



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES

Jo Clay MLA (Chair), Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy), Mark Parton MLA

Submission No 3 - Mr Alex O'Brien

Inquiry into the Road Transport (Safety and Traffic

Management) Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)

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I have found since moving to Braddon fifteen months ago that the suburb is still very much set up to preference cars. I live opposite the Raiders oval, and cars speed through those streets during peak hour, making it difficult to cross the road or ride my bike safely.

On my way home from work every day I ride on the footpath down Torrent Street from the Canberra centre. This is because there is no safe bike lane and many cars passing by too closely. When I get to the intersection with Eloura street I get off my bike and walk it across the pedestrian crossing, which is a small island and barely holds one person standing let alone me with my bike.

When I have tried to use the road going home, I have had cars not stop for me at the roundabout and almost hit me, and I have had many cars drive too closely to me. It does not feel safe, even though it is in the city centre and is one of the better looked after suburbs.

Similarly, when walking around Braddon, especially on a weekend, I often find myself with other pedestrians waiting on the curb while car after car passes by without slowing to let us across the street. The culture is very much 'cars are first, everyone else is second'. Sometimes when we try to make a break for it, several other pedestrians and myself get stranded on the tiny islands in the centre of the road now with cars passing by on either side, still not slowing to let us across.

I have the controversial opinion that the rainbow roundabout is outdated for the uses of the area. I would much prefer to see a good quality rainbow pedestrian crossing, nice and wide enough to cater to mothers with prams and the large number of pedestrians that pass through. I have seen the plans for Braddon, and they are an improvement, however the surrounding streets such as Eloura, Torrens, Fawkner (and in the other direction) would benefit from larger crossing areas (the pavement being widened where people cross) and much larger pedestrian strips in the middle of the road.

Canberra has such beautiful, wide footpaths, it saddens me that we don't have more separate infrastructure for cycling, such as a bicycle path alongside the footpath which would follow the length of Eloura street, or down the centre of Cooyong.

Alex O'Brien
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