

Submission to Yarra Council Meeting, August 2, 2016

Re: Rushall Reserve Shared Path

Yarra Climate Action Now (YCAN) commends Council for its very thorough community consultation on this important issue.

As a group campaigning for the strongest possible action to combat climate change, YCAN was supportive of the draft proposal. Vehicle use is one of the principal causes of greenhouse emissions, thus we regard the provision of safe and integrated cycling routes as an essential component of the strategy to encourage more residents and commuters to choose cycling as a clean alternative to driving.

YCAN understands that there were concerns expressed about the safety of the shared pathway, but are happy that the proposed design seems to address these concerns. Rushall Reserve is a multi-purpose area used by many people in a variety of ways. With the proposed works it will become even more accessible, for all the community. This view seems to be shared by a large majority on the survey respondents who either supported the draft design as is, or with suggested improvements.

One concern which YCAN expressed in common with other respondents was the difficulty of access to the Rushall Station underpass. Improvements to this would certainly facilitate easier movement for cyclists, pedestrians, and those with disabilities, and would encourage greater train use. YCAN encourages Council to pursue consultations with the responsible authorities to search for ways to ameliorate this congestion.

YCAN urges councillors to support the Rushall Reserve shared path plan, and begin work as soon as possible.