

RYAN TRANSPORT SURVEY REPORT



Having lived in the area for most of my life, I didn't need to be told that traffic is an issue in Ryan. Over the decades, as I've raised my kids and seen my grandkids grow up in the area, the issues we're facing have only gotten worse.

Now that I'm your federal MP, I see my role as advocating for our community on issues of all kinds, and liaising with all levels of government to do so. Federal money goes into transport via "Black Spot" safety funding and support for specific infrastructure projects. I believe the federal government should have a greater role in funding transport solutions that mean that residents can spend less time in traffic and more time with their families.

820 residents from across Ryan filled in the survey, which is a great indicator of the overall

issues in the electorate. With any proposals for change in local areas, representatives at all levels should engage in detailed consultation to get their input. That's why I'm focussing on the broad, structural changes that will impact people across Ryan.

In this report, I'll cover the responses we received about congestion, street safety, public transport, footpaths and cycleways, and make some recommendations on how all levels of government can collaborate to fix transport on the West Side.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. W.B." with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Elizabeth Watson-Brown
Federal Member for Ryan

BACKGROUND

Petrol prices are going through the roof. The cost of everything is going up and transport costs are a growing strain on households. Australian households every year spend over \$50 billion on petrol, with the average Brisbane household spending \$458.38 on transport each week (including petrol, car loans, insurance and public transport).

Our roads are **increasingly congested**, leading to hours lost every day sitting in traffic, and making parking more and more difficult. Some of the main roads in Ryan are among the most congested in Brisbane, with Moggill Road and Coronation Drive both regularly slowing to 17 km/h during peak hours.

Transport emissions are the third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia, with emissions from cars and light commercial vehicles contributing 11.6% of annual emissions. Transport is also the fastest growing source of emissions in the country.

Barriers to the **uptake of public transport** include accessibility issues, connectivity and frequency of services, and cost. Meanwhile, in many areas in Ryan it's not safe to cycle or walk to where you need to go. Public and active transport options are far more space efficient, reducing road congestion, with trains, ferries, footpaths, and separated cycleways meaning fewer people are on the road at all.

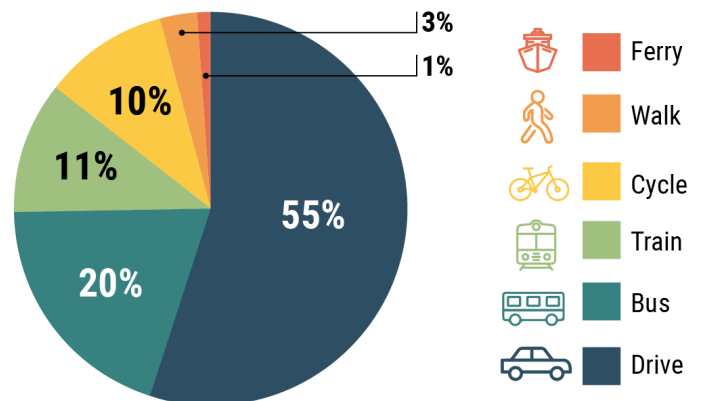
DRIVING & STREET SAFETY

HOW DO PEOPLE GET TO WORK OR SCHOOL?

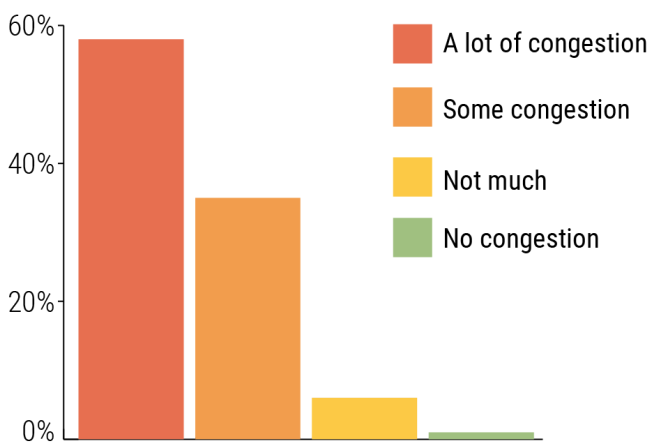
Over 55% of people reported driving as their main mode of transport to get to work or school drop-off/pick-up. **It's no wonder our roads are so congested!**

32% of people – just under a third – take public transport, by bus, train, or ferry. 13% use active transport methods like walking or cycling.

