

Rodd Staples,
Secretary,
Transport for NSW
PO Box K659
Haymarket
NSW 1240

12 November 2020

Re: Restoration of the Glebe Island Bridge as a walkway and cycleway

Dear Mr Staples,

I am writing to you to request the Glebe Island Bridge be restored as a safe walkway and cycleway.

The Bridge was decommissioned 25 years ago when the Anzac Bridge was opened. Much has changed since then, including a huge growth in the local population, an increase in cycling and walking, and increased pressure on local walkways since the Covid-19 pandemic.

Pedestrians and cyclists wishing to transit from Balmain to Pyrmont or vice versa must go over the Anzac Bridge. It is a circuitous route, quite a climb, and too crowded for comfort in these times of social distancing.

There has been huge pressure on local walking paths, particularly the Foreshore Walk around Glebe and the Bay Run around Iron Cove, during the pandemic.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/mayor-says-just-stay-away-from-the-bay-run-as-restrictions-ease-20200512-p54s97.html>

Although restrictions have eased, both walks are still crowded.

Transport for NSW has encouraged people to walk or cycle:

<https://transportnsw.info/news/2020/consider-walking-or-cycling-to-get-around>.

The Glebe Society believes that restoring the Glebe Island Bridge would not only enable commuting cyclists and pedestrians a safer, easier journey, it would also prove very popular as a recreational route.

The restoration of the Bridge would also go some way to ameliorating the difficulties pedestrians and cyclists now face at the intersection of Victoria Road and the City West link, due to Westconnex construction. <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/cyclists-face-dangerous-detours-during-westconnex-construction-20200225-p544a1.html>

A timetable, like that used by the Spit Bridge, could be established to enable any boats that are too tall to go under the closed bridge to enter or leave Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays.

The Glebe Island Bridge is heritage listed, but the Glebe Society fears it is suffering from demolition by neglect. Restoring the Glebe Island Bridge would be a great contribution to the transport needs of the local community, and to the amenity and heritage of the area.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Wahlquist" followed by a small flourish.

Janet Wahlquist
President
The Glebe Society
president@glebesociety.org.au