

Dear Bicycle Victoria Member

SWANSTON STREET AND CYCLISTS

You've no doubt heard that City of Melbourne is once again considering allowing traffic back into Swanston Street. Last year when the same proposition was put, the vote was 4 : 4 with the Lord Mayors casting vote to maintain the status quo. The cars were kept out, but only by a whisker.

Now, here we go again! A Council Committee considered the matter a couple of weeks back and the recommendation to not reopen the street to night-time traffic was decided on a casting vote. On Tuesday 28 October the full Council (all 9 Councillors) will vote on the Committee's recommendation and we can anticipate the vote will be extremely close. It is vitally important that all stakeholders are heard by the Council, not just those lobbying to reopen Swanston Street to cars. We need cyclists to have their interests heard and recognised.

Since the prohibition of most traffic, Swanston Street has become the backbone of the City's cycling network. It carries well over 10,000 cyclist movements a week, links critical cycle routes like the Yarra Path, StKilda Road bike lanes and Royal Parade bike lanes and is used day and night, weekdays and weekends.

Over the past 5 years we have had a progression of threats and compromises to this strategic component of the network - the flagpoles on the pavement, extension of the Lonsdale Street medians out across Swanston Street, Sunday market on the road, proposed planter boxes on the pavement, kerbside coach parking, etc. The reintroduction of traffic will pose the greatest threat yet.

Please take some time before the meeting on 28 October to contact the Council to let them know that Swanston Street has been a great advance to improving cycle access through the city and encouraging more people to use bikes and that the reintroduction of traffic will be greatly detrimental to cyclist safety and amenity.

In Council's Bike Plan '97 there is a goal that Melbourne will become '*a first class cycling city*'. Please help us ensure the Council keeps this commitment.

For details of who to contact, see overleaf. For further information, contact me on 9328 3000.

Yours Faithfully

Jennifer McInnes

Help make Melbourne 'a first class cycling city' - have your say on cars in Swanston Street

City of Melbourne Councillors

***Cr Ivan Deveson AO**

Lord Mayor
portfolio : business development

***Cr Peter McMullin**

Deputy Lord Mayor
portfolio : business development

Cr David Bardas

portfolio : city marketing

***Cr Carrillo Gantner**

portfolio : cultural development

***Cr Lorna Hannan**

portfolio : housing

Cr Wellington Lee

portfolio : city safety

***Cr Malcolm Ritchie**

portfolio : transport and access

Cr John So

portfolio : sister cities and international relations

Cr Rosemary Stott

portfolio : environment

**denotes Councillors who voted last year to keep cars out of Swanston Street*

Faxing

Address your fax to

Lord Mayor and Councillors
City of Melbourne
9654 2628

Letters

Address to
Lord Mayor and Councillors
City of Melbourne
GPO Box 1631 M
Melbourne 3001

or drop them into the front desk of the Town
Hall, Swanston Street

Your submission need not be lengthy - it could be just a brief statement about the effect that cars back in Swanston Street would have on cycling. Correspondence should be received before Monday 27 October.