This information gives important context to other aspects of the report, as we hope to incentivise people to take public and active transport where possible.



HOW BAD IS THE CONGESTION?



I knew Ryan had issues with congestion, but far and away the most common response was “a lot of congestion”. A whopping **93% of people reported at least some congestion**. I didn't expect it to be quite this bad for so many!

Just 1.6% of people who drive – barely a handful of people – reported encountering no congestion at all. Even those who drive short distances are encountering huge issues with peak-hour travel.

Without busways or dedicated bus lanes on the West Side, if you're on the bus you'll be stuck in the same traffic as motorists, despite the bus itself taking several cars off the road.

WHERE ARE THE PROBLEMS?

- ▷ Unsurprisingly, **over 50% of people** mentioned **Moggill Road**
- ▷ Other arterial roads like **Waterworks Rd, Settlement Rd, Samford Rd, and Coronation Drive** featured heavily in responses
- ▷ **School pick-up and drop-off traffic** causes massive congestion in local and main roads

"Commuter in peak hour times is 3 times as long as non peak hour times."

"... when commuting between Toowong and the CBD along Coronation Drive the 2 km trip takes 40-60 minutes which is much slower than walking speed."

"Samford Rd. Doubles the trip compared to zero traffic."

"I have lived in the area for 30 years and over this time the traffic has become impossible at peak hours."

"Moggill Rd. I have to spend a lot of time getting to and from work. As such I miss out on family time"

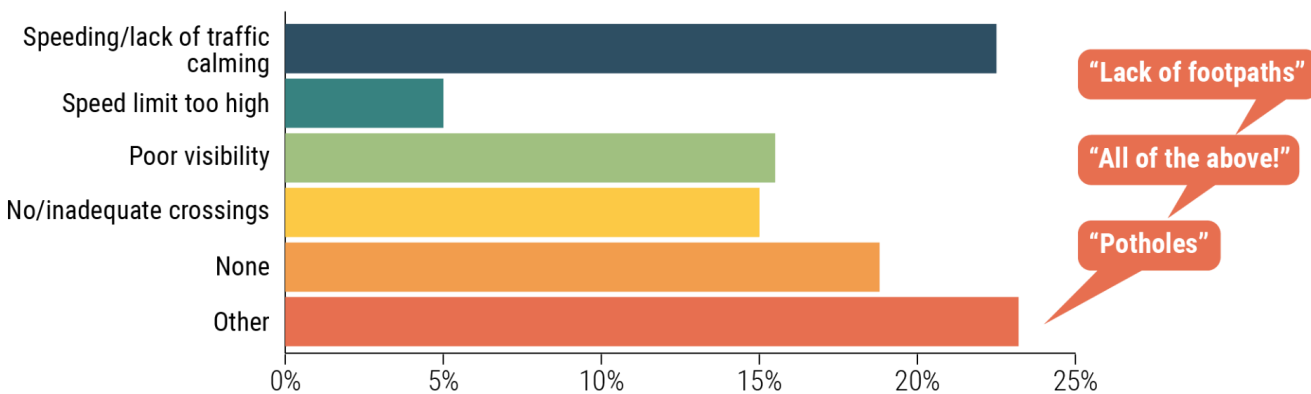
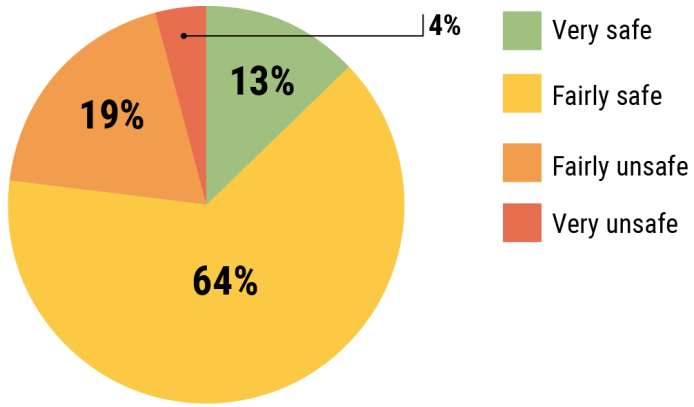
"Waterworks Road, Coopers Camp Road. My commute is impacted by this congestion and adds 20-30min on the trip."

