

Safer Walking and Riding for Murray Road Community Survey Report September 2023



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COMMUNITY SUMMARY

1. INTRODUCTION

Murray Rd is located on the northern border of the Coburg Activity Centre and is the link between Coburg (including Pentridge) and Coburg North (including regional open spaces and recreation facilities).

Murray Rd is the linear hub of the Newlands Estate, a strong, purpose-built community whose members love this area but are increasingly alarmed by the risk from the combination of poor design, dangerous driving (including speeding and red light running) and large numbers of vulnerable road users.

The four lane road has a 60 km/hr speed limit, a ‘race track vibe’, and several turns and undulations which inhibit sight lines. It is heavily used by families and children walking and riding to access schools, childcare, shops, public transport, entertainment, sporting and recreation facilities and green spaces.

Advocacy group [Safer Walking and Riding for Murray Rd \(SWARM\)](#) created this survey for the local community to provide feedback on how they use and experience Murray Rd, as well as any preferred safety improvements. There were 355 respondents, and of these, 124 provided first hand accounts of safety incidents. We consider the personal stories of accidents, near misses and fear provided by our neighbours to be important and urge you to read them. *(Please see Appendix 1)*

2. BACKGROUND

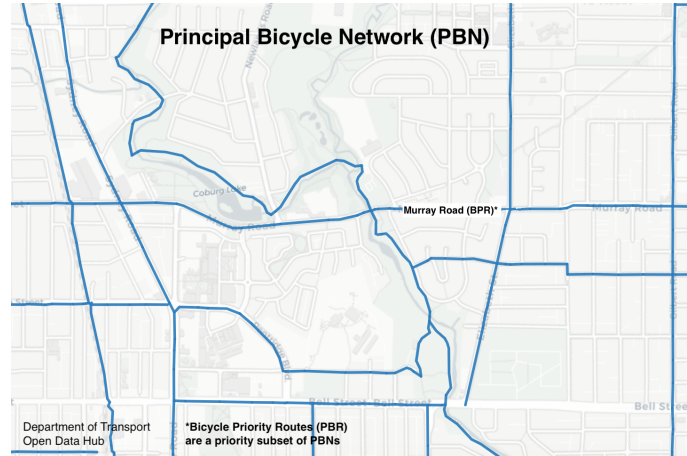
VicRoads adds extra lanes to Murray Rd in 2011

A key contributor to the present danger was a move by VicRoads in 2011 to add two lanes to Murray Rd between Sydney Rd and Elizabeth St - with no consultation with (then) Moreland Council or the community, and no discernable reasoning.

The result is an intense, inhospitable and dangerous environment with four lanes of (at least) 60km/hr traffic right up against a very narrow path and the disappearance of pedestrian refuges.

In 2012 Council wrote to VicRoads (*copy of correspondence provided to SWARM by a resident*) pointing out the extra lanes were a bad idea because Murray Rd is a Bicycle Priority Route and an important missing link for a much-needed east-west cycle route.

Council also wrote that Murray Rd corridor is two lanes to the east and west so making it four lanes in one section provided no benefit to through traffic.



In 2015 VicRoads wrote to the same resident saying they were working with Council to revisit the line marking. What happened?

VicRoads site visit June 2022

Fast forward to June 2022 when, at the request of a SWARM founding member, VicRoads did a site visit, also attended by Coburg High School (CHS) and Council representatives, at which the danger to vulnerable road users was apparent. Two days after the visit, a car crashed where CHS students pictured had been walking back from Oxygen youth centre. Later, when promoting our community meeting, we met Katherine who had lived behind the smashed fence (see her quote below).



“We moved from Pentridge estate after living there for 4 years. The house had a courtyard backing on to Murray road. There was an accident where a stolen car crashed into the brick fence of the courtyard. After this incident we no longer felt safe letting our 6yo child play in the courtyard. I felt on edge hearing the cars speed along Murray road and felt unsafe even in our downstairs living and kitchen area which was directly adjacent to the courtyard, only metres away from where the car smashed into the fence. It was the reason we moved. We rent, and the house was a secure long term rental with a great landlord, we gave up a lot!”

After the site visit VicRoads undertook to investigate why the extra lanes had been added and later informed us the aim in 2011 had been to counter poor driver behaviour on the wider single lane. Now, with four lanes, the ‘racetrack vibe’ persists - just closer to the vulnerable road users.

VicRoads, now the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), then instigated a review of Murray Rd between Sydney Rd and Elizabeth St.

Local changes since 2011 lead to more people walking and riding on Murray Rd

The 2015 establishment and subsequent rapid growth of Coburg High School (which has a 77% sustainable travel to school rate), and the development of Coburg Hill and Pentridge, including associated shops and entertainment, along with an influx of young families to the area has greatly increased the observable number of people walking and riding along this stretch of Murray Road.

This increased local active travel is occurring in an increasingly risky environment, evidenced by Coburg being recently cited as the most deadly suburb in Melbourne for pedestrians.

Poor driver behaviour was a common theme at the Coburg hearing for the Parliamentary Inquiry into the impact of road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users. And reducing speed limits plus provision of separated cycling infrastructure were the key fixes being suggested by hearing witnesses.

Drivers driving through red lights and speeding is noticeably and dangerously increasing - this has been backed by national road safety data

Victorian road deaths are the highest in 15 years with two-thirds of fatal crashes this year being caused by “minor” driver error or low-level rule breaking.

While speed limits have been reduced to 40 km/hr on nearby arterial roads, our section of Murray remains at 60 km/hr - a speed that greatly increases risk of death or injury for vulnerable road users.

Eight serious crashes in first half of 2023

Existing local community concern was heightened after 8 serious crashes on Murray Rd in the first half of 2023 (between Stockade Ave and Elizabeth St) and, with the DTP

review in mind, it was decided to hold a community meeting.

The 'Let's Make Murray Rd Safer' community meeting was held on 18 June, 2023 at Newlands Senior Citizens Centre and attended by 50 concerned local residents, predominantly from the Newlands estate area, including from Preston. Many attendees had been writing to Council and VicRoads over many years - and getting bounced between them.

Safer Walking and Riding for Murray Rd (SWARM) working group formed

Attendees at the community meeting agreed to the formation of the Safer Walking and Riding for Murray Rd (SWARM) working group and that the group's first action would be to survey the community, in part to inform the DTP review and decision makers.

3. KEY GENERAL FINDINGS

There were 355 respondents, with the most common participant type being a female (59%) aged 35-54, living in Coburg North in a household with two children under 18 yrs old. Children are mainly attending Coburg High School, Barry Beckett Children's Centre and Newlands Primary School.

Respondents are walking and riding Murray Rd to access green space, sport and recreation, and children's facilities.

Highlighting the community corridor aspect of the road, people are walking and riding Murray Rd to access Pentridge (77%) but also Preston Market at the other end (52%). Murray Rd is also being used by people walking and riding to get to Coburg facilities including shops, Coburg Library and Coburg Leisure Centre.

The top general safety issues experienced by respondents:

- Footpath/ shared path too narrow (86%)
- Traffic too close to footpath (81%)
- No separated bike lane (79%)
- Speeding (61%)
- No safe east-west cycling route (56%)
- Red light running, being hit or near misses at crossings and intersections (51%)
- 60 km/hr speed limit too fast (50%)
- Don't feel safe walking or riding with young children (50%)

The top four general changes respondents want to improve safety:

- Wider footpath (84%)
- Separated bike path (81%)
- Safer crossings and intersections (79%)
- Reduced speed limit (61%)

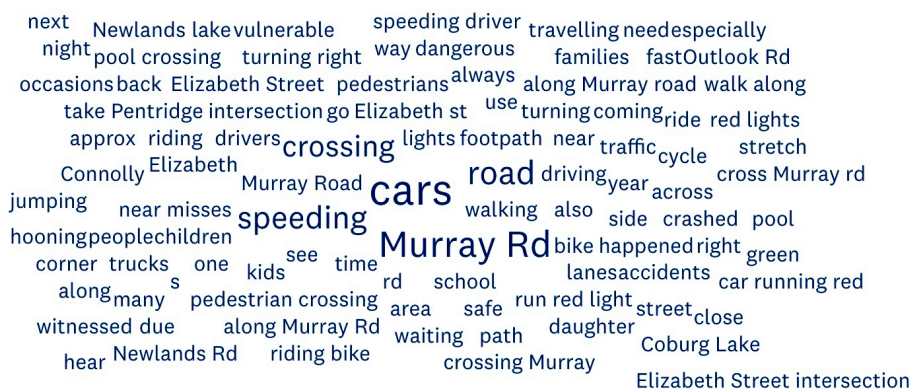
The next most popular general changes people wanted included: *add a pedestrian refuge (47%), plant trees (46%), more surveillance of driver behaviour (46%), revert number of lanes from four to two (39%), and bus service along length of Murray to Batman Station and at night (33%).*

With these safety changes, respondents say they would:

- Walk more (77%)
- Ride more (72%)
- More comfortable with children walking or riding independently (63%)
- Drive less (55%)
- Walk or ride more with young children (45%)

4. SOME KEY ISSUES AND DANGER SPOTS

Of the 355 respondents, 124 provided first hand accounts of safety incidents which provide a rich but distressing picture of the danger being experienced. Below is the word cloud from those responses. *(Please see Appendix 1)*



Following are some of the key issues that came through in the results and commentary.

Coburg Lake shared path

The biggest specific Murray Rd safety issue **by far**, for respondents, is the *shared path too narrow next to Coburg Lake Reserve* (75%). This also impacts visitors enjoying the regional open spaces in the area because the Coburg Lake circuit path brings you up onto this dangerous stretch. Incredibly this narrow path is designated a 'shared path'.

Due to the limited timetable of the 526 bus people are forced to walk this dangerous stretch at night when coming back from tram and train.



“the feeling of vulnerability and not feeling safe, coming up from Coburg Lake to walk on the footpath (near Newlands Road). Many times, walking with my dog, feeling we were millimetres away from speeding cars - one second of distraction or bad driving and we'd be wiped out.”

Pentridge

A very significant result was the 77% of respondents walking and riding Murray Rd to access Pentridge - the most accessed community facility **by far**.

But the narrow shared path used to get there is the biggest safety issue **by far** and the crossings are dangerous!

The large numbers of respondents walking or riding Murray Rd to get to Coburg facilities, including the Library, shops and Coburg Leisure Centre would also be travelling through Pentridge.

Pentridge is part of the Coburg Activity Centre, with Murray Rd on the northern border.

The map below from the [Coburg 2020 Structure Plan](#) shows 'Networks of Green' linking Coburg to green open space. However, each green arrow goes via a dangerous Murray Rd intersection or crossing, Champ St, Stockade Ave, or the 'pool crossing', all of which are cited by respondents for red light running.



“Just want to stress how much [the issues] have affected us - we live in Pentridge and the issues with Murray road make it feel disconnected to the entire lake side, especially with one young kid starting out riding and one teen at Coburg High who I would otherwise feel more comfortable about going up to Oxygen Youth Centre by themselves or with friends.”

