

8 May, 2019

Department of Planning & Environment

F6 Extension – Preferred Infrastructure Report (PIR)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed F6 Extension PIR. Bicycle NSW has been the peak bicycle advocacy group now in NSW for over forty two years, and has over 30 affiliated local Bicycle User Groups.

The F6 Extension has presented the NSW Government with a unique opportunity to provide high quality Active Transport infrastructure in this area. A primary method of achieving this aim is to consider cycling safety in **every infrastructure project**. This strategy is included in the RMS's own Bicycle Guidelines policy (p5).

*"To improve the bike network by making comprehensive provision for bicycles on **all new major road infrastructure projects with a strong preference for off-road cycling.**"*

This aim has only partially been achieved in the PIR. We strongly support the extension of the Shared Path south of President Ave, but are disappointed that the proposal still includes a 700 metre on-road cycle route in the busy Bay St area.

The southern extension of the Shared Path has the following advantages:

- It provides extended Active Transport links to the Shared Path which runs over President Ave and then to the north. Connectivity is the key to the success of any Shared Path.
- It provides greater Active Transport "permeability" from the east side of Scarborough Park North to the west side. Walkers and riders will no longer have to go via busy President Ave or Barton St.
- It will help preserve the park area by directing AT users to the path, and not on the present network of informal tracks.
- As the path will be raised in critical areas, it will help preserve vegetation. And wildlife will be protected from dogs as they will be constrained to the path.
- It presents educational opportunities on the wetland if viewing platforms and informative signs are provided (eg Baludarri Wetlands on the Parramatta Valley Cycleway).

However, the full end to end, off-road Shared Path has not been included! This is a major lost opportunity which must be rectified. The present plans include a 700 metre on-road portion on the busy Bay St, Francis Ave and Bruce St (Brighton Le Sands). This lack of connectivity ruins a great shared path. Would you let your child ride the on-road section? And the crying shame is that RMS hasn't made this section off-road for two main reasons:

- Property acquisition: This is despite the fact the RMS already own the majority of properties required to make this section off-road. And the small widths required (ie about 3 metres) at the rear of four very long properties are already zoned for Recreational Use!
- Safety: RMS are concerned about the safety of walkers and riders in an area where the shared path may be constrained between two nearby fences for about 130 metres in length. However, it is deemed safer to force riders onto the road for 700 metres!

We request that for safety and connectivity, that the Department of Planning and Environment make the above section off-road.

Yours faithfully,



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