SAFETY ON SIDE STREETS

I was glad to see that most people feel like their side streets are fairly or very safe, but with 23% of respondents saying they're unsafe it's far from ideal.

Even those who reported the streets being fairly safe had concerns to report. The most common issue was speeding, followed by poor visibility and a lack of adequate crossings.

Concerningly, school precincts were frequently brought up as unsafe, where parents feel forced to drive their kids because they don't believe their kids would be safe walking or cycling.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT

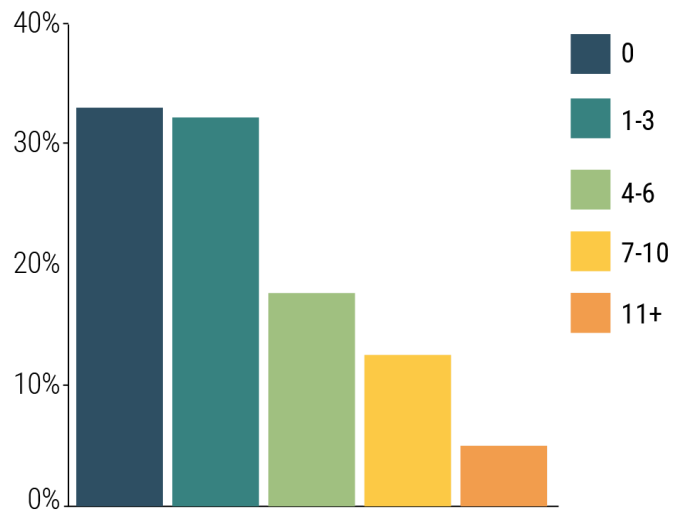
A robust public transport network takes cars off the road, reducing congestion and carbon emissions, and should be less expensive than travel by private car. As survey responses showed, less than a third of people in Ryan use public transport as their primary means of travel – clearly, our public transportation system needs a lot of work.

Responses showed a lot of problems with our public transport network, saying that **the system isn't connected enough** (close to where people live and taking people where they want to go), is **inaccessible** in places, that **services aren't frequent enough**, and that **fares are too expensive**.

HOW MANY TRIPS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT DO PEOPLE TAKE PER WEEK?

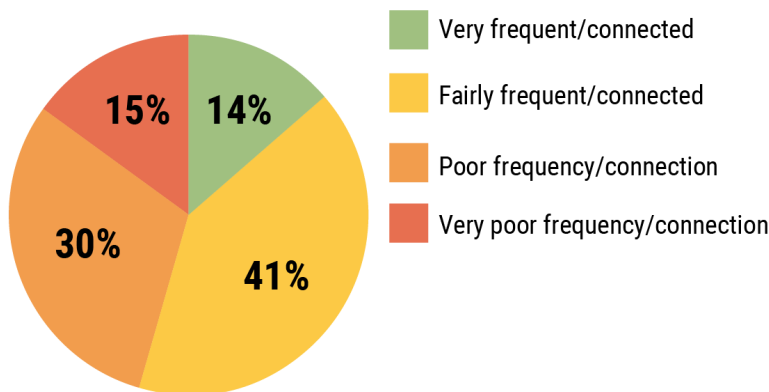
While just under a third of respondents reported using public transport for their daily commute to work or school, these results show that **two-thirds of people use public transport at least once per week** on average.

Even if the people who don't currently take public transport never use it, there's a huge number of people who usually drive and occasionally take public transport that could shift towards using it as their primary means of travel, if we break down those barriers to using it.



HOW DO PEOPLE RATE THE FREQUENCY AND CONNECTIVITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT?

Nearly half of respondents rated public transport as being poor or very poor in frequency and connectivity.



It's disappointing to see that our public transport system isn't meeting people's needs. When people are rating the frequency and connectivity this poorly, **it's no wonder that so many people in Ryan prefer to drive**, despite the congestion issues.