“The pedestrian crossing from lights at Coburg Lake to Stockade AVE is an accident waiting to happen due to the curve in Murry Rd that doesn't allow you to see if cars/trucks are going to slow down and stop at lights and vice versa, hoon drivers can't see that a pedestrian is about to cross as they come speeding down that hill towards newlyns rd.”



Newlands Rd slip lane



“Teenager almost got run over by a car at the newlands rd/Murray rd slip lane because there was no safe crossing option.”

“Weekly trouble crossing slip lane at Newlands Rd with children, and several times seeing cars go through pedestrian green light at Stockade when I'm with my children trying to cross on foot or bike.”

'No safe crossing at Newlands Road slip lane' was the second most agreed to specific safety issue (48%)

'Pool crossing'

The pedestrian and bike crossing near Coburg Olympic Pool (the pool crossing) is heavily used including by Coburg High students walking, riding or catching the 526 bus. It is infamous for red light running and near misses. (When VicRoads were doing the site visit with us, several members of the public came up to tell about the red light running here)

'Red light running and/ or hit or near misses at the pool crossing' was ticked by 33%.

Two of the top three safety fixes backed in the survey were for the pool crossing:

- a *wombat crossing* (46%) and
- *red light cameras* (45%)
- A further 26% wanted *mast arm traffic lights at the pool crossing*.

The following were the third and fourth most cited specific safety issues:

- *Footpath too narrow on bluestone bridge* (48%) and
- *Shared path ends at the pool crossing (going east) forcing school students on bikes onto the road at the bluestone bridge* (39 %).

There is no designated bike path on Murray Rd until George St in Preston.



“My daughter has been yelled at riding her bike to coburg high cause she was on the footpath for Murray Rd. She does not feel safe riding a bike on Murray Rd. Now no longer rides her bike.”

Outlook Rd intersection

'No safe crossing and poor visibility' (30%)

'Intersection poorly designed for all users' (29%)

The fourth most agreed to specific safety change was to *improve the design of the Outlook/ Connolly/ Murray intersection* (40%). Respondents also want a *signalised crossing* (27%)

This intersection is heavily used by people driving to access regional sporting facilities including basketball and athletics. Before the extra lanes were added there was a pedestrian refuge, now it is very hard to walk across to catch the bus.

"We sold our house a few years ago and moved from the corner of Outlook and Murray due to concerns about this dangerous intersection."

"I have also had numerous near misses trying to cross the rd near the 561 bus stop near Outlook Rd. I frequently witness elderly and vulnerable people from the commission flats across the rd attempting to cross to the bus stop there too and have held my breath as they stand on the white line in middle of rd with cars zooming past in both directions."

Connolly Ave intersection (Beckett Children's Centre)



The very wide splay at this T-intersection results in poor visibility of, and for, those crossing on the footpath here - a risky environment for the many vulnerable users on

this section. (Two Coburg High students have been knocked off their bikes on the footpath here).

Safety changes respondents want to see here at this end of Connolly Ave are: a *wombat crossing* (30%) and *footpaths extended* (27%).

Barry Beckett Children's Centre (the third most used children's facility) and Newlands Senior Citizens Centre and across the road is Newlands Preschool and Newlands Neighbourhood House. Respondents cite the *difficulty getting across Murray Rd* between all these services here (27%) and 33% want a *crossing* near here.

Elizabeth St intersection

This intersection is heavily used by families with children walking and riding to local schools (including Newlands Primary) and children's centres.

The most supported specific safety fix in our survey was for '*Safety measures for pedestrians waiting at lights at Elizabeth St*' (49%). With 35% feeling vulnerable waiting for the lights at this intersection and 23% having experienced a hit or near miss.

“Approximately May this year I was riding with my two primary school aged children and my eldest, eight years old was nearly hit by a car turning into Murray rd from Elizabeth st when there was a green pedestrian light. A few weeks later the same thing happened to my neighbour's daughter”

“Multiple car accidents at the Elizabeth Street intersection one of these that I had to get out of my car and support an injured person. It was very traumatic.”



5. CONCLUSION

Local residents are deeply concerned and fearful about the danger associated with Murray Rd. It was when we came together at our community meeting that people realised how many others had been having similar experiences for so long.

Given Vic Roads and Council were discussing improvements way back in 2015, it is beyond time for action. Suggestions put forward include:

- The concerns about the path being too narrow and too close to traffic and the need for a protected bike path, including to provide a much-needed safe east west route, all point to the need to provide more space for people walking and riding. This could be achieved by reverting Murray Rd to two lanes - as it was previously and as the corridor is to the east and west. Reducing the lanes would also address the difficulty people are having crossing the road.
- Crossings and intersections are being experienced as dangerous - partly due to design and partly poor driver behaviour, in particular red light running. Design changes, traffic calming, and increased surveillance are potential solutions.
- Reducing the 60 km/hr speed limit was a key change wanted.
- An overlapping issue is the need for an improved timetable for the local 526 bus and possible routing along more of the corridor.

Urgent and significant funding is required to find the most appropriate solutions to address the community need for better amenity and safer walking and riding for Murray Rd.

PROCEDURE

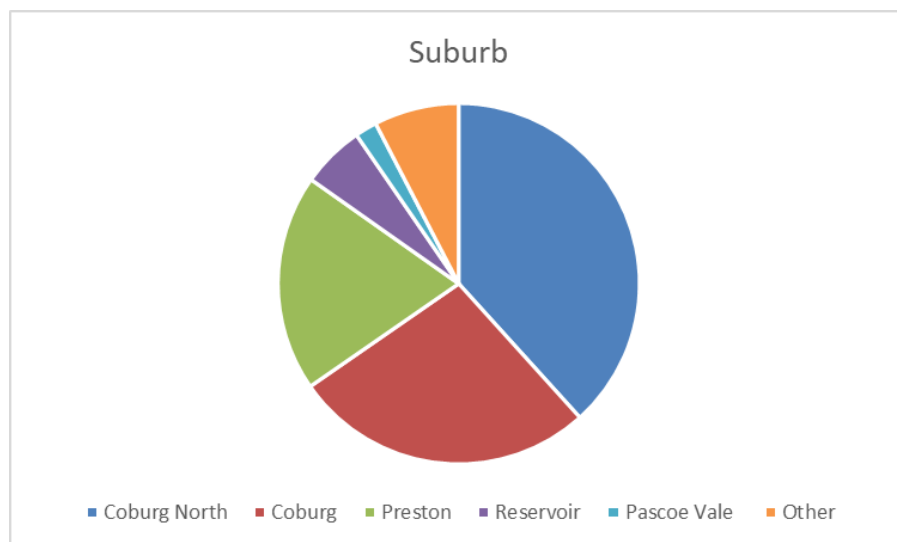
The survey was developed using Survey Monkey and was live for 4 weeks from 14 July 2023 until 11 August. It was promoted via local school and community Facebook pages, SWARM social media, local street WhatsApp groups, and on signs at the neighbourhood house and along Murray Rd.

RESULTS

(For complete and detailed survey response data please see Appendix 2)

A Who were the 355 survey respondents?

There was keen interest among concerned local residents to participate in this survey.



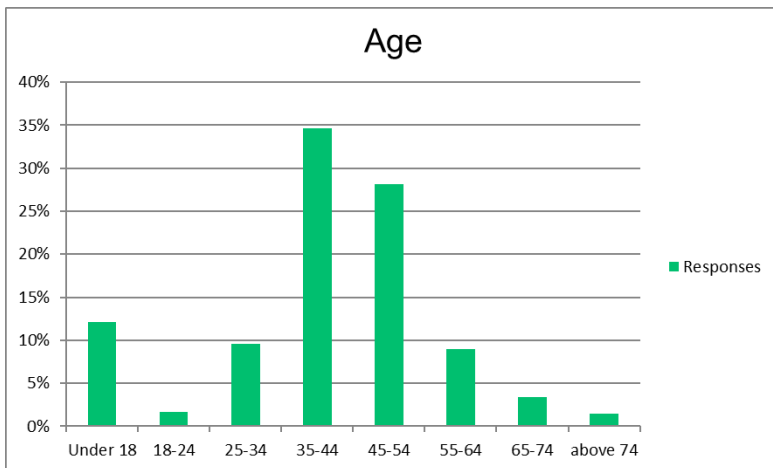
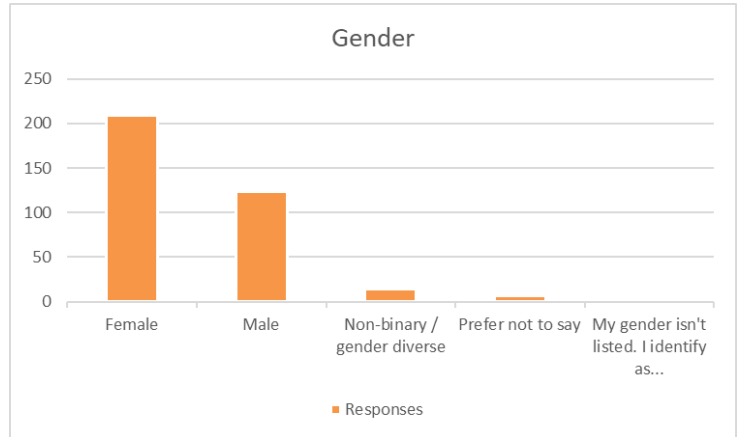
Most survey respondents live in Coburg North (136) followed by Coburg (96), totalling 65% for the two Coburgs, with a further 35% living in Preston (69) and Reservoir (20).

Many respondents live in the Newlands Estate area - between George St (Preston) and Outlook Rd (Coburg North) with 22 living right on Murray Rd.

(For detailed information on the participant location, age and gender see Questions 1-5 in the Appendix 2)

Respondents were a mix in terms of age and gender.

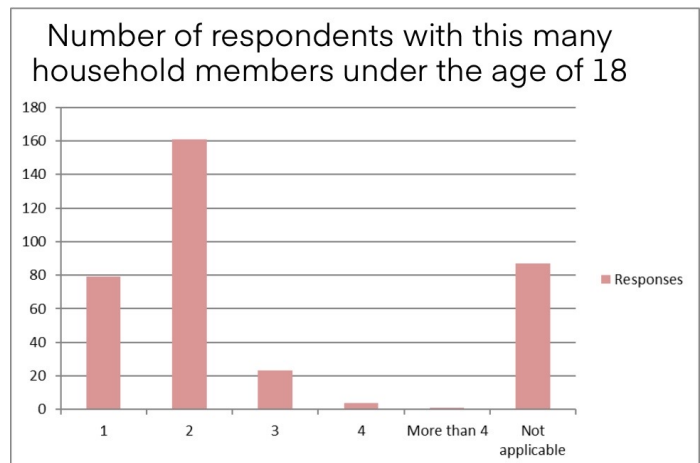
Those identifying as females (59%) far outnumbered others.



Those aged 35-54 (63%) were the largest age group participating.

