important acknowledgment of place for the Aboriginal community and offers the community, increased opportunities to learn about and understand Aboriginal cultures.

### **2. Collaboration with CPH**

We are keen to collaborate with Council on the ongoing development and implementation of the Bike Plan 2023. Specifically, we would like to explore possibilities to:

- Support Council in grant applications and resulting projects, related to increased cycling and active travel opportunities, especially in relation to school children.
- Partner with Council and other organisations for intersectoral collaboration to implement walking and cycling research trials and pilot interventions.
- Collaborate with Council on Camellia Rosehill Place Strategy to optimise the liveability of this precinct, especially related to active travel behaviours.
- Support Council in advocacy efforts across all levels of government, for improvements in walking and cycling infrastructure.
- Support Council in community engagement initiatives that explore active travel behaviours that help inform our healthy living strategies.

If required, the Centre for Population Health is willing to provide additional evidence or information in relation to our comments. We look forward to continuing our working relationship with City of Parramatta Council to improve the health and wellbeing of residents.

For further information, please contact Helen Ryan: [Helen.Ryan@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Helen.Ryan@health.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,



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<sup>4</sup> [NSW Government Connecting with Country Framework](#)