



KooyongKoot Alliance Position Statement

Concrete Shared Paths Along Waterways and Through Parks

KooyongKoot Alliance support investment in cycling and active transport infrastructure.

We support leisure cycling along gravel paths, beside waterways and through our parks. Gravel paths slow cyclists and scooter riders down and lead to less conflict and more positive interaction.

KooyongKoot Alliance consider constructing concrete shared walkways through parks alongside Creeks a long-term detrimental action and will oppose the development of these.

Concrete paths:

Take away much of the green reprieve provided by our parks and creeks, further they:

- Increase the speeds of cyclists and electric scooters, especially commuter cyclists.
- have a high carbon footprint through the use of concrete and steel.
- increase the amount of water runoff leading to erosion.
- promote the spread of weeds.
- The requirement to have a 1m clear space either side of the path further robs us of even more meaningful green open space and increases the use of chemicals.
- Increase risk of accidents small children on training wheels, dogs both on and off leash, young children running around our narrow linear park.

We believe Councils and Victoria Transport often choose shared paths through Parks and along waterways as the path of least resistance. In doing so they pave the way for increased cyclist usage which will only increase as our suburbs grow. This will lead to more pedestrian /cyclist conflict leading to a second path being constructed and the loss of more usable green public open space, the reason ironically why many cyclists choose to commute along these paths.

We consider on road separated bike paths as the long-term solution. Real investment in cycling for the long term. Families low speed bike users etc will continue to use gravel paths and will be welcome by the community.

Ironically cycling is pushing park users from the spaces they love and reducing the significant mental health benefits these spaces provide.

The KooyongKoot Alliance oppose the construction of concrete shared paths in designated parks and green areas.