



BICYCLE
NETWORK
TASMANIA

Swansea to Dolphin Sands Bridge

About Bicycle Network

With a proud history reaching back more than 40 years, Bicycle Network is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all Australians by making it easier for people to ride a bike by:

- improving the bike riding environment by working with government at all levels to provide better infrastructure, data, policies, legislation and regulations
- delivering successful behaviour change programs such as Ride2School
- providing services that support bike riders through membership
- being a key spokesperson on issues related to cycling and physical activity.

In Tasmania, we also have an active volunteer committee who organise regular social rides, events such as the E-bike Expo, festival stalls and bicycle valet parking.

Infrastructure for Cycling

Two-thirds of Australian adults don't get the exercise they need to stay healthy.

Many Australians are in sedentary jobs, are time pressured with caring and work responsibilities, don't prioritise exercise and so often don't get the 30-60 minutes of daily exercise they need. Building exercise into daily routines is one way of making it easier for people to be more active.

While there are a range of reasons why people don't consider riding for transport, the most common reason cited is safety. US research has segmented the population and their propensity to ride for transport into these four groups, which has been echoed by local surveys:

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| <p><1% Strong and Fearless: will ride anywhere</p> <p>7% Enthused and Confident: will ride on painted bike lanes but would prefer protection</p> <p>60% Interested but Concerned: will not ride on roads without physical separation from vehicles</p> <p>33% No Way, No How: won't get on a bike, not matter how good the infrastructure</p> |
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The key to getting more people riding for transport is to provide separated cycleways as part of a network that takes them to work, shops, services, and schools.

Streets that are low speed (30 km/), have low traffic volumes and signage showing bicycles are a priority user of those streets can also help people get on bikes.

Why a Bridge?

Bridges for cycling and walking help get people moving by providing a genuine alternative to driving. A bridge is also a visible connection that reminds people there are alternatives to driving.

Providing a direct protected route via a bridge between Dolphin Sands and Swansea would significantly shorten the trip between the two areas and will appeal to people who would never have contemplated riding along the road.

As it's a relatively flat area, riding will be seen as possible by most people if they feel protected by the infrastructure. Also, the availability of electric bikes widens the possible pool of people riding for transport as they make it easier for older people and those with poor fitness to ride.

A bridge should be wide enough for people riding and walking to comfortably pass each other, have a smooth surface and low gradients that will be possible for most people to ride.

Council Connections

The important factor for its success in getting people riding will be the connections on either side of the river. Connecting to existing tracks and trails that are well maintained will be more beneficial than people having to ride on roads with no protection from cars.

Shaw Street has no footpaths and even though it's a low volume traffic street, will turn some people off riding. The council could consider putting signage up to alert drivers that it's a bicycle and pedestrian route and dropping the speed limit to 30-40 km/h, and marking bicycle symbols on the road.

A better option would be the the council acquiring land behind the existing row of houses on the western side of Shaw Street to provide a wide shared path through to the Tasman Highway, where riders can then use the footpath. If this was linked up to a path through the private land where the bridge is proposed to land it would be a desirable link from the river into Swansea.

Signage showing the safest route to the bridge on either side of the river will help locals and tourists to utilise the infrastructure, especially on the Dolphin Sands side which as no footpaths.



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