

# Murray Road Shared Use Consultation



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Why are you looking at building a shared path along Murray Road?**

The Bellarine Rail Trail is a 35km trail that links Geelong to Queenscliff following the alignment of the historical Geelong-Queenscliff railway line. The rail trail provides dedicated off-road shared path facilities for almost the full length.

A key missing link in the Bellarine Rail Trail is Murray Road, a 1.4km length of road between Fellows Road and the Bellarine Highway. In this section of road, vehicles mix with higher volumes of pedestrian and cyclists.

Completing this missing link will lead to improved safety outcomes for all users, cyclists of all abilities to utilise the rail trail, and promote recreation and tourism within the Borough.

### **What is stopping people from cycling or walking along Murray Road as it is?**

The Victorian Cycling Strategy outlines four levels of comfort when cycling, which results in different types of cyclists who find these conditions to be acceptable and/or desirable.

The level of comfort or level of stress experienced by cyclists is dependent on multiple factors, such as volume and speed of traffic, on-road or off-road, and the inclusion of bicycle infrastructure, such as protected bicycle lanes or shared lanes with traffic.

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Although it is a low traffic environment, we know that many users are not comfortable sharing the road with cars due to safety concerns.

We have also heard from many pedestrians who have experienced similar frustrations when forced to share the road with vehicular traffic.

Our goal is to make walking and cycling an attractive, safe, and accessible option for all road users, regardless of experience and ability.

### **What are the traffic volumes and speeds along Murray Road?**

The most recent traffic counts were undertaken in March 2023. The following road user volumes were recorded:

Between Rayleigh Avenue and Bellarine Highway

- 263 cars per day on average
- 201 cyclists per day on average (weekends)
- 75 cyclists per day on average (weekdays)
- 95 pedestrians per day on average (weekends)
- 33 pedestrians per day on average (weekdays)

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Between Nelson Road and Ward Road

- 341 cars per day on average
- Cyclist and pedestrian counts were not recorded in this block

These vehicle counts also highlighted an issue of speeding vehicles, with up to 62% of vehicles travelling in excess of 50km/h between Rayleigh Avenue and Bellarine Highway.

### **Is there a history of crashes involving pedestrians or cyclists along Murray Road?**

International best practice encourages a Safe System approach in designing our road transport system. The Safe System approach adopts a holistic view of transportation infrastructure, and the interactions between all road users. We recognise that people will make mistakes and may have road crashes, but these crashes should not result in serious injury or death. Nor should we wait for an incident to occur before we try to intervene.

Historic crash information for Murray Road is available between 2006 and 2020. During this time there have been no recorded incidents involving pedestrians or cyclists.

Furthermore, there has only been one recorded incident along Murray Road during this time which involved a single vehicle in 2007.

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### **Why can't you simply widen the road?**

The area surrounding Murray Road is one of extremely high environmental importance. The wetlands of Swan Bay are listed as part of the International Ramsar Convention.

The Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental treaty with more than 160 parties committing to maintain the ecological character of their wetlands. Continued loss of wetland habitat adds pressure to the species that depend on them for survival. These wetlands are of significant value in terms of providing habitat, refuge and feeding grounds for wildlife including threatened and endangered bird species.

Any activities that encroach into these wetlands, including widening of Murray Road, have the potential to significantly impact the wetlands, the survival of these bird species, and other important flora and fauna.

### **Why are you seeking community feedback?**

Community consultation is one of the most important considerations in planning the future of Murray Road. Your input will play a pivotal role in helping select the preferred option. No options will be considered for implementation without strong support from the community.

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**I have an idea which is not included in the current concept options. Would you consider alternative treatments?**

A lot of work has already been done in order to achieve a balanced outcome considering the existing limitations of the site, however we will definitely consider alternative options during the engagement period. You can share your ideas via email ([info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@queenscliffe.vic.gov.au)) or by attending one of the upcoming pop-in engagement sessions.

**Thank you for your interest.**

