



Macedon Ranges Shire Council

East Ward

No responses received.

West Ward

No responses received.

West Ward

Candidate – West Ward, Lenka Thompson

1. If elected, how will you support making it easier for people to walk and ride in Macedon Ranges?

My goal is to provide safe and connected infrastructure with 800 m from each Primary School, all community facilities, and shops within each township, and then also between linking each township. Bringing life back into our communities, supporting health and wellbeing, and reducing cars usage is a vision in the Active Transport space. To do this I will advocate for:

- a commitment of funding in future budgets;
- prioritise the implementation of Council's Walking and Cycling Strategy 2014;
- ensure all new infrastructure projects prioritise active transport;
- council officers to work in close relationship with interested community groups and Bicycle Network or State Government initiatives (i.e. support the Walk/Scoot/Cycle to School Days);
- creating a resource list of all the interested walking and cycling groups in each township;
- better consultation with local groups, BikeSafe Macedon Ranges, Transport Action Group, Macedon Ranges Sustainability Group, when designing new infrastructure (e.g. Woodend to Riddles Creek trail).

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

The Campaspe River Shared Path in my hometown of Kyneton is my favourite place to ride at the moment, with my partner and two little kids - one still in a baby seat. I note that a Shared Path is not an ideal scenario. This path is very picturesque and tactile.

It is best suited to young families and walkers as a scenic trail with a speed limit of 10 km/hr. It is not suitable as an alternative to the road for a direct path for commuting or children cycling to school.



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

No. There is a deep perception that no movement at all over the past 15 years in the Macedon Ranges Shire despite every community survey finding it is the community's biggest need. I made a submission to the recent Budget and there was no funding at all for bike infrastructure. Unlike Hepburn Shire and Mount Alexander Shire who worked with VicRoads to produce Master Plans, the council has not had active transport as a priority. With this steady decline in cycling infrastructure there has been a decrease using cycling as an alternative transport mode, particularly as safety concerns and increased traffic have prevented uptake. However; due to COVID-19 there has been a strong resurgence, and this is a valuable opportunity to capitalise on the renewed interest and advocate for the local community in Council.