

ITEM B

LORD MAYORAL MINUTE - MOUNT OUSLEY INTERCHANGE - ACTIVE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

The upgrade of Mount Ousley Interchange is vital for improving traffic safety and connectivity in Wollongong. Transport for NSW is managing the project and have advised that the pedestrian bridge over Mount Ousley Road, which was included in initial design, has been removed. This will result in decreased safety for residents of the northern suburbs, reduced active transport options and additional vehicle movements in the area.

Given the proximity to the University, TAFE, two high schools, and need to reduce car movements across the city, losing this key pedestrian and cycle access is a poor outcome for our community.

79% of trips in Wollongong are currently undertaken by car and over half of car trips are under 1 km. Increased use of active transport will reduce reliance on cars and ease congestion.

In a 2023 survey of UOW staff and students, 43% of respondents resided within 5 km travelling distance from the main UOW campus. This would be a relatively comfortably distance to cycle with the right supporting infrastructure, including an active transport bridge over Mount Ousley Road.

The Illawarra Shoalhaven Regional Transport Plan 2041 notes that Transport for NSW will investigate safety and reliability improvements on the M1 Princes Motorway between Picton Road and Mount Ousley Interchange. There is no timeframe for this investigation to be completed. This section of the M1 is regularly blocked by accidents or breakdowns, causing significant challenges for traffic movement to and from Wollongong. Transport for NSW should provide the community with an update on plans to address the fragility of the M1 on Mount Ousley as a matter of urgency.

RECOMMENDATION

Wollongong City Council calls on Transport for NSW to -

- 1 Reinststate the active transport bridge over Mount Ousley Road (as part of Mount Ousley Interchange Project) to ensure safe pedestrian and cycle access for the residents of the northern suburbs.
- 2 Update Council and stakeholders on the latest investigations on the safety and reliability of the M1 Princes Motorway, especially pertaining to the section between Picton Road and new Mount Ousley Interchange.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.