

IMPROVED CYCLING SAFETY AND ACCESS FOR ROTORUA'S EASTSIDE SCHOOLS

LONGER TERM GOAL

Subject to successful implementation in Rotorua's Eastside communities, to promote the use of this template more widely for the development of safe cycling (and walking) routes for all Rotorua schools.

INTRODUCTION

Rotorua District Council is to be commended for its work to date in improving cycling access and safety on the Eastside of Rotorua, particularly along Te Ngae Road. There is a substantial residential community on the Eastside, primarily in Lynmore and Owhata, but also at Ngapuna and the Pohutukawa Drive area. All four areas have a large population of children/students that attend the local schools in the Eastside suburbs of Rotorua. However, all cycling-friendly initiatives are currently confined to the major arterial, used by cycling commuters and for cycling-based training, with no relatively safe cycling commuting pathway/s to enable students/children and parents to travel safely to school on bikes.

There are currently four schools in the Eastside suburbs - Lynmore Primary (Iles Road), Owhata Primary (Brent Road), Mokoia Intermediate (Brent Road), and Rotorua Lakes High (Porikapa Road) - and these are all connected by residential streets. Large proportions of their students can also get to these schools without crossing major arterial routes.

The eastern suburbs and these four schools represent a major opportunity to improve cycling safety and increase bike use.

HISTORY

- Information was gathered at a local level by contacting Eastside schools to find out how many students, children, and parents commute to school.
- Information was also gathered by visiting schools during busy periods (before and after school), and visually observing the usage of cars picking up, dropping off children to school as well as high school students using their own motor vehicles.

CURRENT LEVELS OF CYCLING ACCESS TO SCHOOLS

School	Pupils Cycling Per Day
Lynmore Primary School	7-10
Owhata Primary School	2
Mokoia Intermediate	25-30
Rotorua Lakes High School	12

Overall levels of cycling activity are low, with a slightly higher level of usage at Mokoia Intermediate.

REASONS FOR LOW LEVELS OF CYCLING

- It's not cool for kids to bike to school. Lakes High apparently has c.80 pupils/day taking cars, but only c.12 cyclists.
- Parents feel that it's unsafe for children to cycle on their own to school due to the increase of traffic around schools.
- It is notable, however, that young Eastside children walk home from school and then get their bikes out to play and visit friends.

OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE USE OF BIKES

- Signage on key routes alerting motorists to the presence of cyclists: "This is a cycling-friendly neighborhood".
- Promote the eastern suburbs as a haven for cycling/walking.
- Promote cycleways with a launch and opening with local Rotorua cycling role models. Get Eastside schools to support this initiative and increase awareness of children, students, and parents of safe cycling pathways.
- Create cycleways leading to the four schools:
 - Lynmore Primary - via Iles Road, Larcy Road, Owhatiura Drive, and Basley Road.
 - Owhata Primary and Mokoia Intermediate - these two schools are located adjacent to each other and any cycleway would support both schools.
 - Lakes High - via Wharenui Road, Porikapa Road, Morey Street, and Warwick Drive, and any cycleways leading to Owhata Primary and Mokoia Intermediate (e.g. via Brent Road, Wharenui Road, and a linking street such as Reeve Road).
 - Refer to map showing possible cycleways.
- Improve facilities for bike storage and security at schools.
- Integrate cycleways with walking routes, to create safer commuter pathways through the Eastside.
- Improve bike access to school entranceways as these areas experience particularly high levels of car use at each end of the school day. Work to reduce traffic speeds, where necessary, close to schools and popular cycle routes.
- Get older kids to promote bike use as a "cool" way to stay fit and have a lower environmental footprint.
- Trial the use of "cycling trains" to primary schools.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM EASTSIDE SCHOOLS

Rotorua Lakes High School



'Mauria te pono - Keep steadfastly to the truth'

17 November 2008

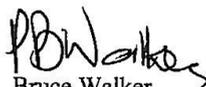
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Letter in support of Rotorua Cycle Actions Proposal to Improve Cycling Safety and Access for Rotorua's Eastside Schools

Rotorua Lakes High School staff and Board of Trustees support without reservation the proposal from Rotorua Cycle Action to improve cycling safety and increase bike use amongst school-aged children in the Eastern suburbs.

We have noticed, over the past 5 years, a dramatic decline in the number of students biking to school. Any initiative that encourages teenagers to exercise must be applauded by the whole community for reasons of personal health and fitness as well as for the conservation of our environment and the "green" factor in general.

I am happy to be contacted to speak further in support of this initiative.


Bruce Walker
PRINCIPAL

CARE - QUALITY - ACHIEVEMENT - EXCELLENCE

Owhata Intermediate

1 September 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I met recently with Lisa Mansell who discussed with me a proposal for a cycleway which could be safely used by the children of the eastern suburbs of Rotorua. I am writing to support that proposal.

The purpose of the cycleway would be to improve cycling safety and to encourage increased levels of cycling by school-aged children in our area.

Lisa had with her a plan of the proposed route and we discussed a possible extension to the plan to accommodate the numbers of children who come to us, and our nearest primary school, from the lake side of Te Ngae Road towards and beyond the Owhata shopping centre.

Currently we have a relatively small number of children who cycle to and from school from Lynmore and Owhata. The benefits of students getting regular exercise, which cycling to and from school provides, are well recognised. I believe a designated cycleway would encourage more students to cycle and I believe they would be encouraged by parents, some of whom are currently concerned about safety risks for their children travelling by cycle alongside cars and buses.

Yours sincerely

Deborah I A Epp
Principal
Mokoia Intermediate School

Owhata Primary School

2 November 2009

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Support for Eastern Suburbs Cycle Way

On behalf of the Owhata School learning community I would like to extend our full support to the proposal for an Eastern suburbs cycle way. At present very few of our students cycle to school because Te Ngae Road is too dangerous.

We like to encourage our students to be fit and a cycle way linking up the Eastern suburbs would be fantastic.

We fully support this proposal.

Yours sincerely

Bob Stiles
Principal
Owhata School

Lynmore Primary School

24 November 2008

Lisa Mansell
Active Living Coordinator
Sport BOP
ROTORUA

Dear Lisa

Letter in Support Rotorua Cycle Actions Proposal to Improve Cycling Safety in the Rotorua Eastside Schools

Lynmore Primary Board of Trustees and staff support the proposal from Rotorua Cycle Action to improve cycling safety and increase bike use of children in the Eastern Suburbs.

We are aware of the high number of children who are driven to school even though they live close to the school. We are also aware of the danger present at 3.00-3.15pm with the large number of children exiting the school.

At Lynmore we would like to encourage personal fitness and health, as well as conservation for the environment.

Yours sincerely

Roger Dempster

