



THE ENTRANCE PENINSULA

COMMUNITY PRECINCT

ENCOMPASSING: THE ENTRANCE; THE ENTRANCE NORTH; LONG JETTY TOOWOON BAY; BLUE BAY; SHELLY BEACH & MAGENTA

P0 Box 349 The Entrance 2261

8 May, 2010

Gina Vereker
Acting General Manager,
Wyong Shire Council,
PO Box 20,
Wyong 2259

Subject: **ON-ROAD BICYCLE AND SHARED PATHWAY STRATEGY**

Dear Gina,

This is The Entrance Peninsula Community Precinct's (TEPCP) formal response to Council's invitation to comment on plans for shared pathways. TEPCP has conducted workshops to gain our communities opinion on important issues and transport has been identified as the most important issue on our peninsula. Safe pedestrian and shared paths are of the utmost importance to our community. Because of this TEPCP recognises the importance of this strategy as part of an overall transport plan.

Stephen Prince, Wyong Shire's Recreation Planner/Future Planning has done an excellent job in the development of this strategy which sets a new standard in the way the community has been consulted, and listened to, in the development of this strategy. TEPCP wrote to Council on 2nd October, 2009, to congratulate Council on a very successful Bike Week launch of Wyong Council's Bicycle and Shared Pathway Strategy on Sunday, 27th September, 2009, Saltwater Creek Reserve, The Entrance Road, Long Jetty. Stephen Prince followed this up with with excellent workshops that brought the community along with it every step of the way.

Overall TEPCP considers the strategy and the background and supporting information report excellent and encourages their adoption by council. TEPCP supports the finding that priority should be given filling in the missing links in the existing network. In particular we are pleased that a strategic criteria has been developed to prioritise linkages that considers the extent to which the link closes gaps in existing network and the extent to which the route provides links to and from important destinations. The criteria also considers the extent to which the link improves safety to path users and if the link is financially affordable and sustainable.

The On-Road Bicycle And Shared Pathway Strategy shows the community a rational decision making process and goes a long way to meeting the community expectations.

The third document in the strategy, the Action plan identifies the key actions that are necessary to achieve this vision and nominates ten priority pathway that Council will focus on to improve the connectivity, accessibility and use of the existing network.

It is in the selection of the top ten projects that TEPCP believes proper weighting was not given to the missing links in the Entrance Peninsula.

There are three sections of the Tuggerah Lakes foreshore shared path in our Precinct that fit the criteria of being missing links in the existing network. It is now over twenty years since the original length of cycleway was constructed along the Long Jetty foreshores of Tuggerah Lakes. A few years later it was extended to the Picnic Point Reserve adjacent to Tuggerah Parade. Along this length however sections were left that required cyclists to use the on road connections along Tuggerah parade.

The first missing link is on The Entrance Road West along Tuggerah Lake between The Entrance Bridge and Picnic Point.



In holiday time the existing concrete path along the foreshore is blocked by people fishing. The grassed area has picnickers and the only possible way for pedestrians and cyclists is to use the roadway.

Submissions to council, in the past, have been met with the response that this will be constructed as part of The Entrance Resort development. While this is true, it is like what the late Jack Gibson said about Cronulla's chances of winning a rugby league premiership. " *You may just as well leave the porch light on for Harold Holt to come home!*" The community believes we have as much chance as that of seeing The Entrance Resort built in the next decade.

It is also noted that this link is not shown on the Strategy Action Plan map



TEPCP has suggested a temporary measure that would be low cost and immediately meet the needs of pedestrians and cyclists alike, but this has been ignored in the Action Plan. The Entrance Road is quite wide in sections here and as a result it would be possible to construct a cycleway adjacent to the existing kerb along this length. The proposal involves the installation of a temporary nail down kerb, consisting of precast concrete sleepers, that can easily provide a 3m wide path on the existing road to avoid the picnickers and fishermen.

The following criteria is offered for consideration.

- » The TEPCP proposal for a temporary kerb fills a real need and meets the strategy selection criteria and is a winner on a cost benefit ratio consideration.
- » At the ordinary meeting of Wyong Shire Council, held on Wednesday, 24 February 2010 Council resolved to refer DA 1301/2009, for a Proposed Farmer's Market and Bicycle Hire Business at The Entrance to the General Manager for determination with an indication that based on the information available to it, Council favours approval of the application subject to appropriate conditions. TECPC asks where will they be able to ride their bicycles, but on the roadway.

The second missing link is at View Street.



This section was obviously left because of the difficulty of putting the cycleway on the side of an embankment between Tuggerah Parade and the lake foreshore. This section needs to be completed off road to ensure the whole length between Long Jetty and The Entrance is off road.

The third missing link is an on road section along Tuggerah Parade is the longest and extends from the Long Jetty Sailing Club to Norfolk Street.



This on road section of the cycleway is approximately one kilometre in length. Tuggerah Parade is a “No Through Road”, however there is still a lot of traffic in holiday time with both residents and tourists looking at the Lake using this section. By providing an off road cycleway along this section more families would be encouraged to use the facility knowing that it was safe for children to ride along it without ever encountering a motor vehicle.

- » Advice from residents who live on this section of Tuggerah Parade tell us of numerous incidents where young children using training wheels on their bicycle fall off due to the uneven surface of the existing road.
- » Many cyclists and pedestrians travelling in a northerly direction stop at Archbold Road and go back because of the unsafe conditions of having small children ride on roadways.

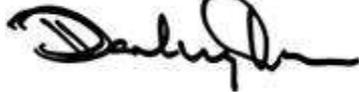
The 2010/2011 Management Plan's fund show only \$125,000 for cycle ways. Without Grant funding the top ten action planned items will take over ten years to implement. The Action plan needs to reflect a time line of the likely construction because it will take a decade to complete the top ten priorities. The Executive Summary needs to address this issue up front so the community does not have unrealistic expectations for the completion of the strategy.

TEPCP believes that additional rigor could be added to the decision making process by having traffic counts of users of the shared cycle path done. To this end, given Councils financial constraints, TEPCP suggests that Council considers engaging community groups with interests in the paths to undertake the counts for council.

There are strong arguments for money to be spent on road items rather than off road shared paths. TEPCP believe that priority should be given to off road shared paths because of they are used by a wider section of the community, both residents and tourists alike.

In summary TEPCP believe there are compelling arguments why the missing links in the oldest and most used section of shared path around Tuggerah Lake, through Long Jetty and The Entrance should be given priority.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Darlington', written in a cursive style.

Douglas Darlington
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cc Paul Barnes The Entrance Town Centre Management