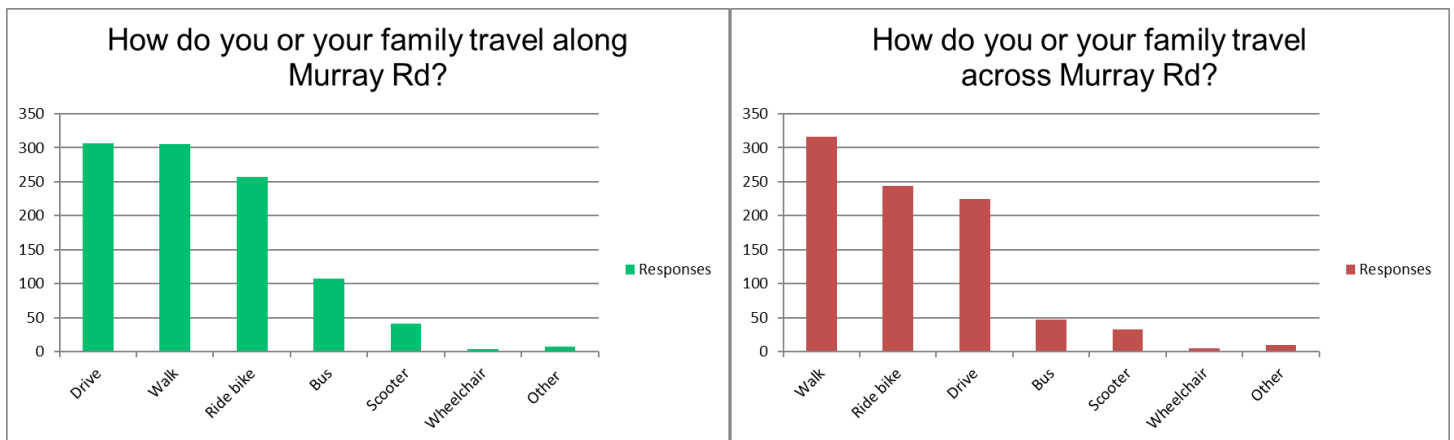
The next largest respondent group was those under 18 yrs, who were nearly all Coburg High School students.

Household composition also varied with 45% living in households with 2 children under 18.

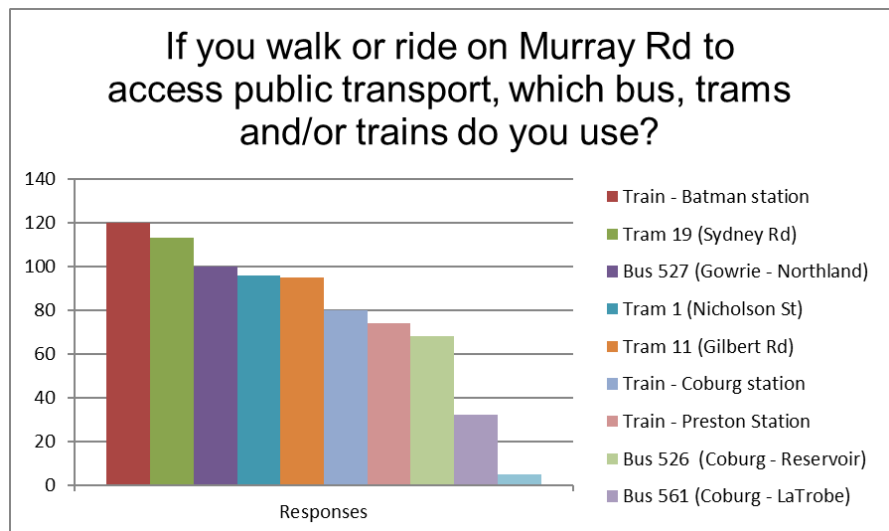


B How and why respondents interact with Murray Road

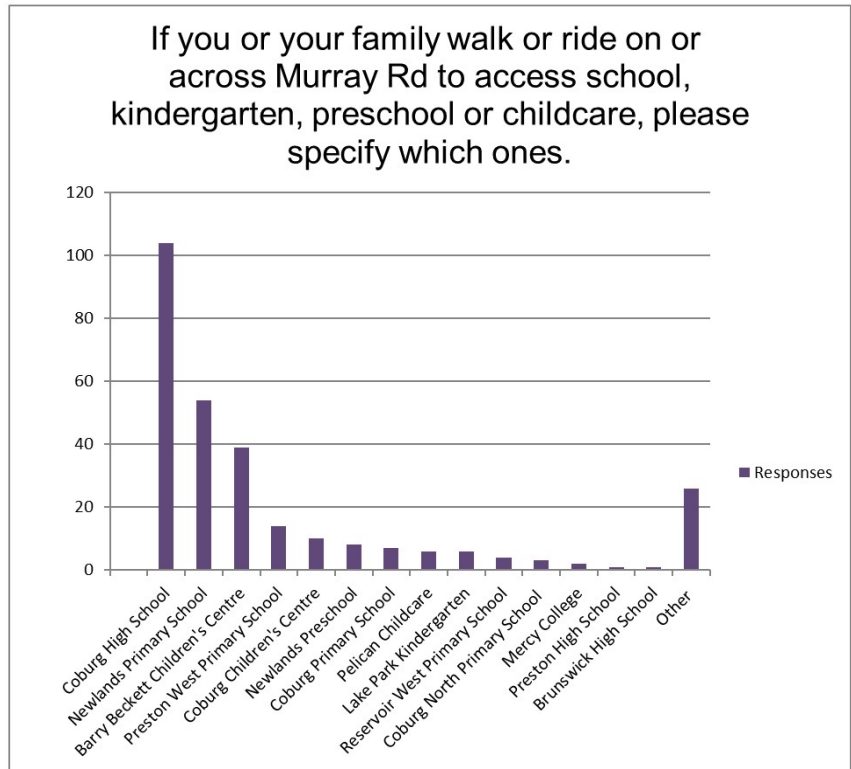
The overwhelming majority of participants both drive and walk Murray Rd, with a large portion cycling (72% for along Murray). For travel across Murray Rd, more people are walking or riding than driving.



Many participants are using Murray Rd to access trains, trams and buses, for example 120 (34%) to get to Batman station and 113 (32%) to catch the 19 tram on Sydney Rd.



Families are walking or riding Murray Rd to access schools and childcare with the key facilities being Coburg High School (29%), Newlands Primary School (15%) and Barry Beckett Children’s Centre (11%).



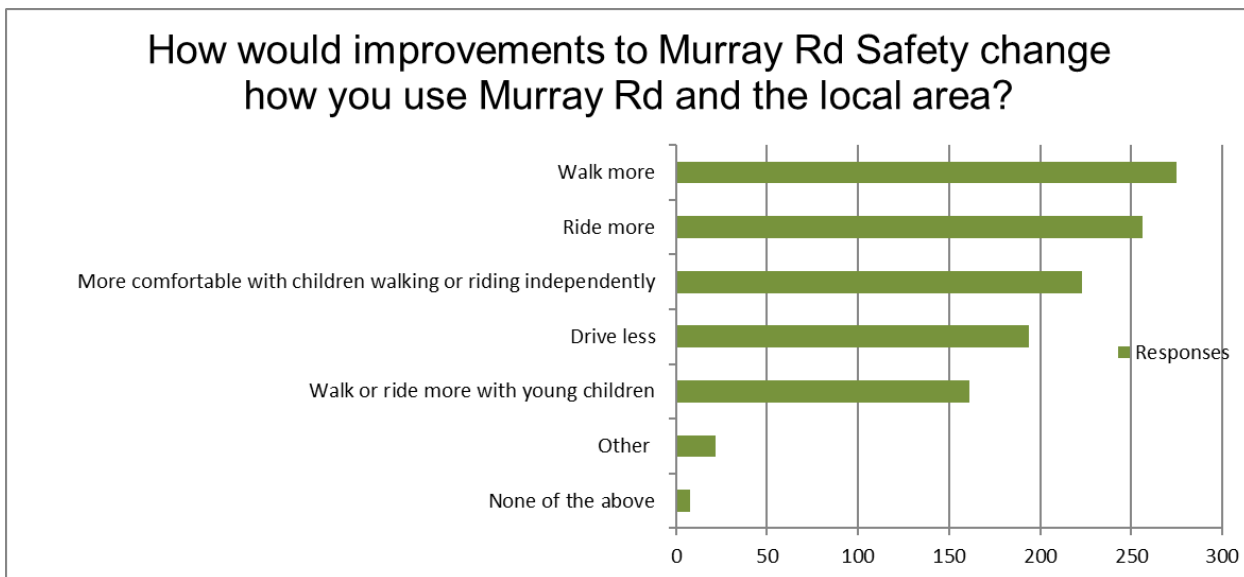
Of the sport or recreation facilities (including open space), the most accessed by walking or riding Murray Rd are Coburg Lake, the two creeks, and Coburg Olympic Pool.

For community facilities, the most respondents by far are walking or riding Murray rd to access Pentridge (77%) then Preston Market (52%)

A significant number are accessing Coburg facilities (which would include going through Pentridge)



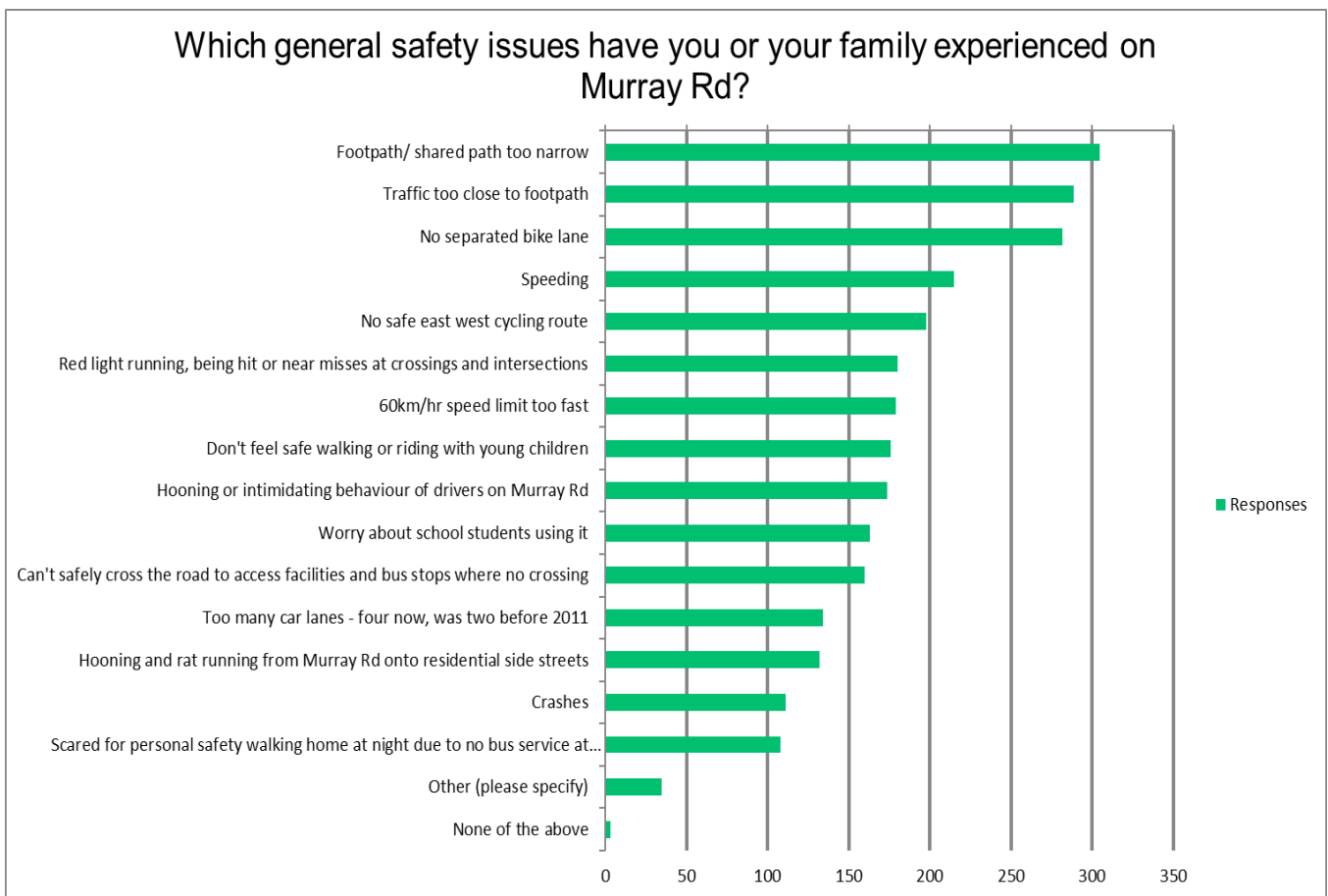
Significant behaviour would result from safety improvements to Murray Rd.

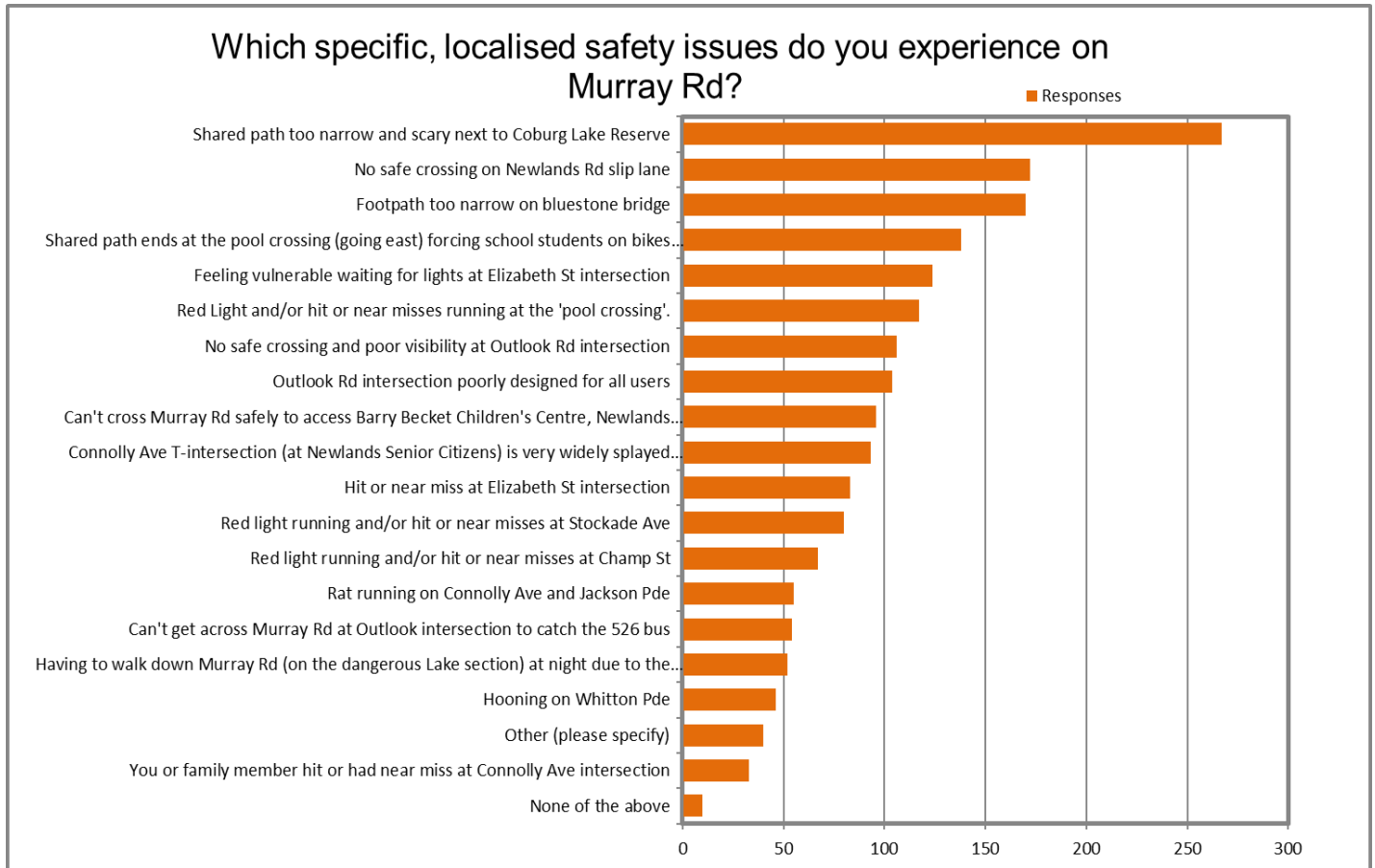


C What are the experiences and concerns of the participants

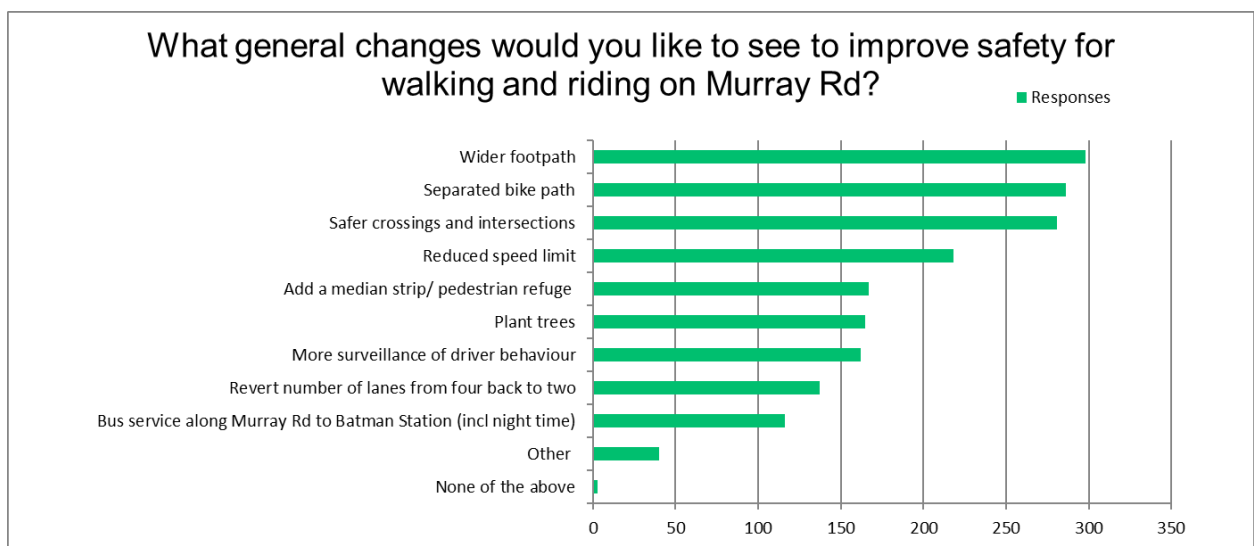
For first hand accounts of safety incidents experienced by 124 of the 355 respondents please see the written answers to Questions 17 and 18 in Appendix 1

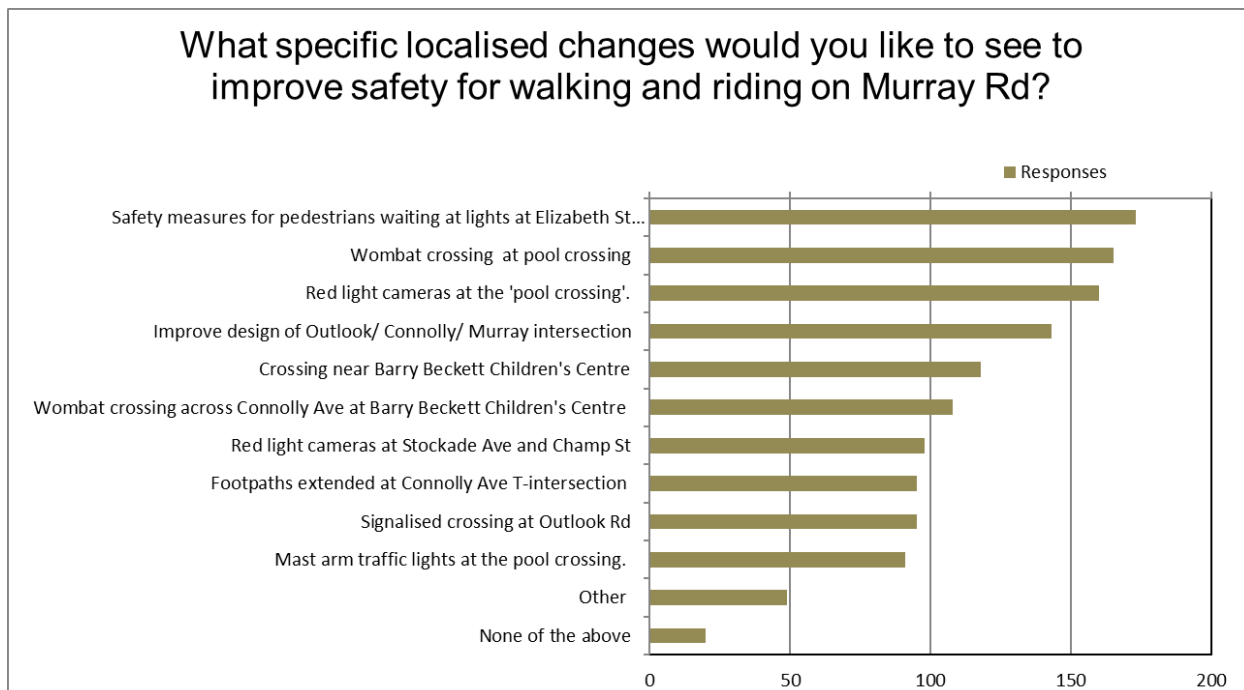
For complete and detailed survey response data please see Appendix 2





D Suggested improvements





SURVEY RESOURCING AND SUPPORT

This survey has been funded (for the Survey Monkey) and coordinated by local residents who have volunteered their time as they feel this is an important issue.

Thank you to our fellow community members who took the time to complete the survey.

For further information follow SWARM on:

Facebook.com/SaferMurrayRd [Safer Walking and Riding for Murray Rd](#)

Twitter/ X: [SaferMurrayRd](#)

Instagram: [safer_murray_rd](#)

APPENDIX 1 Personal Experiences

These Appendices contain all the public detailed responses to the Community Survey questions.

Question 17

Your stories are important and valuable. Please describe any safety incidents you have witnessed or been involved in, including approximate date

Answered	124
Not Applicable/Relevant	3
Skipped	228
	355

- 1 We live on Murray Road near Connolly Rd. Our child goes to Barry Beckett. We've personally had but also witnessed countless near misses of families simply walking along the footpath. Cars speeding eastward along Murray Road over the rise around the corner of Jackson Parade. **We're simply terrified and wont let our child walk himself along that part, even holding hands with us. We have to carry him. I see many other families doing the same. One step of a toddler too close to the edge of the road and game over. Will it take something terrible happening before something changes?**
- 2 Nearly been hit at Stockade and Murray while crossing Stockade at the crossing signal to access Pentridge shops. The rat runners take that left turn without looking. I adminsihed the driver who slammed on their breaks at the nick of time , but that just should not have happened. May 18th - around 6:15pm, heading to a special occasion. Similar has happened before there too. But I can't recall when. I'd ride along there, but that lake stretch from Elizabeth to Sydney is a death trap.
- 3 **My 6yo daughter and I were turning into Murray Rd from Elizabeth St and we drove past an awful accident w a cyclist and a car (early May). This is actually not unusual. We have seen so many achieves (*accidents) at that intersection that we no longer feel safe crossing at the lights. Get someone**

over there to look at the tire markings on the footpath where the trucks routinely overshoot that corner by approx 1 m into the footpath. All near TWO (!) daycare centres.

We cross the road everyday to get to Newlands Primary. It's scary and there's no safe place to cross. We need another crossing away from the intersection.

There are major issues w this stretch of road. We routinely hear and see accidents. At night it becomes like a racetrack. There need to be more speed cameras. That last accident on the 23rd April left a young man paraplegic. We heard it happen, it was horrific. We need action on this before another accident occurs.

The footpath is too narrow and there is no safe place for cyclists. Considering the fact that this is a road that leads to do many amenities as well as Coburg Lake and the creek... it's absurd that there isn't a way for families to bike or walk safely.

4 Masses of unsafe hooning around this area evening and at night - it's scary.

Disregard for cyclists and pedestrians.

5 I live right behind the "pool crossing" and use it everyday with my dog. I have seen too many drivers to keep track of run the red light (most unintentionally, some intentionally). One time two months ago, a car sped through going at least 80km/hr right as the green pedestrian crossing activated, and my dog and I would've been hit badly if I hadn't been paying attention and jumped back to the sidewalk at the last moment. I can't believe there isn't already a camera there?!

Also, a few months ago, a car also smashed into the bus stop next to the crossing, and also went through the back fence/wall of the house behind it.

6 almost been hit on foot and on my bike at the zebra crossing at murray/gilbert multiple times

7 Almost being hit a few years ago whilst riding down Murray rd because the cars we're driving too fast and too close to me. No bike lane sadly.

8 Just some hairy moments crossing Elizabeth st

9 It does not feel safe to walk along Murray Rd with small children, one wrong move and they are on the road

10 My daughter almost got hit at the intersection of Murray and Elizabeth, where

- there is a right turn
- 11 **Over the years I've had near misses with tradies in utes and cement trucks the most. Cycling is crazy and I really do avoid if I can. The kids are bigger now but back when one was in a pram it was pretty tough keeping the littles one close to me, there is no margins for error. The most common day to day thing, or night to night is the hoons and rat runners. And of course ever boof head is on there phone while driving or at the lights...**
- 12 There always seems to be debris across Murray Road/Elizabeth Street intersection. Roads have been blocked by police several times and I'm always hearing sirens.
- 13 Most days after school (approx 3:20) I see students on bikes having to ride on the road after crossing Murray Rd (pool crossing), and forcing cars to merge dangerously into the inner lane
- 14 Safety concerns turning right into Murray Rd, from Outlook Rd.
- 15 **Not an incident but emphasising the feeling of vulnerability and not feeling safe, coming up from Coburg Lake to walk on the footpath (near Newlands Road). Many times, walking with my dog, feeling we were millimetres away from speeding cars - one second of distraction or bad driving and we'd be wiped out.**
- 16 **April 23 unable to access Jackson reserve due to a significant car accident on Murray Rd**
- Approx June 13 after school driving east along Murray Rd a Coburg High kid came off his bike on the footpath and fell on to the road in front of my car. Thankfully no impact.
- 17 27/07/23 Car crashed
Dog on leash walking off the footpath and onto the road due to owner pushing a pram and no room on the path.
- 18 Regular low sense of safety at the Elizabeth st/Murray road intersection as a pedestrian.
- Riding north/south down Elizabeth st to access the merri creek trail, was nearly hit by a car which ran a red light.
- Have witnessed cyclist knocked off bike outside Newlands shops by car weaving in and out of lanes.**

- 19 From Gilbert to Murray Road, speed increases from 40 to 60km. This is on a slope downhill and I find drivers are too fast for an area that is all largely residential. I advocate to council but was told not their area to do anything but would like to address here that there are lots of local children and elderly that walk/ bike /scooter. The area from Gilbert to Murray and progressing to Sydney road, needs to reduce to 40km. There are lots of schools in the area, childcare centres within Murray road since 2011 and increased uptake of preston west primary school students. 60km is dangerous and a risk to our community. Footpath on coburg lake along Murray road is so close to the road, it's a huge disaster waiting to happen particularly during spring and summer months when there is more foot traffic particularly given pentridge is more built up with shopping, cinemas, cafe, bars and more apartments in the area.
- 20 **Path so narrow that I have had aggression from joggers on path when walking in a group with kids (eg taking up more of path, jogger wants to pass quickly). Also when I had a pram or my dog with me. Feels very unsafe. When enjoying coburg lake "loop" for exercise/recreation most people come out onto a stretch of the narrow path on Murray road. It's a very diverse group of pedestrians/cyclists who are vulnerable to fast traffic when travelling on that narrow footpath**
- 21 I regularly ride up to my parents place in the Kodak estate near the Coburg basketball stadium and always have to go out of my way to navigate Murray road due to its current dangerous road design. It could also otherwise function as a great east west connection between Coburg train station and Preston Market area for people riding or walking/ using public transport but due to its high speed and lack of safe infrastructure for people riding and walking severely limits people's ability to get around these areas on foot or by bike safely.
- 22 Feeling scared and fearful for students walking down the footpath. Students almost falling into the road into traffic.
- 23 Had to walk through a pile of broken glass after car drove through a bus stop
- 24 **My brother died on this road on 29/4/01 near Outlook road. Sadly another young man died hitting the same power pole near Outlook Road this year on 23/4/23.**
- 25 Tail gating
- 26 **It is weekly the red light running at stockade and Murray rd. I feel very nervous about walking along any of these sections of road with my kids or my dog.**
- 27 **With schools in close vicinity, cars travel too fast on Murray road making it unsure for children. Cyclists bullied off road.**

- 28 There have been several accidents or near misses near the Dept. Of Housing flats along Murray Rd, people hoon in this area. Perhaps some speed bumps may slow people down. I am afraid to let my children ride their bikes in the area.
- 29 **Our young son was riding along Murray Rd across the bridge over Merri Creek near the Olympic pool, he stumbled and nearly fell into a car driving along. There needs to be a barrier between the footpaths and the road. It's so dangerous and we are stressed every time we use it (daily). Also we have seen at least 5 occasions where cars do not stop at the red crossing pool lights. It's risking life and limb every time we use this road. Must be updated please ASAP.**
- 30 Having to run across murray road in order to be on time for school at a time that was not safe because there is no pedestrian crossing at Outlook Rd
- 31 Everyday something happens... most common people running red lights, newlands/Murray rd. Right turns in and out of college blvd, drivers not understanding who has right of way @ outlook rd. Drivers watching for cars not pedestrians when crossing traffic(everywhere), cars speeding down Connolly ave(and other side roads) to 'beat' traffic lights...
- 32 Drivers speeding/driving recklessly as recently and frequently as June-July
- 33 **My daughter has been yelled at riding her bike to coburg high cause she was on the footpath for Murray Rd. She does not feel safe riding a bike on Murray Rd. Now no longer rides her bike.**
- 34 I don't personally drive so I am either walking or riding my bike to get my child to Barry Beckett. I hate doing drop off as it means having to cross Murray rd, the cars are going so fast and it's so so so hard to find a safe spot to cross/time to cross especially if you have kids that are in bikes or walking or on a scooter.
- 35 Multiple times when I have been crossing Murray rd at the Coburg Olympic pool crossing I will get off the roads and cars won't wait for the lights to turn green. This has happened many times even within the last week it has happened twice (approximate dates 23rd and 26th of July)
- 36 **A couple of months ago cars tried to overtake each other crossing Elizabeth street and conolley and ending up hitting each other just a few metres in front of me**
- 37 **My daughter was hit by a car turning until their driveway on Murray Rd (between Elizabeth and connolly). She was riding on the footpath as their is no safe alternative in that area. She us extremely lucky to have not sustained either lethal or life changing injuries according to all of the witnesses. The driver was driving very fast on the lead up to turning.**
- 38 Too many to mention - Maray Road is a major thoroughfare linking east and west and traffic needs radical diversion back onto Bell Street possibly by reverting to

- two lanes
- 39 Basically incident mentioned in this survey.
- 40 Witnessed 'extreme speeding' (<100km per hour) along Murray road (between Elizabeth and Sydney road), led to a road rage incident (January 2023).
- 41 Red Light running near coburg Lake, can't see far up hill when coming out of the side street, nearly crashed into when pulling out on green. Also fear fro my kids riding down the footpath to get to basket ball stadium. They are told to ride the long way , over the creek, up the other side and down...not sure they always do. One slip, a popped tyre and they are under 4 lanes of heavy fastbtraffic. Scary!!
- 42 I had to walk on the side of the road because the footpath was to narrow
- 43 As well as the recent accidents, we see speeding and tailgating cars on Murray rd between Pentridge and Elizabeth St literally every day that we go to school or work. Don't fine them. Instead, get the drivers to walk along the footpath every day for a year and experience how terrifying it is to have a car driving eratically speed past you with a gap of 30cm between their body and the car's side mirrors.
- 44 Cars have nearly hit me multiple times in year 7 when i walked down that road even grown men smoking along the footpath for young children such as me to breathe in.
- 45 kids been nearly hit by cars on murray rd
- 46 20th July- Reckless drivers @ Champstreet
- 47 I was riding along the Murray road footpath and when I tried to overtake a person waking a cute little dog, I was sweating with both stress and fear because the cars felt like they nearly skimmed me.
- 48 super aggressive driving - from the pool west to sydney rd is a prime "i'm on a race track" piece of road
- 49 **Number of near misses trying to exit George street into Murray rd. View west is badly hindered and makes this intersection unsafe. Reduced speed on Murray rd here and better visibility looking west needed**
- 50 People turning onto Murray Road and not checking for cyclists.

