

## **Rushall Reserve proposed shared path – Consultation Feedback summary**

A variety of views have been expressed to Council during the community consultation on the above proposal, these are summarised below. **The majority of respondents favour leaving the reserve as it is, and investigating other options for shared path improvements that don't include Rushall Reserve.**

Please note the inclusion of the project funding in the Council budget for 2015/16 as a carry-over does **not** mean the project will proceed, or that a decision has been made to proceed or not. That decision will be made separately by Council, and with consideration for the feedback received from the community.

### **General feedback:**

- The path would be a suitable link in the Merri creek trail network, and avoid having to go onto roads.
- Other options already exist for cyclists so this proposal is not required.
- A number of people ride into the reserve looking for the connection.
- If a path was to be implemented run it along the railway track side of the park and separate it with a fence.
- The reserve is close to the reported signing of the Batman treaty, could some recognition of aboriginal significance of the area be considered.
- The proposal would reduce the conflict on the Rushall station pedestrian bridge.
- The number of people cycling is increasing.
- The number of people needing a place to walk their dog increases with the population density increase.
- The park is a peaceful, 'natural' space and this should be preserved.

### **Concerns raised:**

- Shared paths feel unsafe to walk on because some cyclists travel too fast and behave as if pedestrians should not be there.
- Dog owner liability if their dog caused an accident with a cyclist.
- Losing Rushall Reserve amenity. Currently it is a 'cul de sac' park with no through traffic and the dogs can be off lead without conflict of use.
- Many riders do not dismount at the underpass, as the sign directs them to.
- The path link would make the path area on the north side of Rushall Station more confusing, as there would be traffic going in different directions.

### **Shared path suggestions made:**

- Gather more information on how many cyclists would be likely to use the proposed path.
- Gather more detailed information on how many cyclists would continue to use the underpass.
- Further investigate improving the underpass for cycle use in terms of cost and feasibility and VicTrack requirements.
- Improve the St Georges Rd underpass connection on the Merri Creek Trail.
- Implement measures to slow cyclists down and reinforce pedestrian priority.
- Provide more and improved signage around the existing shared paths.