

An open letter to the premier from North Sydney councillor Ian Mutton

Come March we get the chance to hold the State Government accountable for what it's doing to North Sydney.

Let's look at the cycleway the Government is intent on building through Bradfield Park.
It is a matter of integrity and honesty – let's look at the cycling data the Government is relying upon.
The Government says, in the case of the Harbour Bridge, usage is up.

It's not – since 2018 it's down by 40%

In 2022 the average number of cycle crossings was 1,005 each day i.e. 503 cyclists.
The Government says build a cycleway and riders will come.
They don't – take the Anzac Parade cycleway – since 2018 usage is down 12%
The Government says there's a need for cycleway through Bradfield Park (Milsons Point)



So, how many cyclists use the Harbour Bridge each day? The numbers are tiny

In the "peaks", using Transport for NSW data for 10 March 2022 we have, in the:

1. morning (7:30 am to 8:30am) ten cyclists using the Bridge – that's right 10.
2. afternoon (5:45pm to 6:45pm) ten cyclists using the Bridge – that's right 10; perhaps the same ten?

What we need in our Government is integrity and honesty

The Government's business case justifies an estimated \$55m on the cycleway through Bradfield Park to replace 55 steps for few cyclists saving them on average 5 seconds per crossing. It must be based in Enid Blyton's world and calls into question the State Government's financial acumen.

The Government's Business Case assumes 2,000 daily crossings

The reality is that the number of crossings each day has been declining steadily – from 2013 to 2022 the decline has been in excess of 48%.

All this talk about the need for a cycleway is a furphy!

What's needed is a bit of honesty when presenting and dealing with the facts – may the gods save us from the Government (Transport for NSW) and those politicians who think it can do no wrong.



Artist's impression of the proposed ramp

If the Government was to address a real issue – here it is

The number of pedestrians crossing the bridge each day is 7 (seven) times greater than the number of bike riders.

1. Pedestrians are presently confined to the eastern side of the Bridge and have to deal with incredible congestion, what's really needed is more space for pedestrians.
2. If the Government is serious about meeting the needs of the people, it should open up the cycleway on the western side of the Bridge to be shared by bike riders and pedestrians.
3. As for the ramp – use the money to repair the flood damaged roads out west of the divide – do something really useful.

Next month I will report what the candidates say

Ian Mutton
A North Sydney Councillor
Chair of the Sydney Harbour Highline Inc
Chair of Wendy's Secret Garden Inc