

# BOROONDARA

*Bicycle Users Group*

Boroondara Bicycle Users Group  
Response to:

City of Boroondara

Hays Paddock – The Plan

25<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (Rev 2)

Submissions due by Friday 28 May 2010

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## **Introduction**

BBUG thanks the council for providing us with the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions on the current and future use of Hays Paddock, Kew East. BBUG will make this response available on its website.

## **Executive Summary**

Hays Paddock forms part of a largely off-road link between several of Boroondara's off-road shared paths. It is important that in any redesigning of Hays Paddock this link be enhanced rather than downgraded.

## **Background Information**

Hays Paddock, along with Stradbroke Park, provides a very useful and popular link between three of Boroondara's off-road trails. These are the Yarra and Koonung Creek trails and the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail. At the northern end this link is via a narrow passage under Burke Rd to Old Burke Rd, then via Keystone Cr and Keystone St. At the southern end the link continues via Stradbroke Park.

Whitehorse Cyclists, a large cycling club based in Whitehorse but with many members who reside in Boroondara, often meet at Hays Paddock for their rides as it offers both good parking and good trail access. And various other groups, including the Camberwell Downhill Gourmet Bike Riders, use it as a through route from time to time. It is also a destination for

cyclists who can ride there mainly off-road and enjoy this very pleasant and tranquil park. Parents can ride there with their children to use the excellent playground facilities.

### **BBUG suggested recommended actions**

Hays Paddock is part of a largely off-road link between the Koonung Creek and Yarra Trails and the Anniversary/Outer Circle Trail. At the northern end this link is via a narrow passage under Burke Rd to Old Burke Rd, then via Keystone Cr and Keystone St. There is scope to improve this link by making it all off road. It also needs to be signed as it seems likely that many people who could make use of it are unaware of its existence.

At the southern end the link continues via Stradbroke Park. Improvements to this section are also possible and additional signage would be helpful. Various possible routes for the link are shown by the blue dotted lines on the Boroondara TravelSmart map.

The continuity of the off-road trails is especially important to families riding with young children who do not want to take them on road. However many beginning cyclists or less confident cyclists also prefer to stay off-road.

The paths which currently almost circle the park should be retained more or less as they are, both as regards position and width. They work well for cycling purposes and should be signed as shared paths. Wide flat paths are also important for disabled users, large numbers of whom come to Hays Paddock to use the all abilities playground and who may be in wheelchairs or prams.

Pram ramps between car parks and paths through the park should be retained or improved. Note that ramp access is very important both for cyclists and for disabled users of the park. The access to/from the northeast corner of the park could be improved by angling it towards the north which is where the bikes are going to and coming from. If this is thought not to suit other park users widening and flaring this pram ramp would make it safer for cyclists.

The current very dangerous tight squeeze in the southeast corner needs to be eliminated. This is possibly the purpose of one of the proposed bridges for which plans are provided.

Toilets should not be reduced in number or made less accessible at the times cyclists need them, ie during daylight hours at least. At present there are two ladies' toilets and two men's toilets. When a large group of cyclists arrives this is barely sufficient. A good proportion of toilets should be accessible to disabled users. Such toilets also work well for young families and for cyclists.

Additional undercover picnic facilities would be a plus for both cyclists and other types of park users.