

4.5 **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - CYCLING CONNECTION – SCOTCHMANS CREEK TRAIL TO DJERRING TRAIL, OAKLEIGH**

(SJW:F18-34454)

Responsible Director: Deb Cailes

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

This report presents the community feedback on the proposal for a cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail. It seeks Council endorsement to further progress the project with investigation of community issues raised, targeted key stakeholder engagement and potential alternative route and design options if required. It is proposed that this work be undertaken in order to seek Council or external funding for constructions in the 23/24 financial year.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS/ISSUES

Community engagement has been undertaken on the proposal for a cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail, and more specifically to obtain comment on the particulars of the Atkinson Street Trial Demonstration Cycleway and the Hanover Street Dedicated Cycleway.

Feedback on the proposal has been generally positive. There is clear interest from the community in seeing two major cycling routes connected by a well-planned safe cycling link. The feedback was received from cyclists, motorists and residents and included issues raised around safety and logistics. Suggestions and alternatives to improve the proposal were also received.

It is proposed that further investigation of the feedback, refinement of design options and subsequent engagement be undertaken to ensure that the community concerns are addressed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs and resourcing associated with further investigation, design work and stakeholder engagement can be undertaken within the existing budget. The construction of any or all of the cycleway will require funding to be sought through Council's annual budget process or through external sources.

CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATION

That Council support the recommendation to further progress the proposal for a cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail with investigation of community issues raised, targeted stakeholder engagement and potential alternative route and design options if required.

4.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - CYCLING CONNECTION – SCOTCHMANS CREEK TRAIL TO DJERRING TRAIL, OAKLEIGH

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RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Acknowledges the community feedback on the initial proposal for a 1.4km cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and the Djerring Trail in Oakleigh*
- 2. Directs officers to undertake further investigation into issues raised through the community engagement process, and refine the design options and route alignment if required to ensure best outcomes in terms of safety and functionality*
- 3. Directs officers to report back to Council with the final design in December 2022 for endorsement prior to construction tendering*

INTRODUCTION

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

This report presents the community feedback on the circulated proposal and seeks Council's agreement to investigate the community concerns raised and further refine the proposal, including alternative design options and route alignment, to ensure the changes provide the best outcomes in terms of safety and functionality.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 22 February 2022, Council agreed to the concept proposal for a cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail in Oakleigh. Officers were directed to consult with the community on the concept proposal and report back to Council in June 2022.

The initial proposal presented to the community for feedback comprised several components. They were:

- A trial demonstration cycleway in Atkinson Street between

Dandenong Road and Atherton Road.

- A dedicated cycleway along the east side of Hanover Street between Atherton Road and Burlington Street extending around the north-east corner into Burlington Street.
- A provisional link along Burlington Street and Oxford Street to the Djerring Trail.
- A shared pathway connection from Hanover Street across Burlington Street through Council and VicTrack land alongside the toe of the eastern embankment of the Hanover Street bridge connecting to the Djerring Trail
- Inclusion of a cycleway across the eastern side of the Atkinson Street / Dandenong Road signalised intersection.
- Upgrading the shared use path along the east side of Atkinson Street between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Dandenong Road.

All of these components are required for this cycling connection to serve its purpose.

CONSULTATION

The concept proposal was presented for community feedback via the Shape Monash website from 18 March to 1 May 2022, with a letter drop to 795 properties in the local area distributed from 24 March 2022 asking for submissions to Shape Monash or via contact with Council officers. A copy of the letter is provided in Attachment 1.

A total of 1,683 visits were made to the Shape Monash page with 108 contributions received. A further ten residents submitted their feedback to Council officers. Of these, 91 were supportive, nine neutral and 15 did not support the proposal. A further three submissions to the Shape Monash page did not provide comments and so their sentiment was unclear. Attachment 2 provides a Council officer summary of the comments received.

Feedback on the proposed protected cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail identified that there is general support for a north-south cycling link between these two major trails.

Overall, the responses received were thorough and well-considered, with many offering both support and also suggested improvements and details to consider. The top issues raised included safety concerns for local residents, drivers and cyclists – particularly on the Atkinson Street section, the operation of the Atherton Road/Atkinson Street/Hanover Street intersection, potential congestion along Atkinson Street and changes around the Dandenong Road/Atkinson Street intersection. The loss of parking in Atkinson Street was raised in a small number of submissions.

A number of submissions indicated a preference for the more direct route via Council and VicTrack land alongside the top of the eastern embankment of the Hanover Street bridge connecting to the Djerring Trail, identified as a provisional link in community engagement material. The Djerring Trail connection at Oakleigh train station was identified as an issue by cyclists.

DISCUSSION

The proposal considered by the community comprises five separate components that must be workable in their own right for the full connection to be effective.

In light of the feedback received, it is recommended that further investigation be undertaken into the safety and operational issues raised. The key areas of investigation include, but are not limited to the following:

- The design needs to be intuitive for motorists and cyclists to negotiate. There were concerns raised by drivers and bike riders regarding the need for drivers to look for cyclists travelling counter to the direction of traffic.
- Sightline concerns particularly on the Atkinson Street section. The preliminary Atkinson Street design was conceived in two dimensions rather than three so issues associated with the incline in Atkinson Street require further consideration.
- The cycle route design at the main intersections along the route are critical in terms of establishment of the entire route. Further work is required to ensure these are functional, safe and acceptable to key stakeholders before finalising the route location. If the issues cannot be resolved, it may result in a need to alter the location of the route to a nearby parallel street.

As the next step, Council officers will undertake further investigation of the entire route with regard to safety and functionality and if necessary, identify alternative routes to ensure that cyclist, driver and local community consultation feedback is assessed and explored. This will involve key stakeholder engagement targeting specific issues. Subject to Council endorsement of this next step, further consultation with the Department of Transport in relation to the route, including the Hanover Street section, will be undertaken. The potential link alongside the eastern embankment of the Hanover Street bridge will also be explored as part of the stakeholder engagement process.

It is proposed that this refined design and targeted stakeholder engagement work be undertaken within existing Council resources and budget during the remainder of 2022 and that officers table a final design for endorsement in December 2022. Subject to final design endorsement, the approvals from Department of Transport and tender package for works can be undertaken with construction in 2023/24.

SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The provision of additional active transport facilities provides improved access for people cycling, with positive health and recreational benefits.

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

The provision of additional active transport options seeks to represent the needs and aspirations of the broader Monash community.

GENDER EQUITY ASSESSMENT

A gender impact assessment has not been undertaken on this concept project at this time. Prior to finalisation of the design, Council will reconsider whether a gender impact assessment is required.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs and resourcing associated with further investigation, specific stakeholder engagement on key issues and design refinement can be progressed within existing budget provisions.

The construction of any or all of the cycleway will require funding to be sought through Council's annual budget process or through external sources.

CONCLUSION

The time and effort of each person who made a submission to the community engagement process is appreciated. It is encouraging to note that there is general support for the proposal for a cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and the Djerring Trail in Oakleigh, however it is acknowledged that there have been many genuine concerns raised by cyclists and road users. In order to address the issues raised, it is recommended that further investigation be undertaken by Council officers, including refinement of the design, targeted key stakeholder engagement and potential alternative route and design options if required.