

Mr Dominello,

I write to you as a concerned father of two young girls at Meadowbank Primary School.

I have been watching the construction of pedestrian crossings and shared paths that will direct students, staff and parents of the Meadowbank Education Precinct towards Bowden St. The shared paths, crossings and safety improvements to the intersection at Bowden St/Victoria Rd are indeed a great improvement, but are of little use to those walking or cycling from the majority of West Ryde.

I understand, from the Meadowbank P&C, that many of the pedestrian crossings and shared paths are proposed to be deleted from the project.

My family lives just off Hermitage Rd in West Ryde, and will cross at the intersection at Hermitage Rd/Victoria Rd and proceed down Hermitage Rd. We know of many other local families who will also be using Hermitage Rd as the direct route to the new Precinct.

In contrast to Bowden St/Victoria Rd, no safety improvements have been made to the intersection at Hermitage Rd/Victoria Rd.

The extension of the existing shared path along the western side of Hermitage Rd, which already goes as far as Sydney Water entrance, is proposed to be deleted.

Should the shared path remain incomplete, pedestrians will need to cross to the footpath on the eastern side, whilst cyclists will need to ride on the busy road in order to reach the Precinct.

The eastern side of Hermitage Rd is light industrial and has numerous driveways and entrances. When I walked past today, there were many vehicles parked adjacent to and on the footpath of the eastern side of Hermitage Rd, and a number of truck movements occurred.

Completing the shared paths to the new schools is imperative for the safety of our youngest citizens.

It is inconceivable to me that two state of the art schools should be built without safe pedestrian/cyclist access along a direct route servicing West Ryde and surrounds.

As our local member, I would ask that you take this matter up with the Minister for Planning and the Environment as a matter of urgency and importance to the local community.

I am aware of other submissions and petitions on this matter, but wanted to add my personal perspective.

Please do not let the pedestrian crossings and shared paths be deleted from the project - finish the job and keep our kids safe!

For context I have shared some photos of the existing eastern footpath and the incomplete western shared path.

Thank you for your assistance.