



2 August 2021

Bass Highway Leith consultation
Department of State Growth



Bass Highway Leith

Thank you for the opportunity to make comment on the options being put forward for road safety at the Bass Highway in Leith.

We have been contacted by some concerned local residents about the prospect of heavy vehicles using Leith Road more frequently than is currently the case as they say people ride and walk on the road because it's currently considered a quieter back route.

They are worried that more trucks using Leith Road at higher speeds if an overpass is built will pose a road safety risk for people walking and riding, as the narrow road does not have a footpath or sealed shoulders.

I have also spoken to a few keen road cyclists in the area who ride Leith Road and Braddons Lookout Road and they confirmed it's a route taken by recreational riders and road cyclists.

Bicycle Network does not see the need for an overpass to improve safety for people riding as there is an underpass that connects the two sides of Leith at Short Street and Alexander Street.

This underpass is currently unsigned and not really accessible once you are on Bass Highway. I spoke to riders from the region who didn't know it existed and generally plan their routes to cross at Turners Beach where there is an overpass.

The underpass is planned to play a central link in the soon to be built Coastal Pathway project. Central Coast Council is about to start work on building the Coastal Pathway section set to run from the Short Street path where the underpass lands, through Leith and over the old rail bridge over the River Forth to Turners Beach.

Devonport Council is well advanced in its planning for the section of Coastal Pathway between Don and Leith which will sit on the southern side of the highway and meet up with the underpass to get people across to Leith and Turners Beach.



Planned Coastal Pathway connection at Bass Highway

Regardless of the road option the government adopts at Leith, money needs to be set aside to improve the connection of the underpass to Leith Road so existing riders will be able to find and use it and people travelling on the Coastal Pathway will be able to get off for a side trip to Forth.

If the government does decide to build an overpass that makes Leith Road more of a thoroughfare for heavy vehicles and increases the current 60 km/h speed limit, we'd like to see at the very least wide sealed shoulders for confident riders and preferably also a path for people riding who aren't confident on the road, especially children.

Yours sincerely

Alison Hetherington
Public Affairs Manager Tasmania
210 Collins St Hobart 7000

