

18 November 2022

Simon Gnieslaw, Candidate for Bentlyigh

Independent

**RESPONSE:**

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

It's absolutely dismal. It is unsafe, and it dissuades current car drivers from ever wanting to try a bike because they can see how dangerous it is, especially with the pathetic so-called "bike lanes" which are full of obstructions and have no separation from cars.

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

I will make it a priority to have protected bike paths throughout Bentlyigh District to connect to all Homes, Businesses, Schools, Parks, Shops and Public Transport without having to share the road with cars or pedestrians in any hazardous way. Resident streets closed to car through-traffic can be used as a bicycle highway (only car access is for parking and driveways, at slow speed, one way), with per-emptive traffic lights to cross major roads. I want to make eBikes in particular as the most attractive option to encourage people to switch to bikes from cars, without forcing them to.

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

Considering that it ties into so many areas such as Climate Emergency, Healthcare, Transport - and actually saves expenditure in these areas by not having to offset as many cars to meet emission targets, not have as many sick people filling up hospitals because they are physically fitter, not having to build new roads because there is less demand for them, the spending should be much, much higher. I can't really say what % exactly it should be without seeing the whole budget, but I would guesstimate that around 20-30% would be reasonable.