

4 November 2022

Tim Oseckas, Candidate for Northcote

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 deaths of wild animals. 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 Northcote there has been some progress over the last few years with protected bike lanes along St Georges Road, along Victoria Road, and parts of High Street, and pop-up bike lanes have added a safe distance from traffic. Darebin Bicycle Users Group have done some great work with VicRoads, Melbourne Water, The Level Crossing Removal Authority, and Darebin Council over the last couple of years to make cycling safer and more accessible. The St Georges Road bike lane for example gets a lot of use, and I use it myself when I ride to work across town to St Kilda. However there needs to be greater investment in protected bike lanes, end of trip facilities like bicycle locking facilities to get more people cycling more often.*

**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 of Northcote such as ensuring that cyclist are provided with adequate crossings when level crossings are removed, and engaging with my constituent's concerns, especially groups like Darebin Bicycle Users groups, to find out about their experiences and what's important for them to make cycling safer and more accessible, 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, and protect animals from coming to harm through collisions with vehicles.*

*Several of our policies including The Climate Emergency and Health relate to and support active transport, including cycling. You can see our policies here: [https://vic.animaljusticeparty.org/our\\_policies](https://vic.animaljusticeparty.org/our_policies)*