



# Ballarat City Council

## Central Ward

### Candidate, Central Ward – Belinda Coates

I'm a candidate and have been a Councillor in Ballarat for two terms. Please find my response below:

#### **If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Ballarat?**

I've been a Ballarat Councillor for 8 years and a consistent and persistent advocate for walking and cycling. I successfully advocated for commitment to a Sustainable Transport Plan. Now 8 years later there is an adopted Integrated Transport Plan with comprehensive Walking and Cycling Action Plans. If re-elected I'll continue to advocate to fast-track rolling out the priorities in these plans. I've publicly committed to push for a 'per capita' budget allocation in the Council Budget for active transport, walking and cycling infrastructure. If re-elected I'll also continue to advocate for City of Ballarat to advocate strongly to state and federal governments for funding towards walking and cycling infrastructure.

#### **2. When you go out on your bike, where is your favourite place to ride?**

I'm on my bike most days cycling from a to b. I love riding around the quieter tree lined streets in Central Ballarat. We're so lucky to have a beautiful heritage city. Perhaps an equal favourite is the Yarrowee River Trail. It's such an amazing natural space.

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

I would love to see more key actions fast-tracked. The strategy and action plan is in place and progress has been slow but steady. A recent win as a result of this ground work was securing significant TAC funding (\$9.3M) for "Safer Walking and Cycling Connections" around. This was a good jump start but I would really love to see the priorities in the Cycling Action Plan fast-tracked to better connect up the identified network. The ground work is there. It just needs the political will and better council resourcing and funding to bring it all together.



## North Ward

### Candidate, North Ward – Ellen Burns

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

I will advocate for the introduction of a per capita active transport spend so that our pedestrian and cycling infrastructure can be brought in line with demand and encourage more people to use these types of transport safely and easily.

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

My husband is a keen mountain bike rider so we have been to quite a few places together around Victoria, but my favourite place is my local bike path down the Yarrowee River Trail.

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

Ballarat Council has met quite a lot of community resistance when it comes to bike infrastructure plans. I hope that the uptake in cycling since lockdown will see a shift in attitude towards cycling as people experience first-hand the flaws and gaps in our current infrastructure.