



Yarra Climate Action Now
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July 18th 2015

Dear Councillors,

Rushall Reserve Proposed Shared Path

We write to express our support for building the “missing link” in the Merri Creek Trail through Rushall Reserve. With appropriate planning and design, this path will be advantageous to users of the Reserve and the adjacent paths and bicycle routes. It will be another step towards an integrated bicycle network in the City of Yarra, linking to cycle paths in neighbouring municipalities. It will provide much easier access to Rushall Station for train users. Recreational walkers will be able to walk through Rushall Reserve and enjoy its bush setting.

Good design, with the new path hugging the railway reserve, and the removal of the existing dead-end asphalt path, will result in a larger area for users of the Reserve, including dog owners. A fence will ensure that children and dogs using the park do not stray onto the path.

Currently those travelling along the Merri Trail from Clifton Hill are diverted under the underpass at Rushall Station to connect with the Capital City trail, which is inconvenient for everybody, and some people with disabilities using mobility devices are unable to negotiate the underpass. The steep paths and narrow gaps between the bollards in the underpass are difficult to negotiate and provide a bottleneck for pedestrians, bike users and those with mobility disabilities. Linking up the Merri Trail through Rushall Reserve will provide an easily accessible route under the railway, and free up the underpass for those people who wish to use it.

This path is a part of the Yarra Bicycle Strategy 2010-15. The aim of the Strategy is to provide an integrated bicycle network throughout Yarra. The strategy is an essential part of Yarra's goal of creating a sustainable and liveable municipality. The strategy has been approved by Council after community consultation. Councillors should respect this. Ad hoc modifications will weaken the overall design and effectiveness of the strategy. A good bicycle network benefits all residents, including those who don't ride bikes. It encourages people to ride bikes instead of driving cars. Getting cars off

the roads is a benefit to us all. It reduces local pollution as well as greenhouse gas emissions. It creates safer, more connected communities.

We urge Council to proceed with the Rushall Reserve shared path without delay.

Kind regards,

Martin Leckey
YCAN member, on behalf of YCAN