I constantly see school kids and families trying to cross Spring St between Regent and Murray - there are no lights and so much traffic it feels unsafe - people cross here to avoid Murray and because the crossing at Murray and St. George's is so convoluted and does not prioritise pedestrians or cyclists so the waiting times are excessive. There was a time when the pedestrian crossing lights were just

installed crossing Murray under the newly elevated train line and the lights prioritised pedestrians so the waiting times were quick. This was helpful.

- 51 I can't stand reversing out of my friend's driveway onto Murray Road. I feel like I'm going to die. I used to walk to the Coburg Lake but I can't trust my little kids on a narrow footpath next to a two lane 60km ph zone with no traffic calming elements in place. It's a really nasty piece of road.
- 52 We ride our electric cargo bike (with 2 kids on the back) to school at Newlands, meaning we travel down Murray Rd most weekdays and we use the footpath because it is unsafe on the road with no bike lanes and high speeds. The footpath also feels unsafe as narrow and close to fast travelling cars. I feel bad too for pedestrians who probably feel unsafe when we pass. While not the subject of this survey Murray Rd in the section close to the market is also really unsafe for riding (we use the Happy Hubbub centre there). The whole street should be reviewed as it is such a vital transport corridor in the area.
- 53 2011 - my car parked on westbound side Murray Rd was hit from rear by a driver not watching the rd and speeding. Car was written off. I would have been injured if I was getting in/ out of car at that moment.

2017 - my car was parked on westbound Murray rd and was hit by a car in the middle lane, smashing off the wing mirror. I would have been injured if I was getting out of the car at that moment.

2017- My car parked on westbound side of Murray Rd was hit from rear by speeding driver overtaking in left lane. Car was projected onto the footpath and through my front fence. Would have been fatal for any pedestrian, anyone in my front yard or if me or my kids were getting in or out of the car.

2019- My car parked on westbound side of Murray Rd was hit from rear by a driver who was speeding and overtaking in left lane. Car was projected onto the footpath and through my neighbour's front fence. Car written off. Fence destroyed. This would have been fatal for anyone in their front yard, any pedestrian or me or my children had we been getting in/ out of the car at that moment.

2022 - reversing out of my driveway (south side of Murray rd) I was very nearly hit by a speeding driver heading east in the left lane of the westbound side (he was on wrong side of the rd).

Throughout this time there are regular (approx weekly) incidents of burnouts being done around the Outlook rd/ Murray rd intersection with fishtailing cars along Murray rd, leaving burnt rubber lines all over the rd.

54 Cars not stopping at red light crossing. It happens daily.

55 **I cannot cross until I see all cars have stopped due to red light running. But I have small children so that leaves me with very little time to get across**

56 I have seen a bike rider hit by a car on Murray road near the Elizabeth st lights. I am always worried when bike riding with my children along Murray road in single file on the narrow footpath between outlook road and the pool. It is hard to turn right into Murray road from Connolly Ave after picking kids up from Barry Beckett, cars go too fast and getting over 4 lanes is tricky. A family member on a bike had his elbow clipped while riding along Murray road near Elizabeth st intersection.

57 **Our cargo bike with 2 young kids got hit at the Sydney Rd Gaffney st intersection when crossing on a green pedestrian. Multiple times aggressive and inconsiderate driver behaviour has made it hard to manage a cargo bike with 2 kids in it- slowing takes time etc**

58 **I have this beautifully safe commute to work on my bike via the Merri creek or upfield bike paths. Safe EXCEPT for one road - Murray road. There are five different places I can cross, and ALL of them are unsafe due to design elements and poor driver behaviour. I have had many near misses at the pool crossing with drivers speeding up to or just running a red light so they don't have to stop.**

I hated getting to Barry beckett with my toddler - crossing at the lights was even less safe than attempting to get across four lanes of traffic at Connolly st without lights.

Riding along Murray road in the evenings feels really unsafe, but there is no alternative - the footpath that is signposted as "shared use" is a joke - with trees growing across it and poor visibility for pedestrians and bikers.

I'm angry that my kid will go to high school soon with such a difficult road to navigate. It needs urgent fixing - put the cars back on bell street and make Murray road slower, safer and better for bikes and families.

59 In several occasions I've seen drivers drive through red lights on Murray Rd when I've been about to take off on green light at Stockade Ave, but much more frequently since lockdowns ended. People are definitely driving more recklessly in past year/18 months.

60 **In car waiting to turn right from Elizabeth St to Murray Rd.car turned left from Murray Rd to E St travelling much too fast swung wide near miss then accelerated up E st. This was today July 20. I see this sort of over limit driving in Elizabeth St quite often (as well as Murray Rd)**

61 Whilst crossing Champ St, got a scare from a speeding driver fishtailing out of the corner (heading west in Murray into Champ). Got photos of snaking tyre marks.

62 Teenager almost got run over by a car at the newlands rd/Murray rd slip lane because there was no safe crossing option. This was made worse when roadworks were happening.

Cars and trucks also frequently (at least three times a week during school drop off times) run red light at pedestrian crossing on newlands road (north of Murray road)

63 When driving I have been overtaken on the wrong side of the road after turning from Murray Rd into Newlands Rd ie car speeding wrong way up the road.

It's shocking to learn that the stretch of Murray Road used to be single lane. With the profound increase in residents in the area Vic roads and Merribek council should be aiming to make it friendly for walking and simple access to Preston Market where so many residents shop regularly.

We are unable to Ride to Preston Market due to the fear of using Murray Rd through Merribek the bike lane materialises in the Darebin section only.

64 My kids and I had a near miss from a car turning from Elizabeth Street into Murray Rd, while crossing (walking) with small children at Elizabeth Street crossing- approx 2019.

Saw aftermath of a terrible looking car crash this year just east of the Elizabeth Street intersection, approx April 2023.

Seeing speeding drivers along Murray Rd- all the time over the 10 years we've lived in the area!

65 I don't have dates due to it being a occurrence.

66 We have friends who live on Murray rd who have to sometimes park on the street and have had drivers crash into their parked car. Clearly we need measures to slow down traffic on Murray Rd. I've regularly seen drivers run the red light at the coburg Olympic pool. At night I can often hear hoons with tyres squealing around d our streets.

67 Crazy speeds and dangerous driving along Murray Road, especially coming down the hill and up again through the Elizabeth street intersection.

Coming from Preston, cars use inner let lane at lights to try and jump traffic in right lane - but there are always cars parked on Murray - so lots of sudden merging and braking to avoid crashing into these at speed.

68 There are too many to list. The hooning is horrendous

69 Within the last month multiple cars not stopping or running red light at the Olympic Pool/Murray Rd crossing when high school students are attempting to cross. Witnessed from my car around 8.30-8.45am. I travel west from Outlook to Newlands Rd turning up Newlands at least 3 times a week at that time and see this regularly.

Near February 2023. My daughter (12) and I were riding bikes from Outlook Rd into Whitton Pde when a car hooned around the corner and narrowly missed hitting us. We both had to stop and take time to get over the shock. My daughter is much more reluctant to ride alone now.

70 Son nearly run over by car running a red light near Olympic Pool approx 2016.

71 **We hear hooning regularly on Murray Road and Elizabeth Street. Have seen the aftermath of bumps at the elizabeth street/murray road intersection**

72 The parking in the north lane of Murray Rd next to the lake is only there sometimes and drivers do not expect it. It would be better to reconfigure the road so there was wider footpath, dedicated separated bike lanes, the one indented row of parking on the lake side, and 2 traffic lanes. It would be safer for cars too.

The Champ St/Murray Rd intersection is not very pedestrian friendly either.

The footpath on the south side next to the bluestone wall should be paved.

There should be an easy bike link between Batman station/Upfield path and Pentridge shops/cinema.

73 Frequently cross at pool crossing and have witnessed several near misses and red light jumping. It's also a very frightening experience going along the narrow pavement from Coburg Lake to cross to Pentridge at the lights - again, chronic issue of red light jumping and speeding with drivers coming from Sydney Road taking the corner too fast and sometimes not seeing that the lights are red for pedestrian crossing until it's too late to stop.

74 **A friend's daughter was hit by a speed car as she got off the tram. The speed limit is too high for a densely populated area with high foot traffic.**

75 Cars not stopping at pedestrian crossing at pool.

76 **Near miss with my 3 y.o. crossing north on Elizabeth St across Murray Rd on western side. Car turning left was not paying attention.**

77 I reiterate that many cars exceed the speed limit down Murray Rd. On Sunday there are many young families navigating a small space whilst heading to and from what should be a relaxing picnic on the lake. It's clearly dangerous.

The speed limit should be 40 ideally.

78 Crossing the Bluestone bridge is scary

79 We sold our house a few years ago and moved from the corner of Outlook and Murray due to concerns about this dangerous intersection. We still live nearby -- because we love the area -- and continue to feel unsafe along Murray Road on foot, riding our bikes, and in cars particularly in the stretch between Elizabeth Street and Bell Street. We have witnessed multiple crashes, red light running, speeding, and general aggressive driving. I can see no good reason why the speed limit cannot be reduced to 50, and lanes reduced to one each way (which is the case at either end of this stretch). Population growth with increased use of park and public facilities, and CHS, means that these dangers will only get worse.

80 I have witnessed a bike accident on Murray road. I ride on footpath between Coburg Table tennis and Elizabeth Street too narrow to ride.

81 **St Paul's Coburg is right near Murray road and every ride or walk to school feels fraught because of the right footpaths and speeding**

82 Speeding and dangerous driving behaviour. High amount of traffic.

83 **The pedestrian crossing from lights at Coburg Lake to Stockade AVE is an accident waiting to happen due to the curve in Murry Rd that doesn't allow you to see if cars/trucks are going to slow down and stop at lights and vice versa, hoon drivers can't see that a pedestrian is about to cross as they come speeding down that hill towards newlyns rd.**

84 This whole area has a lot more "place" value than ever before. The move to 4 lanes, and the 60km/h speed limit, is not in line with this.

85 So many near misses and aggression at Murray / plenty road - possibly need longer turning arrows to accommodate.

- 86 **Witnessed cyclist on road after accident in turning lane on Murray Rd near Senior citizens March/April 3023. Witnessed accident driver Murray Rd toward Elizabeth st, driver turning from Outlook Drive and Connolly Ave collided Feb to April 2023**
- 87 On numerous occasions trucks turning left down the slipway at Newlands Rd come across the middle of the road into oncoming cars driving through or waiting for lights on Newlands Rd.
- 88 Driver not stopping at Red Light by pool
- 89 **Neatly hit by car with my x 2 Grandchildren 4 & 2 whilst crossing on clearly visible “walk”. Car user on mobile and did not look up , turned almost hitting us into Murray Road**
- 90 I saw a tow truck from Brunswick Towing run a red light at the pedestrian crossing where Murray Road & Champ Street meet. This was in the week before the community meeting.
- 91 Frequent jumping of red lights on Murray Road. In 2012 I had to physically pull my wife from the path of a hoon jumping the lights at Pentridge junction. Frequent near misses at Elizabeth lights due to poor driving and short time for pedestrians to cross road. Frequent near-misses for cars exiting Outlook and Connolly trying to turn right across Murray Road. Feeling of vulnerability turning right into Connolly Ave whilst driving and having to wait in the center of Murray Road for fast moving traffic from Preston direction to clear. Multiple accidents including fatal ones have occurred at this location
- 92 Hoons both in cars and motorbikes regularly (ie more than weekly) speed (80+ km/h) along Whitton Pde and adjoining streets
- 93 Drivers use treats the red lights at the crossing outside the Coburg Olympic Pool as optional: I regularly see drivers go through these lights when they think no one is crossing.

