



Hobart Council Candidate Statements

Ryan Posselt

Members of Bicycle Network Tasmania,

I am a strong advocate for improved cycling infrastructure in Hobart City. For years I have cycled for commuting, exercise and recreation. I am a road cyclist and a mountain biker and my two year old has developed a love for balance bike riding.

I recognise the many benefits of cycling to both individual and community. As individuals, cycling keeps us happier and healthier. It decreases the burden of disease as we age and keeps us moving. Lessening our need for complex health management. For the community, the benefits are multifactorial. Cycling reduces congestion. Every commuter is one less car on the road meaning journey times are faster for those that must drive. By replacing cars with bikes, air pollution and noise in the CBD is reduced making the city a more pleasant place to be. The more people riding bikes, the less we need to spend on maintaining expensive road infrastructure. Riding bikes keeps people out of hospitals in the long run, decreasing the burden on the health system. Improved health outcomes also decrease sick days, which improves economic productivity. The benefits of cycling cannot be overstated.

What is more, traditional barriers to cycling are being stripped down by technological advancements. The evolution of e-bikes and cargo e-bikes has taken the pain out of going up hill. Have a look next time you are in south Hobart – spot the number of people gaining significant elevation at 25km/h, in work clothes, with kids on the back. The game has changed!

If elected to Hobart City Council, I will be strong advocate for cycling infrastructure, both for commuting and recreation, including mountain biking infrastructure. Coming from a health background, I believe in best practice, evidence and expert advice. I am a consumer of cycling infrastructure, not an expert.

Bicycle Network Tasmania forms an important part of the mix as both expert and advocate body. In principle, I support the recommendations of the Tasmanian Bicycle Council's 2019 report for bi-directional separated cycleways in Hobart CBD. If elected, I will listen to the experts, look at the evidence and work to implement tailored solutions to Hobart that provides optimal cycling infrastructure. This includes working toward a Battery Point Walkway to provide safe, practical and pretty passage from Sandy Bay into the city. And as micro-mobility devices, such as e-scooters, continue to gain popularity the time has never been better to build a cohesive network of dedicated infrastructure

for bikes, e-bikes and micro-mobility devices.

Build it and they will come!



Ryan Posselt
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Ryan Posselt
Hobart City Candidate 2022

Gemma Kitsos



I'm running for Hobart City Council to improve the liveability of our city. I have a vision for Hobart to become a cycling safe city. Hobart City Council has the potential to draw on the enthusiasm of its people to create safe, separate infrastructure and prioritise both health and the environment.

Bikes are a big part of my life. I commute to work by my touring bike, drop the kids to school on the cargo bike, run errands on the e-bike and mountain bike for the love of it!

Hobart has a thriving bike scene but I believe we can do better.

Hobart needs a bike master plan which focuses on safety for all users and the interconnectivity of current infrastructure. I will work towards achieving this during my term as a Councillor. Separated, safe infrastructure encourages more people to get on their bike

to access their jobs, schools, services and local shops. Evidence shows that if riding is safe, more women and families will consider this a viable transport option.

Hobart City Council needs a voice that puts cycling on the agenda and builds the capacity to implement projects promptly.

E-bikes have changed the accessibility of riding. E-bikes have made cycling available to many more people allowing them to travel further, require less cardio-vascular fitness and negotiate Hobart's hills. E-cargo bikes now make it possible to take multiple children by bike. Once elected to Council, I will investigate funding available to assist with the purchase of an e-bike.

As a health professional, the benefits of riding a bike are clear. Riding improves cardiovascular fitness, reducing the risk of heart attack and stroke. There are many more health benefits that cycling affords; too many to list here. Importantly, riding also improves mental health. Safe and well-connected infrastructure means more people out and about improving their health and well-being.

Our CBD is congested with traffic. The implementation of a bike master plan will encourage road users to seek an alternative transport option allowing those who need to drive to do so more effectively. The University's move to the city means that active transport options have never been more important. They are healthy and affordable.

One of the first projects which I will bring to the Council is the development of a cycling link to the CBD along Collins Street. This is a missing link that will safely connect the South Hobart Rivulet track to the CBD and the inner city cycleway.

I will ensure that there is discussion around the provision of end-of-ride facilities and that this is adequately addressed in the planning scheme. These facilities include but are not limited to secure bike parking, lockers, showers and e-bike charging facilities. These small items make a big difference to those who are not quite convinced to use a bike for commuting or to run errands.

As an elected Councillor, I will seek further funding opportunities to fund, implement and extend the Riding the Mountain Plan developing the mountain bike tracks (and shared used tracks) on the foothills of kunanyi. kunanyi offers a unique opportunity to build world-class tracks while respecting the biodiversity and cultural importance of the mountain.

More people on bikes reduce carbon emissions. Active transport is essential if we are to avoid 1.5 degrees of warming. I believe cycling is the confluence of health and climate action.

I recently successfully petitioned the Council to reduce the speed limit and improve signage at the Mcrobies Rd crossing in South Hobart.

I look forward to your vote. Let's put bikes back on the agenda.

Gemma Kitsos

Glimpses



Louise Elliot

I believe in supporting more people to walk and ride by providing infrastructure that makes this safer, more efficient and more enjoyable.

If elected, I would advocate for:

- a high quality network of connected footpaths that are developed to maximise accessibility, including for walker and wheelchair users and people with prams
- installation of individual bike lockers and space efficient, undercover bicycle storage that is well-lit and CCTV monitored in off-street Council owned carparks and at key locations across the city
- creation of connected cycleways in at least two directions so that bike and scooter users can cross the city more safely. For example from the Rivulet track through Collins Street to Campbell Street and along Campbell Street (from Davey Street to Melville Street)
- a grant program that schools can access to install secure bike storage on their campuses
- Council supporting cycling safety education and awareness through in-kind support, such as via Council's social media channels and inclusion of material in mailouts to ratepayers
- mountain-biking tracks for all ability levels and, where feasible, supporting infrastructure like bottle fillers and bike wash-down bays



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Raj Chopra

To Bicycle Network Tasmania,

I will be a strong supporter of improved infrastructure that will make it simpler for people to use bicycles and electric bikes because it is better for both individuals and our community. I would personally recommend the following.

1. Conduct a survey with the Hobart municipality to determine the number of persons who currently own and use bicycles or electric bikes in each area. The survey could be conducted online with the assistance of volunteers and in collaboration with various organisations.
2. Produce plans based on survey findings regarding the need for new infrastructure construction and infrastructure improvement.
3. Create more e-bike parking places with charging stations.
4. Run initiatives with schools to encourage students to commute to and from school on their bikes more frequently.

Given the escalating expense of fuel and the resulting health risks, I firmly believe that bicycles should be used as a form of transportation.

A quote from article below where a study was done by Stanford University.

“Study at Stanford University, scientists equipped 1,000 commuters, including motorists and bicycle users, with mobile measuring devices and recorded their heart rate and breathing around the clock. The evaluation showed that people who made their daily commute to work by bike were not only more balanced and relaxed during the journey, but throughout the day. Especially after work, on the way home from work, the cycling test subjects found it much easier to switch off compared to their motorized colleagues”

