

Northern Beaches Council | Draft Bike Plan

Submission by Greater Manly Residents Forum

Greater Manly Residents Forum congratulate Council on taking the initiative in preparing the draft Bike Plan. The plan is an extraordinary document collating a vast amount of data and opinions that represents the current status of Council's bike infrastructure, State government's interaction and influence upon the bike riding public of the Northern Beaches, and the strong opinions of the public in general.

We hope finalised plan will provide a blue print to enhance the bike riding experience of the bike riding public on the Northern Beaches, and go a long way to –

- improve the experience of all road and footpath users
- ensure open communication between all groups
- improve education
- building a better understanding of the need to share the facilities available
- ensure the safety of all.

We provide our input below:

A Safe Cycling Network is essential.

GMRF fully support the provision of a safe and connected cycling environment as highlighted in the Bike Plan, with separation from motor vehicle traffic.

- It is essential bike traffic and pedestrian traffic are separated where ever possible. We particularly note the need for separation of bikes and pedestrians as much as possible as, particularly on the Northern Beaches, pedestrian traffic is extremely high with joggers, walkers and families using the paths and walkways provided for recreation in our beautiful environment. Overcrowding of pedestrians and bikes particularly on weekends inevitably causes tension and accidents.
- It is recommended that particular attention be paid to Marine Parade Manly to see what can be done to resolve the clash between pedestrians and cyclists caused by the extremely narrow pathway. We recognise that there are allocated hours for bike use and pedestrian use on this pathway, however, conflict still occurs, possibly due to lack of knowledge/signage/enforcement. Should this be a pedestrian only path and if so, what alternatives could be provided for cyclists? We recommend Council revisit the current regulations regarding use of Marine Parade Manly.
- The South Curl Curl Boardwalk should be/is? reserved for pedestrian traffic only, as it is too narrow to accommodate pedestrians, dogs and cyclists and has the additional danger of cliffs on one side, presenting a serious danger to pedestrians and cyclists alike. Carrington Road, just above the Boardwalk has a dedicated bike lane. Perhaps better signage with a higher visual impact could be installed at the entry points to the boardwalk to discourage bike riders.
- It appears the majority of motor vehicle | bicycle accidents occur at intersections. In many cases barriers could be erected at those intersections not controlled by traffic lights to

encourage riders to dismount before crossing. An example of such a need is adjacent to the Manly Swim Centre on the corner of Balgowlah and Kenneth Roads, Manly. We recommend Council revisit the current this intersection in particular, and intersections across the NBC area in general. We also note that people using their mobile phones is also a significant danger at this crossing.

- GMRF agree with the statement, “Successful bicycle parking facilities are located in convenient proximity to the destination, highly visible and in line with Australian Standards” and that they be located in convenient proximity to the destination. However, their high visibility, as shown in the attached photos of the bike racks at Manly Wharf on the western esplanade immediately adjacent to the Harbour, are in our opinion, an eyesore. These biker racks could easily be located on the eastern side of the Wharf and integrated with the buildings. Proper consideration of siting of bike racks must be incorporated into the Bike Plan.
- Council does an excellent job in communicating with the community and we recommend that Council expand this communication to focus on educating cyclists, pedestrians and motorists on the road rules and riding etiquette.



Additional Note:

- In NSW it is illegal to ride an electric scooter on any road or any road related area. A road related area includes areas such as foot paths, cycle paths, and even public car parks. Unfortunately, until these laws are changed the only place you can legally ride in NSW is on private property. We propose that this issue be considered by Northern Beaches Council with a view to making a proposal to change legislation, with appropriate rules in place, to allow the use of electric scooters in suitable public areas.

We thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and look forward to being kept informed as to the progress of the Northern Beaches Council Bike Plan.

Denise Keen *2 May 2020*

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