94 **I've seen many unfortunately. The accident on the 23rd April this year was horrific. A week or so earlier, I also witnessed a motorbike collide with a car right near the intersection of Murray and bonnelly ave (outside bustop, elderly citizens club and Barry beckett) We were first on the scene and it was traumatic. My partner and daughter witnessed an accident w a car and cyclist weeks after that. It brought up a lot questions around safety.**

I have also had numerous near misses trying to cross the rd near the 561 bus stop near Outlook Rd. I frequently witness elderly and vulnerable people from the commission flats across the rd attempting to cross to the bus stop there too and have held my breath as they stand on the white line in middle of rd with cars zooming past in both directions.

A few months ago I rode past an accident w 2 cars, just past the bluestone bridge (i believe one had been turning in to Connelly ave from Murray rd). Friends who live in the house on that corner frequently witness accidents there. It is an area that cyclists and pedestrians also use to connect to Merri Creek path. But you wouldn't know it, it is really poorly thought out for cars, cyclists and pedestrians.

About a 1.5 yrs ago there was a car accident where a car actually ignited and the street was closed off for some time. Right near outlook rd (same intersection).

I regularly see vulnerable pedestrians on the narrow bluestone bridge w 2 lanes of trucks and cars speeding along on either side. Footpaths are too narrow along this entire stretch. Families would be more confident to let tepee kids ride to school if there was a wider, safer shared footpath for pedestrians and bikes.

95 Hooning and road rage is a big problem.

96 Hooning on Elizabeth St, partner had a near miss with a car doing burn outs. Speeding on Connolly Avenue has caused near misses for us crossing the street.

97 The biggest issue I find is hooning and speeding. Traffic calming would go a long way.

98 **2023- witness cyclist hit at Elizabeth st intersection**

2022- almost hit by car running red light at champ st intersection x2

2022- almost hit by car running red light at stockade ave

99 **The routes between pentridge and the lake reserve is so inaccessible for bikes and wheelchair users!**

100 So many red light jumps. I won't ride my bike on road down Newlands across the Murray junction. Way too dangerous.

101 Usually the kids walk to school through the creek down near the outdoor swimming pool but the bridge was out for a while due to the floods last year and that's when I realised how close the traffic was to the pedestrians especially when you have a dog as well who's also freaking out about how loud and close the traffic is. While we had to wait for the bridge to get fixed it was an unpleasant route to walk for sure and bound to be incidents with bike riders also not wanting to be on the road so having to share the footpath with riders and pedestrians.

102 **We live on Murray road so we see it all, every recent crash and fatality we have been affected by and this road is not safe for children. Elizabeth Street intersection is particularly bad, the Coburg lake and Pentridge precinct interface needs improvement and the sustainable transport links to the high school. There are countless damages to bus stops especially on both sides near the pool and Barry Beckett. Newlands shop entry needs a "do not cross" area for incoming and outgoing traffic, and the overnight speeding that happened every night between 12am and 4am with cars travelling at 100kmh+ should be caught by cameras. The face there is no dedicated, separated bike lane is astonishingly bad given how many schools, community facilities and shops there are, and I think there needs to be more east-west zebra crossing near all of the daycare and school zone areas.**

103 Nearly hit by a car at pool crossing. Many hoons speed late at night in cars and motorbikes regularly.

104 **Weekly trouble crossing slip lane at Newlands Rd with children, and several times seeing cars go through pedestrian green light at Stockade when I'm with my children trying to cross on foot or bike.**

Fortunately we're located in a spot that limits the number of times we need to cross Murray Rd, as we can access Merri Creek bike path very close to our house and use that daily for school and work.

105 **Multiple car accidents at the Elizabeth Street intersection one of these that I had to get out of my car and support an injured person. It was very traumatic. People always driving too fast along Murray Road it is a constant thing that I experience.**

106 I was nearly hit riding my bike across the Elizabeth St intersection. The driver did not look out for me and would have hit me had I not realised he hadn't seen me and sped up. This happened about 2 months ago. It was only the second time I was crossing that intersection on my bike.

- 107 My husband was almost hit by a car crossing at the pedestrian crossing at Coburg Olympic pool.

Waiting to cross Murray rd from the lake to Stockade rd. Cars and trucks driving at 50-60km/hr alongside the narrow pathway. It is frightening. Now cross at Champ where you can stand back away from the road. It is a catastrophe waiting to happen.

Cars and motorcycles speeding down Murray rd.

- 108 Coming from Elizabeth st and turning right onto Outlook rd in a car is terrifying. Have almost been rear ended so many times. It is extremely dangerous.

- 109 With 1400 high school students walking & cycling to school, it imperative that we keep our vulnerable road user safe. 70% of pedestrian deaths are in metro areas - it is imperative we protect our communities over vehicles

- 110 **Three major smashes in under 6 months between Elizabeth and Connelly on Murray. Including car push off the road across our drive way in the middle of the night and police knocking to enquire about it.**

Living on Murray rd the speed of all at but heavy vehicles, especially the very numerous cement mixers from the depot up newlands - coming up the hill to get across Elizabeth and avoid the Amber/red light at the intersection is scary while waiting at the 527 bus stop (cnr of Murray and Elizabeth) in the mornings. Honestly the speed at which cars zoom past - often almost mounting the curb is terrifying. Because of the hill most are flooring it - especially if they think they might be caught by the light.

Adding to this can hear regular street racing late at night, it's very interesting how busy the road is at 2am!

- 111 Nearly been T boned on bike and in car on 3 occasions near home. Cars turning corner out of control on Elizabeth st corner means I'm always standing far back from the road as a precaution. It's unpleasant

- 112 Multiple near misses at the pool crossing with my kids as cars run the red light. We use a cargo trike which is very wide for the footpath along the lake and difficult to use when crossing the Newlands Rd slip lane.

- 113 We are zoned for Coburg High but I am very worried about our children (who already cycle daily to and from school) cycling to Coburg High without safe bike routes from Coburg

- 114 on mehegan ave intersection: Rear ending x 2, cyclist hit x 1, hoons dodging red lights via side streets x always.

- 115 I live on Gaffney St between Champ St and Sydney Rd. The number of vehicles I hear speeding and making excessive noise is ridiculous.
- 116 I feel vulnerable walking with my young children along Murray rd by the shops and Newlands Preschool. We arrive for kinder at peak hour and cars speed and jostle. I would love the consideration of a barrier to protect children from the traffic. Also zebra crossing or repairing of stop lines in the entrance and car park at Murray rd given the age of the children using these buildings daily.
- 117 **Difficult to exit George St in the car. Difficult to cross Murray Road on foot or bike. Extremely unpleasant and unsafe to cycle along Murray Road between Elizabeth Street and Pentridge with children. No easy or pleasant east/west route for pedestrians or cyclists from east of Elizabeth Street to Merri Creek bike path. General amenity for cyclists, pedestrians and children around Murray Road is terrible.** Murray Road /Elizabeth Street area is unsightly and generally Unpleasant for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 118 Hooning on Peterson Ave or Murray Rd is a common occurrence
- 119 I can't remember specific dates, but westbound traffic struggles to keep in-lane from Champ to Sydney Rod.
- 120 **Too many to count. Every day I have to cross to Barry Beckett and also ride my bike along Murray Rd until i can exit through Pentridge. Every day I feel anxious, nervous and worried.**
- 121 Coming out of George st to Murray rd is sometimes hard to see oncoming traffic coming from Elizabeth st intersection.
- 122 **Many times riding my bicycle have been nearly hit riding east bound esp both sides of Elizabeth street - The cycle lane only starts East of George Street - Would be great to have the cycle path all along**
- 123 Near collision turning right into Murray Rd from Stockade Avenue when a car did not stop at the red lights.
- 124 **Approximately May this year I was riding with my two primary school aged children and my eldest, eight years old was nearly hit by a car turning into Murray rd from Elizabeth st when there was a green pedestrian light. A few weeks later the same thing happened to my neighbour's daughter.**

Question 18

If you have any other Murray Rd experiences, safety concerns or improvement suggestions which haven't yet been captured but which you would like to be considered, please briefly outline below

Answered	61
Not Applicable	5
Skipped	289
	355

1 Speed humps on Peterson Avenue

Outlook pedestrian crossings to have kerb ramps at all junctions so that the footpath does just end as you meet the road

2 Years ago a plan to build a road from Henty st or Edwardes st to Sydney Rd would help stop heaps traffic in Murray rd of Mahoney rd

3 We need major change here. Major change. I don't know a single neighbour who doesn't have a scary Murray Rd story.

It would be great if the look of the road could be considered too. Being so close to the creek and the lake it would make sense to have native plantings to soften the (proposed) wider footpath.

There are a number of issues in this stretch and all need to be looked at asap. It would be great if locals could advise the dept of transport on this.

4 We are located on Murray Road, just east of Elizabeth Street. Our residence is located on the 'downhill slope' just before you hit the Elizabeth Street intersection. The amount of times we've seen cars and motorbikes zoom down the hill is terrifying and cars accelerate very fast after passing the Elizabeth Street intersection to head east or Murray road is very concerning. Would be good to have a more substantive refuge island between Elizabeth Street and Grampian street as there are many kids and families on this part of the road

5 Very large trucks are a problem. It's also a major thoroughfare for emergency service at all hours.

6 There is no footpath/shared part on the south side of Murray Rd east of Champ St - this forces us to cross the road when travelling to the Merri Creek track and increases the number of people using the shared path on the west side.

7 There are too many uncontrolled intersections on Murray Road. Rationalising crossings in a coherent and socially supportive way seems necessary.

8 The suggestions provided are great

9 The raised crossings work beautifully on the new rail trail parallel to St George's road
Cars always stop!

10 The pedestrian crossing from lights at Coburg Lake to Stockade AVE is an accident waiting to happen due to the curve in Murray Rd that doesn't allow you to see if cars/trucks are going to slow down and stop at lights and vice versa, hoon drivers can't see that a pedestrian is about to cross as they come speeding down that hill towards Newlyn Rd.

11 The footpath needs to be widened, reduce speed limit, reduce to 2 lanes with a dedicated bike lane and median strip.

12 The footpath definitely needs widening and a bike path is required for safety but reducing down to 1 lane could cause bottle necks and even worse frustrated drivers which again isn't a great outcome.

13 The Elizabeth St/Murray Rd intersection is dangerous. Cars routinely speed and mount the narrow curbs. This is the only crossing my daughter can use with traffic signals to get to Coburg High. There is no lollipop crossing people either, which is confusing as it is so high risk and no other option for Coburg High or Newlands primary students.

