

Alternative Avalon Bike Plan by APA, CABPRA & PBWBA

Dear Michael and Ray

CC: NBC – Pittwater Councillors, Avalon Community Reference Group, Coastal Walk Group

The Avalon Preservation Association, CAPBRA and PBWBA have recently met at length to discuss the current proposed NBC Avalon Bike Plan, pertaining to Avalon Beach village (as mapped out within the proposed Northern Beaches Bike Plan).

As the three major residents' groups, whose members rely on Avalon village, we strongly believe that the current NBC proposed bike plan has significant drawbacks and would like to suggest a viable alternative. All three groups are very supportive of cycling, but none support the NBC bike plan in its current form ie constructing a separated bike path on Old Barrenjoey Road and Avalon Parade, and the necessity of bikes using the four way central intersection.

We feel the NBC bike plan is problematic as it adds more fast moving traffic to already existing intersection issues. It is well documented that bike lanes speed up traffic and give an expectation of priority to road users. It has always been a goal of planning for Avalon to give priority to pedestrians and this must be maintained. It is also environmentally insensitive with regard to removing street trees, excessively expensive, and it takes the focus away from our informal, pedestrian-oriented village, especially in light of NBC's encouragement for restaurants to extend dining opportunities onto footpaths due to Covid. It is also unnecessarily complex and overly engineered.

We submit below our preferred alternative proposal as a final document, (draft document submitted to you 5/10/2020) which is fully supported by our three associations. It utilises the Avalon laneways to feed bike riders from the main pathways on the outskirts of Avalon and funnels them through Avalon village to the shops, or to Avalon Public School. This alternative plan optimises the under-utilised laneways, features reduced speed limits and, unlike the current NBC plan, requires little in the way of major roadworks, tree removals or parking changes, to achieve a safer, cheaper and more pedestrian/cyclist-friendly outcome.

We would very much appreciate NBC considering this as the preferred alternative bike plan, to be included in the Avalon Place Plan, and we feel it is essential to arrange a time to further discuss this with the relevant NBC planners.

Sincerely

Peter Mayman
President
Avalon Preservation Association Inc.

Catherine Kerr
President
Clareville and Bilgola Plateau Residents Association

Richard West
President
Palm Beach Whale Beach Association