



Yarra Climate Action Now
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Submission to Council - 17/12/19
Agenda Item 11.4: 30km/h Trial Evaluation

YCAN has been submitting to Council for several years now on the urgency of reducing car travel in Yarra. We supported the introduction of the 30km/h trial and we are pleased to see the recommendation from the Manager of Traffic and Civil Engineering to make the speed limit permanent. We thank you for the opportunity to endorse this recommendation.

Reducing Yarra's carbon emissions is the prime objective of The Climate Emergency Plan, and as car transport is responsible for 15% of these emissions it is a logical step to aim to slow traffic, thus slightly lowering emissions, but more importantly to encourage the options of walking and cycling, and maybe scooting. Many people lack confidence to ride bikes on busy roads. Safer roads with fewer, slower cars can provide that encouragement. Pedestrians too, feel safer when they don't have to contend with speeding cars.

The steady increase in car trips in Yarra with the projected further growth, is very disappointing. Also disappointing is the slower increase in the number of bike trips. For the sake of liveability in Yarra, and everywhere, these numbers need to be upended. Making permanent the 30km/h speed limit in the trial area, would be a good start; extending this limit throughout Yarra would be even better.

We note the success of this trial in lowering vehicle speeds generally, and excessive speeding. Not only does this mean less actual risk of bad accidents, it allows for lower **perceived** risks for pedestrians and cyclists. The follow on from this is to encourage more people to use active transport. Parents in particular may feel it is safer, and more pleasant to walk their kids to school, and allow older children to walk or cycle without supervision. What a great reduction in car travel that could lead to!

What is also pleasing in this evaluation is the positive response to the trial from affected residents and community in general. Strong increases in support for the 30km/h limit in the trial area, and for its extension to surrounding local streets, should provide the cornerstone for a revolution in

the use of active transport in Yarra, and wider, and help to produce a more sustainable, habitable environment.

YCAN strongly supports the recommendation to make the 30km/h speed limit permanent in the trial area, and would be thrilled to see it extended throughout Yarra.