

**Submission
No 262**

**INQUIRY INTO THE IMPACT OF ROAD SAFETY BEHAVIOURS ON
VULNERABLE ROAD USERS**

Organisation: Streets Alive Darebin

Date Received: 19 May 2023



May 2023: Submission - Inquiry into the impact of road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users

Streets Alive Darebin are a resident & ratepayers action group with a vision for thriving neighbourhoods where streets are used by people of all ages, irrespective of whether they choose to walk, cycle, use public transport or drive.

The Darebin area includes the following suburbs: Alphington (part), Bundoora (part), Fairfield (part), Kingsbury, Macleod (part), Northcote, Preston, Reservoir and Thornbury.

We make the following contribution to this inquiry and are willing to expand upon these points in future correspondence and subsequent public hearings

Accessible tram stops

Enable easy access to every tram route for users of all ages and abilities throughout Darebin, including those using mobility aids as well as pushers & prams.

Separation - for safety

Separated bike lanes provide a safety buffer between parked cars and bicycle lane users, preventing cyclist deaths from dangerous 'dooring' crashes. The construction of separated bike lanes along High Street from Westgarth to Thornbury is vital to increasing cycling participation* and improving community safety**

*Source Monash University: Three in four people want to ride a bike, but are put off by lack of safe lanes (January 2022)

<https://lens.monash.edu/@lauren-pearson/2022/01/31/1384381/3-in-4-people-want-to-ride-a-bike-but-are-put-off-by-lack-of-safe-lanes-lauren-pearson-phd-candidate-monash-university>

**Source Monash University: How to get more women on bikes? Better biking infrastructure, designed by women (April 2023)

<https://lens.monash.edu/@lauren-pearson/2023/04/06/1385599/how-to-get-more-women-on-bikes-better-biking-infrastructure-designed-by-women>

Wider footpaths

Provides an opportunity for re-planting all important economic and social corridors in Darebin. Street trees provide shade, increase biodiversity and reduce on-street temperatures on hot days.

Pedestrian friendly design

Traffic reduction and reallocation of on-street parking provides more pedestrian-friendly streetscapes throughout Darebin.

Intersection Safety

Intersections along High Street and several other main roads urgently need safety upgrades to prevent crashes and pedestrian deaths.

There have been three pedestrian deaths at Separation/High Street, Northcote in the last ten years*.

*Source: <https://www.tac.vic.gov.au/road-safety/statistics/online-crash-database/>

Thank you

Streets Alive Darebin

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