

OraTaiao Submission to Wellington City Council Kilbirnie and Thorndon Connections proposals

<https://www.transportprojects.org.nz/current/thorndon-connections/>

27th March 2023

Tess Luff on behalf of OraTaiao [following information entered into Wellington City Council online forms]

Question: Do you support the overall proposed changes to the Kilbirnie Connections area?

"Strongly support"

If you have any comments about the overall proposed changes, please share them here:

OraTaiao recognises the strong link between improving climate health and population health through policy and infrastructure that supports and facilitates active transportation across New Zealand's population.

We strongly support safer streets, not as simple thoroughfares or places to store private vehicles, but as a part of living, healthy communities. We therefore support the outlined plans for safer cycleways, speed changes and changes to on-street parking.

The proposed changes to the Kilbirnie Connections area will be of benefit not only the health and safety of people who cycle and walk in the area but will contribute to climate adaptation which benefits all.

The OraTaiao Active Transportation Policy Statement can be found here
https://www.orataiao.org.nz/briefing_papers_position_statements

Please see attached file for more information about our organisation, and see our website here
<https://www.orataiao.org.nz/>

Question: Do you support the proposed speed changes in the Kilbirnie connections area?

"Strongly support"

Question: Do you support the overall proposed changes to the Thorndon Connections area?

"Strongly support"

If you have any comments about the overall proposed changes, please share them here:

OraTaiao recognises the strong link between improving climate health and population health through policy and infrastructure that supports and facilitates active transportation across New Zealand's population.

We strongly support safer streets, not as simple thoroughfares or places to store private vehicles, but as a part of living, healthy communities. We therefore support the outlined plans for safer cycleways, speed changes and changes to on-street parking.

The proposed changes to the Thorndon Connections area will be of benefit not only the health and safety of people who cycle and walk in the area but will contribute to climate adaptation which benefits all.

In order to improve cyclist safety and ease of access to adjacent roads, it may be helpful to consider, (rather than a two way cycleway on Molesworth Street) a protected one way cycleway North up Molesworth Street and a protected on-way cycleway in the opposite direction down Mulgrave Street.

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Question: How important is it to rebalance our existing street space to make it safer and easier for people to walk, ride, scooter, or use public transport?

"Very important"

[The following information also attached to submission]

About OraTaiao

OraTaiao: The New Zealand Climate and Health Council is an organisation calling for urgent, fair, and Tiriti-based climate action in Aotearoa; we recognise the important co-benefits to health, well being and fairness from strong and well-designed mitigative policies.

We honour Māori aspirations, are committed to the principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi, and strive to reduce inequities between Māori and other New Zealanders. We are guided in our practice by the concepts of kaitiakitanga (guardianship), kotahitanga (unity), manaakitanga (caring), and whakatipuranga (future generations).

OraTaiao has grown over a decade to more than 900 health professionals concerned with:

- The negative impacts of climate change on health, well-being, and fairness;
- The gains to health, well-being, and fairness that are possible through strong, health centred climate action;
- Highlighting the impacts of climate change on those who already experience disadvantage or ill-health (i.e., equity impacts);
- Reducing the health sector's contribution to climate change.

As well as individual and organisational members, we are backed by 22 of New Zealand's leading health professional organisations for our Health Professionals Joint Call to Action on Climate Change and Health (see https://www.orataiao.org.nz/friends_and_supporters). This support includes the New Zealand Nurses Organisation, Public Health Association, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine, plus numerous other specialist colleges. Together, these organisations represent tens of thousands of our country's health workforce.

As an organisational member of the Climate and Health Alliance, and of the Global Climate & Health Alliance, we work with a worldwide movement of health professionals and health organisations focused on the urgent health challenges of climate change - and the health opportunities of climate action. OraTaiao signed the Doha Declaration on Climate, Health and Wellbeing of December 2012, which reflects this international perspective.