14 Thanks for your work!

15 Thanks for leading this - we need a change to this dangerous area, especially with small children (and children of all ages) using this road and this section of Murray Rd daily.

Safer Walking and Riding for Murray Road Community Survey Report

- 16 Thank you so much for doing this, you're making our home better and safer
- 17 Thank you for your efforts. I don't have any suggests. I hope this road becomes safer for all types of commuters.
- 18 Stop Lorris turning left into Newlands Roads.
- 19 Speed and trucks are a major concern. There needs to be a limit on the truck size allowed in Newlands Rd to stop huge trucks using Murray Rd.
- 20 Since 2011 I have been begging Council to take a lead with the result they refused to accept any further communication from me on this matter. It came to a head when I demanded to know if Council and VicRoads have ever met to discuss these matters. They never answered this question.
- 21 Seeing walking folk nearly get hit by east bound cars turning north /left into Elizabeth Street - particularly folks with 'walkers' as a mobility aid or those with young children.
- 22 Riding is dangerous especially near lights with no dedicated or marked lanes
- 23 reduce the speed limit
- 24 Previous Preston Market area pedestrian crossing (with lights) was sometimes ignored by drivers, especially of an evening. Now it is more regular because the rail overpass was replaced with another pedestrian/bike path crossing. All up, including the Georges Rd intersection (x2) there are four in a few hundred metres. Drivers are getting worse at respecting them.
- 25 Potentially add a left turn lane (as previously installed) at the Newlands/Murray bridge. This would maybe help appease or avoid competitive and rushed driver behaviour.
- 26 Please see above. I live in Murray Road and if possible, would be good if there were flyers around this sent to local residents as I did not know there is a working group and has been advocating myself to local council but to no avail. Please note my email of xxxxx

Safer Walking and Riding for Murray Road Community Survey Report

- 27 Please lower the speed! And improve the safety for crossing across connelly avenue near the senior citizens centre.
- 28 Please do something about dangerous driving spilling onto side streets. We get regula hooning down Whitton parade at all hours and my children can't play safely in their own street. Plus the noise pollution is very disruptive. My son can't walk to school safely by himself due to rat running down Jackson parade. Please fix the crossing at Barry Beckett - we risk our lives each day dropping my kid off from our house on the north side of Murray road to childcare in peak our traffic with no safe crossing. Pleas put in a bus running the length of Murray road from Preston station to Batman statio (and beyond). I am a shift worker and walking home at night along the lake is very scary. If there was a decent bus service I would try not to drive to preston market to do my weekly shopping, easing parking problems there. In general the community is very concerned about dangerous driving behaviours across the state. This needs to change before more people are killed and injured. Thanks SWARM for doing this survey!
- 29 Pedestrian islands or safety zones, if not crossings.
- 30 Only that I beg some changes are made and fast.
- 31 My wife and I travel to Melbourne weekly to look after our grandchildren for a day. We therefore walk along Murray road from Batman Station to Outlook Road at least once a week. We also walk pushing a pram along Murray road en route to the Coburg Library regularly. Although we've never had a direct mishap, it's always pretty nerve wracking walking the narrow sections of the footpath. The cars are too fast, they're too close. One day, something awful's going to happen on that stretch: there's NO margin for error.
- 32 More no smoking signs..It was and still is a huge issue to people who walk or ride.
- 33 Just a note to explain my answers. I live alone but Coburg High grandchild visits regularly riding from school then back to Table Tennis club

34 It's probably not achievable - but it would be a great resource to make the linear Reserve (Peterson Avenue - Regent) into a share pathway for bike and pedestrian. There are path in sections, but other sections are bollardered off easements. It effectively connects from where Merri Creek Trail hits the Murray Rd Intersection at outlook rd - all the way up to Reservoir Reservoir on high street. This would provide a safe route connecting quite a few schools, kindergartens and recreational spaces as well as bus line, tram lines. Easy routes off this could lead to Regent Station, and the north south bike lane along the mernda line. While there might be issues if it's over a water excess pipe from the reservior - as there are road and other path already over it surely it would be achievable to create a safe and accessible pathway to connect the suburbs and shopping strips.

35 **It's impossible to sufficiently emphasise just how unsafe Gaffney St / Murray Rd is for cyclists between Sydney Rd and Gilbert Rd. The shared cycle/footpath is totally unsuitable for cyclists, and is pretty lousy for pedestrians.**

36 **It wasn't until I attended the meeting that I realised how many locals share the same concerns.** This is really important stuff. There are practical things that can be done that will greatly change safety for all Murray Rd users.

37 **Issues well covered by the questions. Just want to stress how much they have affected us - we live in Pentridge and the issues with Murray road make it feel disconnected to the entire lake side, especially with one young kid starting out riding and one teen at Coburg High who I would otherwise feel more comfortable about going up to Oxygen Youth Centre by themselves or with friends.** The slope of the footpath along the lake side is another issue, plus lack of good bike pram wheelchair accessible entrances to the lake reserve paths. This results in an even trickier navigation at the entry point near Newlands Road.

38 Improved visibility of pedestrian crossings.

39 I would really like to see speed humps throughout the Newlands pocket as there is so much dangerous driving at excessive speed

40 I would like to see evidence that this area is more dangerous than others. Is there data about above average pedestrian or vehicle accidents? I note the shared use path up Murray road to champ street is narrow but there is a bike path across the creek and I'd be interested to hear from experts about the feasibility of changing the path.

I think the logical easy solution is to reduce the speed limit but this would take enforcement.

41 I would like Murray road to be two lanes with bike lanes on both sides instead of 4 car lanes.

And I would LOVE speed humps in Whitton Parade to stop the rat running hoons!

42 I tried cycling on Murray Road and the cars were going too fast forcing me into the gutter. The footpath is far too narrow and also feels unsafe for the speed of the traffic next to you.

I used to drive Murray Road as the most direct route from Fawkner to my employment at Preston campus of Melbourne Polytechnic, so I understand the importance of Murray road as a vehicle route. But the road needs to be safe for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians and local residents. When I wasn't driving along Murray Road I avoided using this as an active transport route due to my perception of risk.

I would welcome a lower speed limit, reduction of vehicles lanes to two (one each direction), creation of protected bike lanes and wider footpath, improved crossings for pedestrian amenity, and more tree plantings to provide shade and mitigate urban heat.

43 I think the survey captures the main points very well. I would not be keen on a bridge (wombat crossing?) over the road. The cars can stop for pedestrians...

44 I think in the first instance simply lowering the speed to 50kph and reducing the lane back to 2 would make a world of difference. This is also the least cost and effort for council, so in my view is a no brainer. Countless other roads in the area have been reduced to 50kph, many much wider and with better visibility. Why is Murray Rd left as a speedway?

45 I just moved to the area in February from Brunswick & Fitzroy. I feel safe walking during daylight hours, but less safe after dark. Perhaps a reflection of the socioeconomic landscape, so I'm okay with that and understand that comes with more perks and drawbacks. I don't want to muscle out diversity ever. I do feel that the drivers north of Bell St are in their own world, very bullying and no regard for bikes or pedestrians. You can tell who is local traffic based on their sensitivity to bikes and pedestrians. I find crossing Murray Rd difficult during the extended rush hours. Ever

when driving, it's hard to even pull into traffic from my carpark. There's just so much I'm at **** Murray Rd.

46 I have x 4 Grandchildren attending Barry Beckett child care centre. Finding Connelly Avenue unsafe

47 I flagged the issue of the Narrow footpath along murray road next to Coburg lake reserve at a council Meeting back in 2019. I had no traction however there was some changes to newlands road that we had advocated for, including the removal of the roundabout from Newlands Rd.

The bike paths on Newlands Rd are dreadful.

48 I feel issues will only be addressed when a child riding a bike, comes off the footpath along coburg lake and into the path of traffic....

49 I cycled for 15 years in Central London and felt safer than I do on Murray Road. I don't think it's right that road users such as cyclists should feel unwelcome or unsafe on the road and have to cycle on the pavement as this make it less safe for pedestrians. I definitely feel like cars don't think bicycles belong on th road, and this view is unacceptable in a climate crisis and obesity epidemic. This feels like an Australian cultural thing, where car is king. Cars are killing us.

50 I am too scared to park outside my own house on the rd as so many near fatalities at this spot. I am scared to let my kids walk along Murray rd due to seeing cars mount the footpath during accidents. I am scared to be at my letter box or near my fence due to cars hitting fence in past.

51 I always ride on the footpath this side of Gilbert rd

- 52 Generally unsafe area.
- No footpath alongside Pentridge wall south side of Murray rd between Champ st and Stockade rd.
- Poorly lit. Unsafe for everyone.
- Cars turning left from Murray rd into college crescent.
- Cars turning right from college crescent into Murray rd.
- Need traffic lights to assist with safe entry and exit from east end of Pentridge estate.
- Speeding cars and motorcycles. Hoo be at pool carpark and basketball stadium car park.
- 53 Extremely nervous about walking & riding along Murray Rd at Coburg Lake with young kids. Am very grateful you are taking action. Thank you!!
- 54 Council needs to work with the Basketball Stadium about the way some members use outlook Rd and surrounding streets to access the venue, especially in the late evening where hooning is common. The recent near fatality on Murray Rd involved players from the centre.
- 55 Cars are always darting out from the Connelly Ave & Outlook Rd intersections. I've seen a few bad accidents there over the years. Either traffic lights would be good or reduced speed limits.
- 56 Car parked on north side nature strip on MurrayRd near McGowan ave, blocking view of upcoming traffic and blocking footpath
- 57 Cameras for drivers
- 58 Broadly speaking I don't support the idea of a surveillance state, but as it seems we are already in one, câmeras looking at mobile phone use is, what what I can see the primary cause of driver distraction, and secondly; cars becoming bigger and ever more comfortable, thus lulling drivers in a stupor. The same could be said for e-bicycles.

59 Attention also needs to be focused on the stretch of Murray Rd between Elizabeth and George Street, where the median strip disappears and the additional lanes are added. In my experience, this section of road is even more difficult to cross because cars, trucks and especially cement mixers pick up speed coming down the hill, going from 40km/h zone to a 60km/h zone. The quality of the road surface in this area is also very bad and dangerous for cyclists, especially but not only near the Elizabeth St/Murray Rd bus stop.

60 A pedestrian crossing/pedestrian activated lights for families trying to cross Murray Rd at the mid Point between Elizabeth St and Gilbert Rd.

61 Dog walking east and west along Murray road to go to and from Coburg Lake - not enough room on footpath for dog and dog walker when another pedestrian/bike rider/dog walker comes along.

Speeding cars along nth side of Murray Rd create safety issues for people leaving Coburg Lake to get into their cars with children/picnic stuff etc.

3. Perception of safety issue for people walking from Pentridge cinema east along Murray Rd to get home. The dead section with old bluestone pentridge wall on one side and unlit pool/table tennis car park on the other side feels remote and unsafe. Once had someone pull up in a van and circle around the car park making me feel unsafe.