

Camellia to Lidcombe powerline project

Findings of Duck River cycleway user report

May 2018



Table of Contents

1. Introduction	2
2. Methodology	3
2.1 Survey	3
2.2 Responses.....	3
3. Key Findings	3
3.1. Mode of transport	3
3.3 Key issues and concerns.....	7
3.4 Suggested mitigation measures.....	7
3.5 Information updates.....	7
3.6 Facebook feedback.....	7
4. Conclusions	8
Appendix A – survey	9
Appendix B – Data tables	11

1. Introduction

Ausgrid is planning to install new 33,000 Volt powerlines from the Camellia substation in Rosehill to the Auburn and Lidcombe substations. Underground cables of the same voltage currently provide the main power supply into these areas from Homebush.

Most of these cables are now approaching the end of their service life. Ausgrid is planning to replace them to ensure we continue to provide a safe and reliable power supply to Auburn, Lidcombe and the surrounding areas. A preferred route for underground cables has recently been identified and includes a section which follows the Duck River Cycleway.

The cable route is shown in Figure 1 below.

The new cables would be installed under the cycleway. Ausgrid anticipates that it would be necessary to temporarily close the cycleway while crews excavate through part of the cycleway to install conduits (plastic pipes) that will house the underground cables.

During December 2017 and January 2018, Ausgrid conducted a survey of cycleway users to find out more about how the cycleway is used and identify potential issues before the construction plans are finalised. The information obtained from the survey will form part of the environmental assessment for the project, inform discussions to utilise alternative access roads, and will be used by the project team to plan the construction work in a way which reduces the impact on bridge users.

A total of 123 people responded to the self-completion survey between the 11 December and 2 February. Key findings are summarised in the body of the report and detailed data tables are included in Appendix B.

In addition to the survey, Ausgrid also discussed plans and asked for feedback from BIKESydney, Bicycle NSW and City of Parramatta cycling committee.

Figure 1 – Camellia to Auburn cable route



2. Methodology

2.1 Survey

Participants were invited to complete a survey which included a combination of closed and open-ended questions seeking feedback.

- Cycleway usage patterns such as frequency of use, time of day, day of the week, trip origin and destination and mode of transport
- