

18 December 2020

Lord Mayor Clover Moore
456 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000



Sydney Business Chamber
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Dear Lord Mayor,

New cycleways on Oxford, Liverpool, and College Streets

Sydney Business Chamber is dedicated to creating, advocating, and promoting Sydney as a City of Opportunity – a global city to invest, work, live and visit. A division of Business NSW, formerly NSW Business Chamber, Sydney Business Chamber represents over 145 leading corporations and through our work we drive the economic growth, prosperity, and sustainability of our great City.

The Chamber values the opportunity to comment on the proposed new cycleways along Oxford and Liverpool streets and the restoration of the College Street cycleway. The Chamber has always supported providing more transport choice for our fellow citizens and to move our City away from its over reliance on the private vehicle. We have also taken a close interest in the future of Oxford Street and have been recently exploring ways to improve the pedestrian amenity to enhance benefits of Oxford Street as a place.

In recent years, the economic and social vibrancy of Oxford Street has struggled as the Street has increasingly been overwhelmed with motor vehicles. It has increasingly become a transit route and its role as a place has declined. Our recent Paper calls for this situation to be reversed and we made a series of recommendations on how to do this, including repurposing some of the lanes reserved for traffic for more active transport modes of transport. Please read our paper High Time: The Future of Oxford Street.

To this end we are pleased to support a trial of reallocating one of the lanes of traffic to creating a dedicated cycle path linking the City with the Eastern Suburbs. This will enhance the connectivity of Oxford Street to the local and broader surrounds as well as provide a safe travel choice.

However, we would recommend Council carefully consider the design of the cycleway and its impact on safety of cyclists particularly at points of entry and exit and on other uses of the Street. For example, raised thresholds that are used to delineate the cycleway may interfere with the Mardi Gras parade and the ability of floats to traverse the centre lanes of Oxford Street and points where cyclists must cross traffic can create significant safety issues in this highly contested space.

Sydney Business Chamber welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed cycleway trial and looks forward to continue to work with the City to ensure Oxford Street is a prosperous, connected and vibrant high street.

Should you have any questions or would like to discuss in more detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at katherine.oregan@thechamber.com.au

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K.O'Regan".

Katherine O'Regan
Executive Director
Sydney Business Chamber