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To:

Mr Gary James

General Manager

Woollahra Municipal Council

PO Box 61

DOUBLE BAY NSW 2028

Friday 8 July 2011

Attention: Paul Fraser

**Re: BIKESydney submission to the
Yarranabbe Park Masterplan**

Dear Paul

I write in response to the Draft Plan of Management and Masterplan for Yarranabbe Park currently on exhibition.

I note that the current design excludes cycling access. We feel this is a major oversight given the investment in cycling being made within the neighbouring City of Sydney council area, and certainly given Woollahra Council's stated commitment to cycling as expressed in Section 2 of its Bicycle Plan.

The biggest barriers to the uptake of cycling in central Sydney are the perceptions that it is not safe to ride on roads and that there are too many hills. Yarranabbe Park is flat, quiet, and attractive. That it is also itself a major trip attractor with ample room is cause enough for it to include provision for cycling. Such an environment serves as the perfect "nursery" for young, inexperienced and budding cyclists who otherwise will not use on-road cycleways. It is precisely parks such as Yarranabbe Park where kids and parents develop confidence to ride. A cycling strategy cannot rely only on the patronage of already-proficient cyclists.

Including cycling provision within the Park will also significantly broaden the Park's catchment area as people come to learn that they can ride to and through the Park.

Further, there exists a proposal for a Sydney Harbour Foreshore Cycleway which would connect the city's developing cycleway network to Watsons Bay along the harbour shores. Such a concept would become a valuable and iconic tourist and recreation route (like San Francisco's now famous 'Bay Run') and would bring many benefits to the LGA. To exclude cycling access within Yarranabbe Park would sterilise this concept.

We strongly urge Council to amend the Yarranabbe Park Masterplan to include provision for cycling. This would in the minimum include bike parking and provision of a devoted 3-3.5m wide through-park cycleway separate to walking paths or less preferably, a shared user path.

We urge Council to acknowledge the importance of cycling to the function and well-being of its community, and to recognise how such simple interventions will bring important benefits.

We would be happy to assist in any way to develop the provision for cycling within Yarranabbe Park.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

David Borella
President
BIKESydney
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BIKESydney is an incorporated not-for-profit community organisation that advocates on behalf of people who ride bicycles living and working in and around the City of Sydney local government area. We are affiliated with Bicycle NSW.

We seek to develop a city:

- in which riding a bicycle is part of everyday life;
- that is vibrant, healthy, productive, creative and robust;
- that values community, mobility, health, wellbeing, social equity and sustainability, and
- where people of all ages can make easy choices to ride a bicycle, walk and take public transport.