

Submission to Future Melbourne Committee 7 June 2022

Friday, 3 June 2022

Dear Melbourne City Councillors,

RE: Agenda item: Agenda 6.9

WeRide Australia is writing to express its strong support for the continued roll out of Melbourne CBD bike lanes.

As the CBD seeks to ensure a strong economic recovery from the pandemic, there has never been a more important time to roll out quality active transport infrastructure - including bike lanes and footpaths.

It is people who make up a city and many are choosing with their transport choices to walk or ride a bicycle to get into the CBD.

This is an economic opportunity, a transport opportunity and healthy liveable city opportunity for Melbourne. More specifically:

- Before COVID, 7% of all people travelling into the CBD came by bike, if Melbourne wants to attract people back into the city, then let's support people who walk and people who choose to ride a bicycle both on routes both into and within the CBD.
- The average trip distances in Greater Melbourne are surprisingly low, more than 40% of all trips for all purposes are just 3km or less, 50% are just 5km or less. The 2009 VISTA Survey shows the average trip by car is just 4.3 kilometres, indicating there could be several other modes suitable to complete those trips if investment was allocated to make them convenient, comfortable, direct and safe. This is exactly the type of separated infrastructure the City of Melbourne has begun to roll out.
- The provision of appropriate infrastructure Improves safety for people walking and riding, but it also improves safety for all road users, whatever their mode.
- The ability to consider commuting by walking and cycling opens the opportunity for people to reduce their cost of living by reducing their car use, and
- Parking in a bike space generates twice as much economic activity for local businesses as a car parking in the same space (from Urbis), bikes are good for business!

By continuing to create a network of safe, separated bike lanes, the Melbourne City Council can empower members of the community who would like to move in ways that are healthier, more convenient, safer and contribute to a transition to a low carbon future.

On World Cycling Day in this submission to the City of Melbourne's considerations of Agenda item 6.9, we convey again our strong support, as the national independent voice for cycling in this country, for the plan you have to make the City of Melbourne one in which all people who want to access or move around the CBD are able to do so actively, conveniently and safely, whatever their choice of mode.

We remain at your service should you wish to discuss any of the points we have raised,

Sincerely,



Stephen Hodge

Director – National Advocacy, WeRide Australia

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WeRide Australia WeRide is the national independent voice for cycling

Our Vision: Australia's a greener, healthier, better place to be because more people are riding bikes.

Our Mission: Build a healthy, sustainable future through advocacy, program development and research around the bicycle's role in environment, health, infrastructure and safety.