



Moreland Bicycle User Group (Moreland BUG) is a non-profit organisation run by volunteers advocating for safer riding in Moreland. Each Council election we survey candidates on their commitment to issues affecting people as they get around by bike so that our members and the wider community can make an informed decision at election time.

Candidate Name: James Conlan

Candidate Affiliation: Greens

7% of Morelanders use their bicycles get to work. (MITS 2019) Others ride to school, the shops and other local destinations. What is your perception of safety for these people in Moreland?

As the former Convenor of the Moreland Bicycle User Group, former employee at Bicycle Network, and former committee member of Revitalise Sydney Road, improving the safety of riding a bike is a long-time passion of mine.

While Moreland is ahead of many other councils in terms of cycling infrastructure, much more needs to be done across the municipality to improve people's perception of safety when riding a bike. There are major missing links in the network, particularly for people travelling east-west. Also, the Upfield shared path is narrow and at capacity, and the back-street 'shimmies' require safety and signage upgrades. These gaps in the network mean that people riding a bike to school, the shops and other places are often forced to ride on dangerous roads. The Greens will address this by increasing cycling expenditure for low stress routes and rolling out council's 10 year capital works projects, including the recently promised, Covid recovery 'pop-up' bike lanes.

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Road safety, community building, accessibility to transport choices, environmental and public health are public policy issues influenced by decisions Councillors make. What role do you see bicycle use having in these?

- Unrelated
- Some
- Significant part of the solution
- Other

Which of these current projects/issues impact Moreland resident's transport choices? (select as many as you believe apply)

- Cumberland Road Separated bike path (retaining parking)
- Glenlyon Road Bunnings Development
- Upfield Shared Path extension to Upfield
- Craigieburn express Shared Use path
- Separated bike lanes on Sydney Road
- Covid-19 Pop up Lanes
- Other

If you answered 'Other' please elaborate here;

There are many more bike projects outlined in Moreland Council's 10 Year Capital Works Expenditure Plan, which I will not list here. Council has done good work in creating this plan, but now it needs to actually deliver those projects. As a passionate cycling advocate, I will champion the timely delivery of these projects if elected to council.

What in your opinion, is the best solution to traffic congestion in an electorate like Moreland?

- Build more roads
- Make it easier for people to access transport options such as public transport and riding and walking.
- Other

What is the most appropriate traffic speed for our local streets to ensure safety for all users?

- 30kph
- 40kph
- 50kph
- 60kph
- Other

The Moreland Integrated transport Strategy (2019) seeks to "Facilitate a demonstrable mode shift to more sustainable modes of transport that also targets a long-term reduction in car use." Do you support this aim?

- 100% yes
- Yes, with reservations
- No

What is the role of Council and Councillor decisions in promoting cycling in Moreland?

- None. There are more important issues
- Minimal - happy to lend passive support for projects funded by others
- Moderate
- Major – cycling is a local issue with significant local benefits
- Other

What are your aspirations for people who want to ride in Moreland over the next four years and what will your contribution to that be?

Given that Councils are responsible for approximately 90% of the road network, they are well-placed to significantly influence the transition towards active and sustainable transport by making our local streets safer, less stressful and more attractive to walk and cycle. That's why I'm committed to significantly increasing the cycling and walking budgets if elected to Council. I'm also committed to ensuring that the walking and cycling projects committed to in Council's own capital works plans are built.

I will also strongly advocate for:

Protected bike lanes on Sydney and Cumberland Roads
Extending the Upfield Shared Path to Upfield
Completing the Craigieburn Express shared path
Delivery of the Covid 'pop-up' bike lanes, and explore opportunities for more of these

Also, the proposed Bunnings on Glenlyon Road poses serious safety issues to bike riders using that road. I'm extremely concerned about this project's impact on local cycling and will work closely with the community.

Interested in what Moreland BUG do to give more people in Moreland the option to ride? Sign up for our newsletter

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