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES WITH PUBLIC TRANSPORT?

"Taringa Station NEEDS to be upgraded to be accessible and safe"

"City Hopper style ferries for the Guyatt Park/West End/UQ stops."

"I wish we had more trains."

"Better interconnected and frequent services are required."

"Frequency is poor. Connection times are long."

"There are none near my house"

▷ BUS ROUTES THAT NEED AN UPGRADE

Some of these bus routes are well loved and just need to be more frequent to meet demand, others aren't running on weekends but should, some need an extension and some just aren't going to the right places at the right times. It seems people in Ryan want almost every route investigated for improvements. **Here are the routes that were brought up in the survey:**

"All of them! They are too busy/not frequent enough and it's impossible to get across town without going through the city. Sometimes services just don't show up with no explanation."

61	385	426	436
362	391	427	443
367	411	428	444
375	412	430	445
377	414	431	470
380	415	432	471
381	416	433	598
382	417	435	599
383	425		

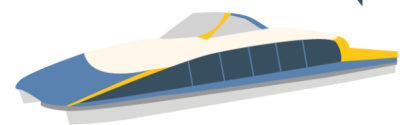
"The train is ok but could do with more frequency."

"Upper Kedron is fairly poorly serviced."

"Gaythorne & Mitchelton stations could use pedestrian accessibility upgrades to avoid crossing busy roads"

"People need to be able to jump off a train and onto a bus easily."

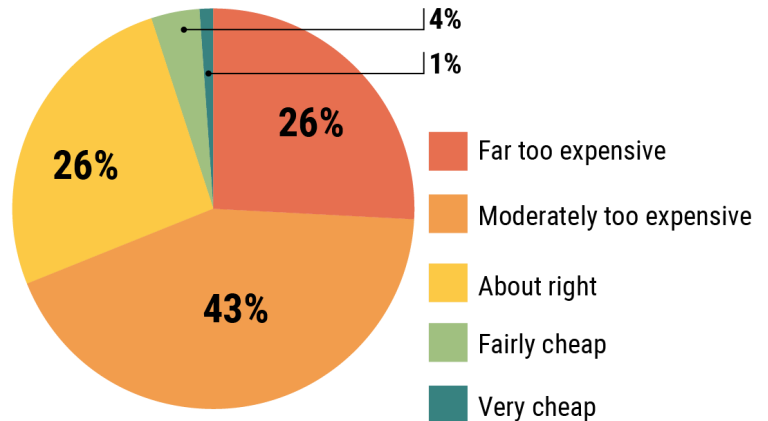
"Unrepaired ferry terminals."



HOW DO PEOPLE FEEL ABOUT THE COST OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT?

7 in 10 respondents said that public transport is too expensive. Fewer than 1 in 20 people think that it's fairly or very cheap.

"Cost is also ridiculous. Add in the reliability issues and it's a premium price for a very much non-premium service"

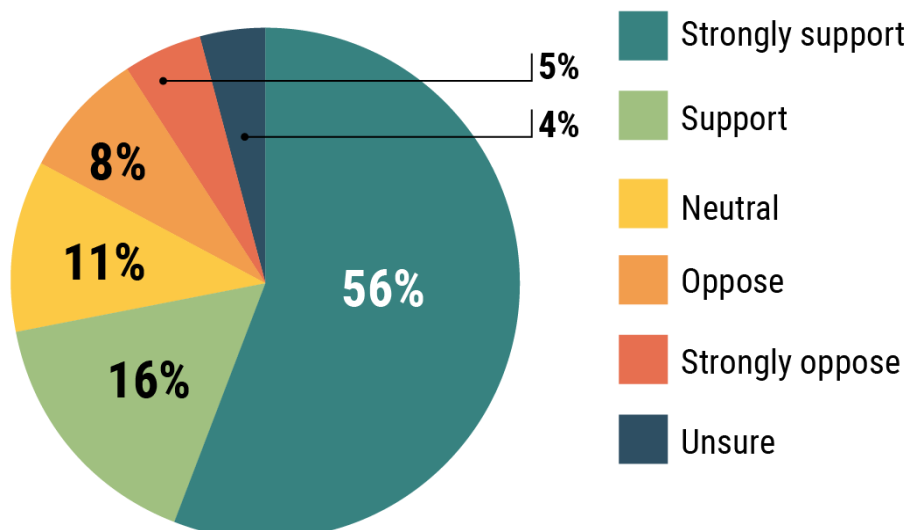


SHOULD WE TRIAL FREE PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACROSS AUSTRALIA?

