

EXCLUSIVE POLITICS NSW NSW VOTES

New cycleway for eastern suburbs as govt doubles bike, walking paths spend

By [Esther Han](#)

March 2, 2019 – 12.00am



The NSW government has promised to double its spending on bike and pedestrian paths and, in a strategic move to protect a very marginal seat, announced a new cycleway along Centennial Park.

Transport Minister Andrew Constance said the government, if re-elected, would more than double its funding of "active transport" to \$330 million over five years and spend another \$285 million on paths through infrastructure projects such as the South West Metro.



The Eastern Suburbs Cycleway will be a fully separated cycleway that will connect Bondi and the CBD. BROOK MITCHELL

"We've taken our commitment to supporting cycling, particularly in the city, to a different level, we're committing over \$600 million and a lot of it is about trying to separate cyclists and pedestrians from the dangers of traffic," he said.

One of its first projects is to build a cycleway along the northern edge of Centennial Park, "filling in a missing link" for cyclists travelling between Bondi Junction and the CBD.

The vast parkland is in the seat of Coogee, which is held by the Liberals on a wafer-thin margin of 2.9 per cent.

"We're also investing in countless places and even down in the Sutherland Shire we're building a cycle path from Sutherland down to Cronulla beach," Mr Constance said.

"It's all about healthy living, active participation and working with local governments to roll these out as quickly as we can."

But Labor's transport spokeswoman Jodi McKay said its pledge to spend \$412 million over four years on active transport was more significant than the government's.

She accused Mr Constance of "fudging" the numbers, saying when the cycling and walking paths elements of infrastructure projects are excluded, Labor was outspending the Liberals by at least \$82 million.

"Regardless, when you look at the billions being spent on infrastructure projects, what's spent on active transport is a drop in a very big ocean," she said.

"So we will increase that, in every major project there will be a consideration of cycling and active transport, which has absolutely not been the case with them."

But Mr Constance hit back, arguing Labor's threat to cancel projects such as the South West Metro would not only jeopardise planned bike and pedestrian corridors but 20,000 jobs.



Transport minister Andrew Constance. AAP

The Eastern Suburbs Cycleway will be a fully separated path running from Bondi Junction via Oxford Street, onto Moore Park Road and the CBD.

David Borella from community group BIKESydney said under the coalition government, key cycleways had been ripped up, fines had dramatically increased and [rider numbers had dropped](#).

In relation to the Eastern Suburbs Cycleway, he said the government had delayed approvals for two years without good reason and it would "dump" riders into Anzac Parade and Flinders St traffic.

"Integrated transport planning has completely collapsed in Sydney," he said.

Asked about pork-barrelling, Mr Constance pointed to new routes through Marrickville in the Labor-held seat of Summer Hill and said: "It's hardly rolled gold, blue-ribbon territory, we're spreading the dollars across the state".

Next to him, Coogee MP Bruce Notley-Smith said: "These projects haven't come about in the last week or month, these have been in the planning for years".

In the inner west, mayor Darcy Byrne and federal Labor MP Anthony Albanese have accused Sydney Trains of "endangering" the [Greenway between Cooks River and Iron Cove](#) with "bureaucratic inertia".

"Sydney trains are supposed to be collaborating with us, but instead they are stalling at every turn," Mr Byrne said.

Earlier, Mr Constance announced the government would upgrade a further 68 train stations, building lifts and ramps to make them more accessible.



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