

BOROONDARA

Bicycle Users Group

The Hon Terry Mulder
Minister for Roads
12 October 2011

Dear Minister

VicRoads Site, Denmark St Kew

I am writing to you on behalf of the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group about the VicRoads site in Denmark St, Kew. We understand that this site is to be vacated by VicRoads. This will open up a unique opportunity to enhance cycling infrastructure in this very heavily trafficked area.

Boroondara Council is currently developing a bike route as an alternative to Whitehorse/Cotham Rd which has become less suitable for cycling due to the 109 tram project with its centre tram stops. This route follows Mont Albert Rd and Sackville St, then Wellington Rd. At the western end of Wellington Rd cyclists heading towards the city need to cross Denmark St and proceed along Stevenson St. A new pedestrian crossing has been installed to enable cyclists to cross this very busy road safely. However a link to this crossing from the end of the bike lane in Wellington Rd is still to be constructed. One option is a shared footway using the existing footpath. However a route round the edge of or through the VicRoads site is a more desirable option as it avoids the possibility of conflict with pedestrians on the footpath.

The vacating of the VicRoads site will also provide the opportunity for a major improvement to the off-road shared path network in Boroondara. A shared path currently runs from Grace Park/Hilda Cr in the south to Hawthorn Grove in the north along part of the old railway easement. As the California motel site which occupies the easement between Hawthorn Grove and Barkers Rd is currently awaiting redevelopment, and the VicRoads site will also presumably be redeveloped, there is the opportunity to extend this shared path across the two sites. This would create a link between the East – West link which is being developed parallel to the Belgrave – Lilydale rail line, and the more northerly route along Wellington Rd and Stevenson St. This shared path would also provide access to the Kew Junction shopping centre and Xavier College. It would provide a much safer alternative for cyclists heading north-south than either Glenferrie Rd or Power St which are the two options at present.

As firm believers that cycling has an important role to play in the transport mix of the future we believe that this opportunity for major improvements to cycling infrastructure in Kew should not be missed. We urge you as Minister for Transport to ensure that it is fully investigated and that the necessary steps are taken to secure the land required.

Julia Blunden, on behalf of the Boroondara Bicycle Users Group

Cc The Hon Andrew McKintosh, MLA Kew

Cr Philip Healey, Studley Ward

Tony Barton, Manager Bicycle and Pedestrian Programs, VicRoads

Jim Hondrakis, Coordinator Transport Management, City of Boroondara