

28 April 2022

Darebin City Council
PO Box 91,
Preston VIC 3072

Re: Darebin Transport Strategy Refresh 2022

Bicycle Network would like to formally express our support for Darebin City Council's Transport Strategy Refresh draft.

This draft recognises the many changes to local and state policies and people's travel behaviours since the previous version of the Strategy published in 2014 and makes a strong effort to accommodate these changes. The revisions to Action and Policy items are logical.

In particular, the Strategy recognises that there may be a growing number of residents who have moved working from home lifestyle, which will have direct effects on local transport, spending, and the 'liveability' of the municipal area. In particular, these local 'short distance' trips could be easily achieved by active transport modes, and thus there is an exciting opportunity to support the home-based workforce. It would benefit the council to acquire a robust dataset on residents' transition to WFH, as well as their needs. Similarly, pedestrian and bike counters can inform on changes in local active travel behaviour.

We also suggest strengthening the Strategy through consideration of **bike parking** and **theft prevention**, which are reasonably intertwined. Bicycle Network's 'Bike Theft Report' revealed that there were 346 bikes stolen across the LGA in 2020 (208 bikes per 100,000 people), making it the **fifth worst** local government area in Victoria for bike thefts per capita. Thefts have an indirect effect on active travel uptake, so there is an opportunity in the strategy to outline innovative solutions for theft reduction, including provision of secure parking and awareness campaigns.

A number of additional comments, which are more specific in nature, have been raised directly with the Darebin City Council planning team.

We hope that our feedback assists the council in preparing the Strategy. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards



Dr Nicholas Hunter
Research and Policy Advisor
Bicycle Network



Craig Richards
Chief Executive Officer
Bicycle Network