

Kingston Bike User Group

BONNET HILL CLIMBING LANES

Kingston Bike User Group (KBUG) have been working towards establishing climbing (uphill) bike lanes on the Channel Highway over Bonnet Hill. KBUG are at the design stage and are trying to get Government interested with a view to funding for the construction phase.

Below is the final draft of an article appearing in the August edition of the RACT *Motornews* regarding the proposal for bike lanes over Bonnet Hill.

If the RACT get a good [positive] response they will support the project at a political level and encourage Government involvement and hopefully project funding.

Please take the opportunity to write to the RACT in support of the Bonnet Hill bike lanes.

Can Motorists and Cyclists Co-exist on Bonnet Hill?

RACT is supporting a plan to overcome a significant frustration hotspot for both motorists and cyclists on the Channel Highway between Kingston and Hobart.

The section of the Channel highway running over Bonnet Hill between Tarooma and Kingston has continuous double white lines. Unfortunately, this section of road is also quite narrow, often leading to cyclists with a string of cars behind them.

The road is about 2.5km of hill in both directions. A cyclist might ride uphill at 10km/h and thus take 15 mins to get all the way up. A motorist could average 45km/h and take about 3minutes to get up. So, each motorist could be held up for an additional 12 minutes.

Many cars do the obvious - but illegal - thing and overtake. This section of road, with a number of blind corners, can be quite dangerous as a result.

The Channel Highway is the preferred route for cyclists traveling between Kingston and Hobart. A survey by Kingborough Council in March 2009 counted 150 cyclists and 3000 vehicles in a 12 hour period in total for both directions.

On average there are 1 cyclist and 25 cars every 10 minutes going uphill in each direction. That's quite a few cars either illegally overtaking or being held up.

The Kingston Bicycle User Group (KBUG) is pushing for uphill bike lanes over Bonnet Hill which would greatly benefit both motorists and cyclists alike.

The Bonnet Hill Bicycle Lane project is the number one priority in the Kingborough Bike Plan, which has been endorsed by Kingborough Council. The Council and the State Government have supported the project with grants and work in-kind.

Have **you** experienced the frustration at Bonnet Hill personally? RACT welcomes your views about the road safety problem or the proposed bike lanes. Feedback to Vince Taskunas, General Manager public policy, 6236-4304 or v.taskunas@ract.com.au

Further information about the Bonnet Hill Bicycle Lane project could be obtained from Kingborough Councillor Flora Fox cr.florafox@bigpond.com or Rob Sheers sheerswish@bigpond.com