Making public transport free to use would be one way to increase uptake. Crucially, in a cost of living crisis, families would save money on petrol, parking, and fares. The federal government could implement funding agreements with each of the states to release federal funds on the condition that states deliver their public transport systems for free.

At the end of the trial, the government could review the data to understand the uptake and benefits provided and weigh that against the cost to the federal budget. Given that public transport is already heavily subsidised by state governments and privatised ticketing systems cost so much to run, it's not a radical idea to fill in the funding gap that is currently covered by fares, and make public transport free for everyone to use.

While there would be many benefits, I wanted to know if the people of Ryan agreed. **72% of respondents supported** the idea that the federal government should trial a period of free public transport across the country.



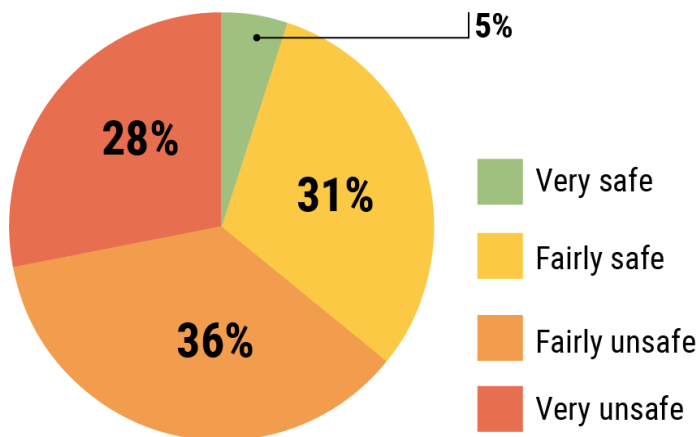
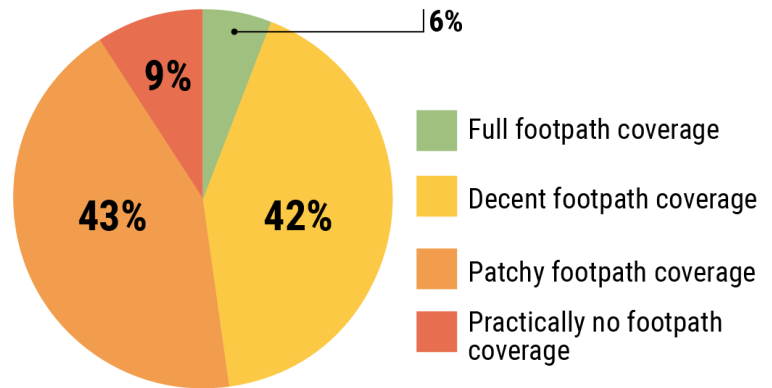
ACTIVE TRANSPORT

There are a lot of benefits to active transport, including reduced emissions, noise pollution and energy usage, alongside the health effects of a more active lifestyle. While some people aren't within active transport distance of their work or school, many are but don't walk or cycle for one reason or another. Making active transport safer and more attractive for people can make a huge difference.

HOW IS THE FOOTPATH COVERAGE?

People want neighbourhoods that are walkable. Whether it's foot travel, accessibility for wheelchairs and other mobility devices, or parents with kids in prams, it's essential for liveable suburbs to have good footpath coverage.

Over 50% of people reported that footpath coverage is patchy or nonexistent in their area, with only 6% of people saying there's full coverage.

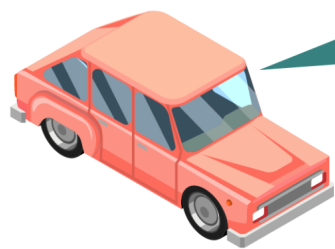


ARE OUR STREETS SAFE FOR CYCLISTS?

64% of people say that cycling is fairly or very unsafe - it's no wonder that people aren't cycling more! Only about 1 in 20 people think their local area is very safe for cyclists.

The West Side is full of hills, and not everyone would prefer to cycle. But those who opt to should be safe doing so, and have good connections to get where they need to go.

"I'd prefer to cycle to work but there are no safe routes from Kenmore."



"I would ride to work if I didn't have to be exposed to heavy traffic the entire way"

WHERE DO PEOPLE WANT NEW OR UPGRADED SAFE CYCLEWAYS?

Feeling unsafe is one of the biggest barriers to cycling. Proper, separated cycleways are important for the safety of cyclists, pedestrians and motorists. We have some good bikeways in Ryan, but they don't all connect with each other. **These are just some of the more popular suggestions people reported for streets that need a new or upgraded cycleway:**

- Moggill Road**
- Kenmore Road**
- Waterworks Road**
- Settlement Road**
- Swann Road**
- Lambert Road**
- Gailey Road**
- Samford Road**
- Wardell Street**

"A full bikeway from The Gap into the city."



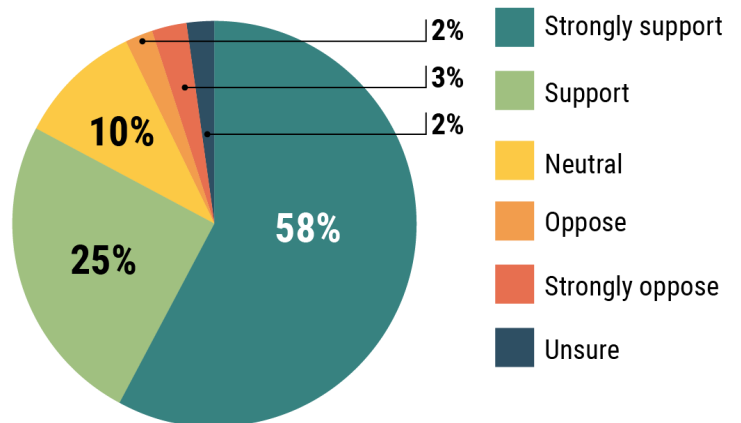
"If it's worth getting to, there should be a safe way to cycle there."



DO YOU SUPPORT AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT FOR PROTECTED CYCLEWAYS?

Safe, separated cycleways are used by commuters, taking cars off the road, kids going to and from school, as well as recreational riders. When cyclists are unsafe on roads, it endangers motorists as well. Increasing safety helps all road users.

Our survey showed that **83% of people support more government investment** for safe cycling infrastructure.



RECOMMENDATIONS


Firstly, I want to thank everyone who took the time to take part in the survey. Your responses are helping to shape my priorities and it's important to me that I'm aware of the frustrations locals are having with such a fundamental part of their lives – travel.

Over the next few months, my team and I will be advocating for broad, systemic changes, as well as liaising with other levels of government for action on some of the specific issues that were brought up in the survey.

Some initial recommendations based on this survey are as follows:

- ▶ Council and state government should collaborate with locals on **integrated transport plans around schools**, maximising safety and public and active transport usage.
- ▶ Undertake a **federally-funded trial of free public transport**.
- ▶ **Connect and expand safe cycleways** on the West Side – some, but not all key locations have state or local government projects already underway or in consultation.
- ▶ **Public services including a new school in the Moggill-Bellbowrie area** to relieve congestion from school traffic heading up Moggill Road.
- ▶ The recent bus network review by Brisbane City Council has neglected the West Side. We need an **expansion of funding to improve routes** including updating or extending current routes and turning key routes into high-frequency services.
- ▶ **A full accessibility review for the West Side**, with the findings to inform train station upgrades, bus stops, and footpaths.

If you have any other issues in the electorate, whether they're related to transport or otherwise, my team and I are listening. You can contact the Ryan Electorate Office Monday-Friday, 9am to 5pm:

 (07) 3378 1599

 elizabeth.watson-brown.mp@aph.gov.au

 188 Moggill Road, Taringa 4068, QLD

 @elizabethwatsonbrown