

Wednesday 9 March 2022

**Bicycle and walking paths
the smarter way to use federal Urban Congestion Fund**

The Independent Candidate for Kooyong, Dr Monique Ryan, is calling on the Federal Government to use the \$65 million that was earmarked to build unpopular car parks in the Kooyong electorate to instead expand the bicycle path network by building the Box Hill to Hawthorn trail.

Last week the Member for Kooyong, Josh Frydenberg, confirmed that four commuter car parks promised for the electorate in the 2019 election would not be built, citing community opposition. The Australian National Audit Office had previously issued a damning report that found that the process for selecting these car parks was not open or transparent.

“Now that the Treasurer has abandoned his pork barrel promise, let’s use that money to build the sort of infrastructure that Kooyong wants,” Dr Ryan said. “That money can be used to build the Box Hill to Hawthorn Trail, which has been in the planning for years.”

“The Box Hill to Hawthorn shared cycling and walking path is a vital link in Melbourne’s active transport network. Bicycle Victoria advocated for it. The RACV included the path in its 2019 review of strategic cycling corridors, based on its research that people will walk and cycle rather than drive, if the paths are safe and direct.”

“The Boroondara Council has included the Hawthorn to Box Hill trail in its 2022 Bicycle Strategy and the State Government has conducted a feasibility study to identify the best route. It has found that the Hawthorn to Box Hill trail would create safer and easier ways to get to the train stations.

“Infrastructure Australia supports improved cycle path links in Melbourne. But it appears that Josh Frydenberg and the Morrison government are ignoring well planned solutions that have been through extensive community and expert consultation, and which provide safe and environmentally-friendly, active transport options for local residents.”

“The people I speak to in Kooyong want transport options that are safe, well-designed and environmentally-friendly,” Dr Ryan said. “Unlike Frydenberg’s car parks, the Box Hill to Hawthorn trail proposal is community-driven and fully consultative, and is already in the planning.

“We need transport options which consider the future of work, the importance of local shopping precincts, safe spaces for pedestrians and cyclists, and which make our local communities beautiful places to live.

“So, let’s use the money saved by not building white elephant carparks, and build solutions that the people of Kooyong actually want.” Dr Ryan concluded.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

Campbell Cooney
Media Manager
Ph: 0437 278 464
mail: campbell.o.cooney@gmail.com
www.moniqueryan.com.au