

**ITEM MAYORAL MINUTE: OPENING BENNELONG BRIDGE
FOR ACTIVE TRANSPORT**

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

I recently wrote to the RMS advocating for access for cyclists on the Bennelong Bridge T-way rather than the current restrictions for them to use only the shared path, to address resident concerns with the large volume of both pedestrians and cyclists on a single path.

To date we have had no response from the RMS in regard to this matter.

I have also met with the Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta to discuss this issue with him, and to review the volumes of the pedestrians and cyclists that are currently using the shared path. From the data available it is apparent that the current situation with a single 3.25m shared path is no longer satisfactory, greatly exceeding national guidelines.

Weekday peak period volumes are around 40 cyclists and 300 pedestrians per hour, and weekend peak period volumes increase to around 60 cyclists and 300 pedestrians per hour. Applying the relevant Austroads document Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides, these volumes would necessitate a 2.5m bike path and a separate 2.0m footpath for pedestrians. At the very least, some separation of pedestrians and cyclists should be considered once the pedestrian volumes are over 100 per hour.

I believe that Council need to continue to advocate strongly for our local cyclists and pedestrians to safely commute across Bennelong Bridge.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Mayor liaise with the Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta to make joint submissions to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and the Minister for Roads regarding our councils' desires to open up Bennelong Bridge for more active transport options.
2. That the submission request that cyclists be legally allowed to ride on the T-way lanes of the bridge to help reduce the number of cyclists on the shared path, or propose a satisfactory alternative to address the current situation.

