

MEDIA STATEMENT

16 December

Warwick West State School students shape bikeway planning

Student councillors at Warwick West State School have joined forces with state and local government to ensure the Warwick Principal Cycle Network meets the community's needs.

Transport and Main Roads (TMR) and Southern Downs Regional Council (SDRC) are jointly planning to create a safe, direct and connected bike route on Dragon, Pratten and Easey streets and welcomed student feedback.

Transport and Main Roads Southern Queensland regional director Bill Lansbury said the student councillors designed a survey for students from years four to six.

"The outgoing 2021 and incoming 2022 councillors met with department and council representatives to provide their survey results, discuss their requests and raise the concerns of their peers," Mr Lansbury said.

"Their main feedback was they wanted to feel safe while riding.

"They raised concerns around the bikeway's location close to traffic, safely crossing busy roads and stranger danger.

"These interactions are invaluable to our project. They confirm TMR and the community are working towards the same thing – making cycling safer to encourage more people to ride, more often.

"We know on average, every dollar invested in bike-riding infrastructure will return nearly five dollars in economic benefit to Queensland with improved health outcomes, reduced traffic congestion and lower transport costs.

"We've taken their suggestions and concerns seriously and will incorporate them into the next phase of the planning project."

When the students were asked about the Warwick Learn to Ride Park, SDRC's works manager Mike Holeszko said the response was overwhelmingly positive.

"Students and parents said they would initiate more family bike-riding activities if it was safe to do so on public roads," Mr Holeszko said.

"Investing in infrastructure today could contribute to reducing emissions in the future which supports council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2031.

"Hopefully bike riding will become a main means for transport in a town like Warwick, where inclines are few and sunny days are abundant."

Mr Lansbury thanked the wider Warwick and surrounding communities for the feedback received during the first round of consultation in October 2021.

"I invite the community to get involved in the second round of consultation, which will start in early 2022 and present the preliminary findings from the initial feedback period," he said.

Planning for the bikeway is expected to be completed mid-2022.

To keep informed about the project and consultation, visit <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/projects/warwick-principal-cycle-network-plan-business-case>.

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Caption: Warwick West State School student councillors, from left, Lincoln Bryant, Pepper Wickham, Aria Bray, Sasha Goodwin and Daniel Kuhn contribute to feedback on the Warwick Principal Cycle Network planning project.