



Wodonga Council

Candidate – Cr Kat Bennett

I've spent the last 4 years on Wodonga Council advocating for safe & accessible community planning to facilitate walking and riding in our city.

I've supported ride2school and ride2work day in our schools and workplaces for the past 10 years. As part of the ride2school program Council collects data from students, parents and teachers participating in the initiative and this informs our yearly council budget. Each year we have incorporated feedback and made infrastructure changes in direct response to the data.

We have added end of trip facilities to our major infrastructure projects, like our current new LibraryGallery development.

I've also very actively supported our fast-growing Mountain Biking MTB community and in particular addressing barrier to female participation, eg adding an additional item to the 2020/21 budget to investigate toilet facilities at the most utilised MTB spot in Wodonga, Hunchback Hill.

We have a very comprehensive Integrated Transport Strategy that has been co designed with community, with strong commitment in our Municipal Public Health and Well-being plan and our Council Plan to continue to prioritise Active Transport. We have just approved an underground pass across a busy road that will mean you can ride or walk the entire green belt of Wodonga without crossing any roads! I have also supported Council to ensure we plan and build supporting smaller infrastructure like seating, shade, water bubbles and trialling count down timers on traffic lights (the first regional LGA in Vic to trial this) to encourage physical activity.

I've also supported funding applications relating to improving our Rail Trail. This is my favourite place to ride, and it is a key link to cycle tourism that our area is famous for. Our section of the rail trail should continue to be prioritised in council planning as it attracts national and international riders because it is such a fantastic ride around the Hume Weir, into the Murray Valley and the Upper Murray.

I am a fierce advocate for women's participation in physical activity and I prioritise Health in all policies. In my other part time role I am a Health Promotion Coordinator and work with education settings to encourage more physical activity, healthy eating and mental health. I'm also a member of one of the Landcare groups that helps to maintain part of the rail trail.

For more info see my Facebook page: facebook.com/katbennettwodongacouncil