

**Bicycle Network Victoria Responses -  
Aiv Puglielli, Victorian Greens Lead Candidate for North-Eastern Metropolitan Region**

1. What is **your view** regarding the current active transport infrastructure in your electorate?

Some parts of North-East Metro have terrific bike paths and trails which are well utilised by cyclists and walkers, and around these there are many gaps and dangerous missing links. Many of us saw these trails with fresh eyes during the lockdown era, and so I think there is more community positive sentiment than ever to see this infrastructure improved. Further, by improving bike lanes and safety for cyclists we'll be taking polluting vehicles off our roads and easing congestion. The Victorian Greens have committed to making active transport better across Victoria, and I'm currently engaging with local government areas to deliver these commitments to the local level.

2. What **actions will you take** to improve active transport in your electorate?

The Victorian Greens have committed \$2.5 billion dollars over the next four years to implement a 'Big Bike Build' with hundreds of kilometres of safe and separated bike lanes! I am committed to working with Councils within my electorate to localise this pledge to gaps in the existing bike lane and active transport infrastructure while seeking ways to build upon this to incentivise active transport uptake.

3. Active transport spending at the state level is **less than 2 per cent**. In your view, **what is a 'fair spend'** for active transport?

10-20% - far more than the current State Government commitment.

**What is your view regarding the current active transport infrastructure in your electorate?**

Across North-East Metro there is patchy coverage with little to no safe, separated bike infrastructure. There is a long list of sites wherein pedestrian crossings are unsafe or missing entirely, along with numerous locations where a long-term discussion is needed around accessibility and the future of our interconnected suburbs via active transport.

We have huge road infrastructure projects currently being installed under this State Government, which are dividing communities and creating both ecological and economic scarring within the electorate. Adding lanes to roads and incentivising car travel is at best a short-term fix, with significant potential to bake in dangerous and irresponsible congestion on our road transport routes. I've spent this campaign fighting for more active and public transport expansion within North-East Metro to shift the dial and make those modes the most attractive, accessible and affordable option for communities.

The critical role of active transport in connecting with other transport modes and connecting communities with local destinations is continually unrecognised by the State Government and this needs to be rectified.

Cyclists in many parts of North-East Metro have effectively been abandoned in the planning processes and this has resulted in unsafe routes, which deter people from riding their bikes or put them in harm's way by doing so.

Separated bike lanes and expanded active transport infrastructure will help make riding a bike and walking around North-East Metro safe for everyone. Increasing numbers of people are walking or riding around our local community and we need to support this in the immediate term.

**What actions will you take to improve active transport in your electorate?**

I'm currently in dialogue with local Councils to localise the commitments made by the Victorian Greens on active transport, and look forward to announcing these prospective sites and projects in the coming days.

My priority is getting polluting vehicles off our roads, getting people out and about safely around the community and incentivising the shift from an unsustainable system to one which much more fluidly allows for the growing vibrancy and diversity of the North-East Metro population.

**Active transport spending at the state level is less than 2 per cent. In your view, what is a 'fair spend' for active transport?**

The Victorian Greens have committed \$2.5 billion dollars over the next four years to implement a 'Big Bike Build' with hundreds of kilometres of safe and separated bike superhighways and more safe pedestrian crossings, upgraded footpaths and walkable neighbourhoods across the state.

With transport as Victoria's biggest growing source of emissions, governments must do more to support people to make the switch to climate-friendly transport like bike riding and walking.

The Greens' plan would move Victoria towards the goal of active transport funding being 10 - 20 per cent of transport capital funding as recommended by the United Nations.

As part of the power sharing government in Ireland, the Greens have increased active transport funding to 20 per cent, while in Scotland they have increased it to 10 per cent and here in Victoria we should be aiming for the same.