

6.2 CYCLING CONNECTION BETWEEN SCOTCHMANS CREEK AND DJERRING TRAILS

Submitting Councillor: Stuart James

MOTION

That Council:

1. Agrees to progress work on a cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and the Djerring Trail in Oakleigh
2. Directs officers to finalise the concept proposal for consultation and seek endorsement from Council in February 2022
3. Directs officers to include consideration in the concept proposal for a dedicated cycleway along Hanover Street between Atherton Road and Burlington Street, instead of diverting via Oxford Street

INTRODUCTION

The provision of a cycling connection between two of Council's major trails, Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail, would assist people riding within and through the City of Monash, provide a key north-south cycling link and facilitate safer active transport access to the Oakleigh Activity Centre.

This Notice of Motion seeks support to progress a permanent cycling connection between these trails.

DISCUSSION

The endorsed Monash Integrated Transport Strategy indicates, "Providing a safe and efficient cycling network in Monash is integral to achieving a sustainable transport system that enhances quality of life for all residents."

At present, there is no protected cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail to encourage cycling of all ages to utilise both trails. Confident cyclists may use existing on-road bicycle lanes installed on both sides of Atkinson Street between Dandenong Road and Scotchmans Creek Trail, Oakleigh however, the on-road cycleway is not continuous and there is no formal cycling infrastructure available to connect the trails south of Atherton Road. A connection would provide a safer path for both skilled and non-skilled riders, realise a key north-south cycling link and encourage people of all ages to ride to work and the shops in Oakleigh.

In 2021, the City of Monash received a grant from Sustainability Victoria to incorporate recycled material into Council infrastructure. One option being initially considered for this grant was the construction of a temporary demonstration cycleway on the east side of Atkinson Street between Dandenong Road and Atherton Road, Oakleigh. This was to form the central part of an ultimate cycling connection proposed from Scotchmans Creek Trail to Djerring Trail, with the section south of Atkinson Street requiring further investigation and design. Due to timeframes required for appropriate community consultation, the project could not meet the grant delivery date requirements and as such, was not progressed at the time.

Despite grant funding being unable to be accessed, there remains merit in connecting the two major trails of Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail.

Initial design for a temporary cycleway project proposed to provide a low-cost on-road route using linemarking of bicycle sharrows via Oxford Street from Atherton Road to Djerring Trail. This Notice of Motion requests officers to also consider a permanent route, with a more direct protected route south along Hanover Street between Atherton Road and Burlington Street then into Oxford Street to Djerring Trail, rather than diverting to Oxford Street from Atherton Road.

CONCLUSION

The provision of a new cycling connection to connect the two major trails of Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail is an important link in Council's active transport network.

In principle Council support is sought to progress with this project, requiring officers to develop and present route alternatives and concept plans in February 2022 for Council's consideration as well as endorsement to proceed to consultation.