



Bike track heads south

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BICYCLE Tasmania has welcomed a proposal to establish a bicycle route from the Hobart waterfront to Tarooana.

The Hobart City Council is planning extensive consultation on the four-stage route.

The first stage would be from the CSIRO headquarters to Sandy Bay Rivulet, then to the junction of Marieville Esplanade and Sandy Bay Rd.

Stage three would run from the junction to Long Point Rd, and stage four from Long Point Rd to the city's boundary at Tarooana.

Bicycle Tasmania president David Edwards said the organisation wanted to see more bike lanes developed but he was not convinced about the bikeway plans for Secheron Point and Marine Terrace, at Battery Point.

A staff report to the council has proposed building a ramp from Napoleon St via the slipways to the foreshore, then a path to Marieville Esplanade to avoid the steep southern end of Napoleon St.

Mr Edwards said pushing a bike up a footpath on the Napoleon St hill was not a problem, and the council had had plans for a Bath St alternative for cyclists for some time.

He said creating bike lanes through Sandy Bay was supported by Bicycle Tasmania.

"You want to avoid mixing cars and buses with bicycles because it is the speed difference which causes the problems," he said.

Mr Edwards said the council should start developing the route from the Tarooana end first, not through Battery Point, and he welcomed the consultation process.

Acting Lord Mayor Eva Ruzicka said the council wanted to look at all options for pedestrians and cyclists.

She said the council would look at the cycling route first and had called for a separate report on options to improve pedestrian access between the city and the southern boundary of the city at Tarooana.

Ald Ruzicka said there were a number of options to consider: should there be bike lanes on roads, or widened footpaths, and should an off-road option include a bike path in Marieville Esplanade.

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