



Glen Eira City Council

Candidate, Camden Ward - Jesse Mansfield

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If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Glen Eira?

I know that in the Elsternwick/Caulfield area where I am running, there is a general lack of pedestrian crossings which makes it challenging to cross any of the larger roads. Further, there are intersections where the existing crossings aren't safe. Residents have the best understanding of their area so I would advocate for community working groups to identify problems with the existing infrastructure.

I would also lobby other councillors to take action on issues I am aware of. From my discussions with local cyclists and reading the Glen Eira cycling action plan, it is clear that Glen Eira cycling infrastructure needs significant improvement. The existing network is sporadic and disconnected, stopping and restarting at certain intersections. My priority would be filling in these gaps in the network and identifying hazardous intersections. Further, the current network is unsafe for inexperienced riders and where possible physical barriers should separate cyclists from traffic, being mindful of the residents affected by road changes and working with them to ensure no one feels forgotten.

When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?

While I don't ride anymore, when I used to my favourite route was going along the Elwood canal to Elsternwick Park and from there going along the Bay trail for a while before making my way back. The separated bike paths made me comfortable as a novice, while I never felt safe on the on-road bike paths.

Are you satisfied with the progress being made with your council's bike strategy?

Glen Eira adopted a new 5-year cycling action plan in December 2019 and so I am not in a position to comment on the progress made, so I will instead talk briefly about the integrated transport strategy that has been in place for over 2 years.

I support the majority of this strategy and its aim to transition 1000 current car commuters to other modes of transport every year until 2031. However, I am concerned by the recently announced 38 million dollar investment in 5 and 4 story car parking facilities in Elsternwick and Bentleigh. These projects are contrary to the aims of the transport strategy and will make traffic conditions worse by incentivising people to drive to activity centres rather than walking / cycling or using public transport.