

Lord Mayor Councillor Clover Moore
Lord Mayor's Chambers,
Town Hall Sydney

14th April 2020.

Dear Lord Mayor,

I write on behalf of the Glebe Society.

Automated Pedestrian Lights in Glebe

Members of the Glebe Society have welcomed the pedestrian lights being automated in the city. The requirement not to press the button to have the lights change is welcome not just to avoid unnecessary touching in Covid 19 times but we also welcome the pedestrian being given equal priority to motor vehicles and having the pedestrian walk light come on in each phase of the lights guarantees this. It avoids the scenario where the pedestrian gets to the lights too late to press the button for them to change, or the situation where no one has pressed the button and the pedestrian have to wait a full phasing of the lights. The Glebe Society requests that the pedestrian walk light automatically come on for all pedestrian lights in Glebe.

Improved Pedestrian Access to all Footpaths

There has been an increase in the numbers of people walking, running and cycling since the Coronavirus restrictions which allow exercise as one of the reasons to leave home. Exercise is important for mental and physical wellbeing as has been acknowledged by the government. However on many of the popular walks this has highlighted real issues, not just for the lack of adequate footpaths but also the impracticality of footpaths that are shared with bicycles. Members of the Glebe Society have reported that the foreshore walk around Blackwattle Bay has been extremely busy and sharing this path between pedestrians and cyclists has the impossibility of maintaining recommended social distancing guidelines, as well as an increase in accidents and many near misses between pedestrians, bicycles and dogs. While we would not support the closing of the foreshore walk during the Covid 19 restrictions we suggest that cyclists and joggers be reminded that they must exercise social distancing requirements when they overtake people walking. We ask that the Council consider creating separate a bicycle path around Blackwattle Bay.

In all future planning we ask that Council not allow shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists and that paths be wide enough to accommodate walkers, joggers and children on scooters and other play equipment.

Yours Faithfully,
Janet Wahlquist



President