

6 November 2022

Stephen Capon, Candidate for Narre Warren North

Independent

**RESPONSE:**

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

Currently, the infrastructure is woefully inadequate. There is very few dedicated bike lanes on the roads, and they are often shared with car parking on the side of roads, making them unusable for most cycling traffic. Additionally, there are very few places to store bicycles or e-bikes when you arrive at a location, making security and safety another issue. Much more money and effort is required to make active transport a viable method of travelling in the electorate of Narre Warren North.

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

There are multiple actions that can be taken. The first is to look at the Victorian Planning Provisions, and updating the relevant Transport Zones to ensure that cycling becomes a mandatory travel requirement option on all but the most major roads (e.g. Monash / South Gippsland Freeway). This also includes ensuring that new developments have easily accessible commercial developments that are within cycling distance.

Secondly, one of my aims is to purchase an e-bike myself, and to use it for most of my work (particularly commuting to and from the local electorate office). This firsthand experience would give the motivation and political will to push for change in how active transport is funded and discussed in political circles.

Thirdly, I would advocate for additional funding for active transport infrastructure and ancillary projects by the government of the day (noting that as an Independent, I cannot promise funding without Government agreement, but that I would push strongly for such funding changes).

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

More than 2 per cent, but I am not familiar enough with the costs/savings

associated with switching to using active transport that I cannot give an accurate figure. Maybe 7.5 per cent?