

1 November 2022

Nick Savage, Candidate for Hawthorn

Victorian Greens

RESPONSE:

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

Currently the active transport infrastructure in Hawthorn is something that's lacking any real investment. This can be seen in the lack of modal separation between bike lanes and cars along Glenferrie Rd and Burke Rd, to give but two major examples. I ride my bike up and down these roads quite regularly and fear for my safety every time. And having spoken to parents in the community, most won't let their children ride along these roads without a high degree of trust or unless they're with someone else. Personally, if I had children, neither would I.

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

I'll push the state government to give Hawthorn its fair share of attention. We've been calling for an active transport investment for years now, and it's time we got it. Our streets are for everyone, and the Greens will make sure they work for everyone. The plan is to build hundreds of kilometres of separated bike lanes and paths across metropolitan Melbourne and regional centres as well as upgrading our streets, footpaths, and crossings to make them safer and easier for people to walk around. This will not only help cut emissions but help encourage people to use more active transport when navigating their community, creating a healthier, more inclusive, and engaged community in Hawthorn.

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?

2% of spending on active transport is a joke. Especially considering the current government's pledge towards fighting climate change. We can see around the world that investment in active transport is a boon for society, and so it's only right we follow suit. After all, no one is coming to save us from this climate crisis but ourselves. We need an investment closer to 5% of our budget to achieve any real action, unite our communities, and move forward together.