

ITEM 11

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR JESS WHITTAKER - ADVOCATE FOR THE UNDERPASS TO THE F6 FREEWAY AT WATERFALL TO BE REOPENED FOR CYCLISTS

Councillor Jess Whittaker has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Wollongong City Council write to the NSW Minister for Roads, Jenny Aitchison MP, requesting that the NSW State Government investigate the feasibility of reopening the toll booth tunnel under the F6 Freeway at Waterfall. This action will provide cyclists with a safe crossing location at the freeway when travelling south to the Old Princes Highway.”

Background provided by Councillor Jess Whittaker:

Cyclists traveling from Sydney to the Illawarra face significant risks due to a blackspot on the F6 at Waterfall, where they must cross the freeway to access the quieter Old Princes Highway.

The Old Princes Highway is a popular training route and offers different topography compared to the route through the Royal National Park to the Illawarra.

Following a tragic accident at this site in January 2025, a petition has been launched by members of a local cycling group to advocate for a safer solution. Adding our support to this campaign may contribute to enhancing the safety of cyclists traveling from Sydney to the Illawarra.

The exit to the Old Princes Highway for south bound cyclists is located on the right-hand side, which all riders must navigate if they wish to access the quieter Old Princes Highway.

There is a disused tunnel under the freeway that could provide a safer crossing. This tunnel and its associated access roads were originally constructed to service the toll booths and administration building when the F6 opened in 1975. According to the local cycling group, cyclists used to pass through this tunnel until the 1990s.

The tunnel and road infrastructure for this safe crossing is already in place, however concrete and earth barricades have been placed across the roadway, and sections are now overgrown. The adjacent roadways are in a state of disrepair near the tunnel entries.

The community are requesting that removal of barriers and necessary repairs to the roadway should be carried out by the NSW State Government to restore this safe crossing for cyclists.