

6 July 2015

Tony Whitfield
A/g Auditor General
GPO Box 12
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Tony

College Street Cycleway

I write on to ask you to investigate the process, costs of construction and now removal of the College Street cycleway.

The City of Sydney's 'Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017' included construction of a separated cycleway in College Street, which required approval from the then Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA). I understand that the City of Sydney originally identified an alternative route for the plan but the RTA did not approve it, instead requiring council to use College Street. I understand the two departments worked closely to ensure a safe and useful cycleway that would not interfere with traffic.

Significant funds were expended in constructing this infrastructure during 2010, and its patronage has steadily built, with more than 2,000 riders now using the route each day. Transport for NSW data indicates that there are more cyclists riding on this route than people in motor vehicles in the adjacent traffic lanes.

Similar provisions apply to the Wentworth Avenue separated cycleway that was designed to link with the College Street route and which also required NSW Government approval. Again the council complied with NSW Government conditions when this route was approved in 2011.

I am concerned that the government is now removing the College Street cycleway, with no safe option for cyclists to replace this route and at considerable expense. Cyclists entering the city from the east and south east will be pushed onto roads that are already dominated by private motor vehicles. Considerable funds have been expended to develop and construct separated cycling infrastructure only to have this removed several years later.

A government contract with the City of Sydney requires construction of a safe, separated cycleway on Castlereagh Street between Hay and King streets before the College Street cycleway can be removed. However the government has only determined to proceed with part of this route at this time, leaving cyclists with no full alternative route.

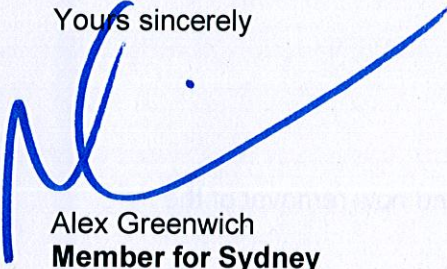


I am concerned that the government decision to now remove the College Street cycleway without construction of an alternative route is overriding its own and City of Sydney long term traffic plans at considerable expense.

Given the very limited funds expended to provide safe cycling infrastructure, I ask that you review this process and the outcomes achieved from this allocation of funds.

Could you please review the development and cost incurred for construction and removal of the College Street cycleway and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Alex Greenwich', written over a horizontal line.

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney