



THE LORD MAYOR OF SYDNEY  
**CLOVER MOORE**

29 April 2020

Janet Wahlquist  
President  
The Glebe Society  
By email [REDACTED]

Dear Janet

### **Pedestrian Crossings, Shared Paths and Covid-19**

I refer to your email on behalf of The Glebe Society requesting automated pedestrian lights in Glebe and improved pedestrian access to footpaths during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Our community is dealing with a very serious public health crisis. The City of Sydney continues to work with Federal and State health authorities to ensure we respond urgently and effectively.

To minimise the spread of Covid-19, the City has closed all playgrounds, basketball courts, exercise stations and interactive water features. Although our parks remain open, outdoor gatherings are limited to no more than two people and people are urged to observe the physical distancing requirements listed on the NSW Health website.

City staff installed signs prohibiting the use of playgrounds, basketball courts and exercise stations on 30 March. The City also installed signs in our parks, including all the Glebe Foreshore parks and paths, to remind people that they need to observe physical distancing, practise good hygiene and not to gather in groups of more than two people.

You can find up-to-date information about how the City is responding to the Covid-19 pandemic at [city.sydney/covid19-response](https://city.sydney/covid19-response).

#### **Pedestrian lights**

The NSW Government controls signalised intersections. I would also like to see automated crossings across our entire local government area and I have written to Elizabeth Mildwater, Deputy Secretary at Transport for NSW, requesting that they introduce this immediately. I suggest that you send your request directly to Transport for NSW at <https://transportnsw.info/contact-us>.

#### **Shared paths**

I'm sorry to hear that people are riding too close to pedestrians on footpaths and the Glebe foreshore. I appreciate that due to the Covid-19 pandemic more people are using our parks and public spaces to exercise, and this can make it difficult to practise physical distancing measures.

In response to your concerns, City staff will include messages about physical distancing on the Glebe foreshore in upcoming newsletters and social media posts.

Using our media channels, the City advises cyclists that the Glebe foreshore shared path is only suitable for recreational riders and that there are alternative routes for people riding faster. The advisory speed limit of 10km/h is marked along the route with signs telling riders to “ring your bell”. Legally, cyclists must have a bell.

I note your request for a separate bike path along the Glebe foreshore. Unfortunately, there is insufficient space for a second path in this location.

Whenever possible, the City builds separated cycleways because we know they’re the safest option for people driving, cycling and walking – that’s why we have created 15.4km of separated cycleways in our local government area. When a separated cycleway isn’t possible, we install a shared path to help less confident riders – like families, older people and new riders – enabling them to ride more slowly and safely, rather than on busy roads.

The City runs on-the-ground education programs to raise awareness of considerate behaviour to help make riding safer for everyone in our public spaces. City staff speak with riders on popular cycling routes, including shared paths, four times each week. The most recent Share the Path session on the Glebe foreshore was held on 26 March. It is unfortunate that upcoming sessions have had to be postponed due to physical distancing requirements.

If you see any particularly unsafe or reckless riding, I encourage you to contact Glebe Police immediately on 9552 8099. The police schedule their patrols in response to customer information so they need to know if any location is becoming a hotspot for unsafe riding.

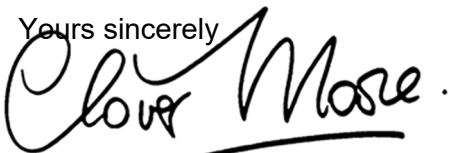
Peter Wright, the City’s Road Safety Officer, would be happy to discuss your concerns in more detail. You can contact Peter on 9265 9333 or at [pwright@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:pwright@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au).

I also note your request for wider footpaths to accommodate more walkers, joggers and children. The City is investing over \$15 million to make walking easier and more inviting by improving connections, removing obstacles and widening footpaths wherever we can.

The City typically aims to build our footpaths 2 metres or wider, but there is not always space to do so, especially in the inner city. Widening footpaths can also require significant changes to drainage infrastructure and utilities, and we try to avoid removing trees or covering grass verges or areas of deep soil unless it’s absolutely necessary.

If you or Glebe Society members feel the footpath in a particular location needs attention, I encourage you to report it to the City’s 24-Hour Customer Service Centre on 9265 9333 and staff will investigate.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clover Moore". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

Clover Moore  
**Lord Mayor of Sydney**