

3 November 2022

Michael Tolhurst, Candidate for Bendigo East

Victorian Greens

**RESPONSE:**

*Great to hear from you! I personally love cycling for fun, fitness, and for getting around town (sometimes towing my daughter). In answer to your questions:*

- 1. In some places Bendigo does have some great cycling and walking infrastructure. However it is patchy. My ride to work involves a great shared path along a creek, but to get to the path I need to risk my skin amongst cars getting through a fast flowing two lane roundabout. Friends and workmates I talk to, want to ride their bike and walk more to get around. But right now we have big gaps in our cycling network, and busy roads to navigate. For example, there is no safe, fast route from north to south through the centre of town. Lots of people end up driving instead which is a massive lost opportunity.*
- 2. I am campaigning for safe, separated bike lanes across in my local town and supporting local advocacy groups. The Greens will also upgrade our streets, footpaths and crossings to make them safer for people to walk around. I will also lead by example by getting to as many campaign events as possible on my pushy!*
- 3. 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. I want to see more active transport for health, livability, community connection and environmental benefits.*

*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.*