

7 November 2022

Shannon Meilak, Candidate for Niddrie

Animal Justice Party

**RESPONSE:**

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

The Animal Justice Party recognises the immense negative impacts of our current transport system in the dimensions of human health, climate change and wildlife deaths. As a result, we need a radical shift away from private vehicles and towards other modes including mass transit and active transport. In order to accomplish this, adequate investment must be made to support this shift across Victoria. With regards to active transport, lack of dedicated infrastructure is one of the largest barriers to this mode shift and this needs to be addressed.

In my electorate of Niddrie, greater investment in Protected Cycle Lanes on busy roads such as Buckley Street in Essendon West, Fullerton Road in Keilor Park and Matthews Ave/Keilor Road in Airport. We also need to see an inclusion of End of Trip facilities across the entire electorate.

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

The Animal Justice Party will work with the successful government and advocate for this urgent shift away from car travel by investing in additional cycling and pedestrian infrastructure in the district, with a priority on additional safe bicycle lanes. I will also be sure to listen to my constituency's concerns and ideas, as any transport initiatives should prioritise the needs and wants of the local community.

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

For active transport infrastructure, the dollar amount of the spend should be based on a targeted mode-shift as opposed to the current rate of bicycle and pedestrian transport. In order for active transport to be a viable option for a majority, it needs to reach parity for positive outcomes with other modes by making these options safer and more convenient.

Additionally, there are other legislative changes that can support active

transport, such as allowing local councils to more easily apply 30km/h zones and requiring property developers to contribute to active transport infrastructure.

I would certainly like to see more investment by the Victorian Government in active transport methods to create a better system for people and our climate.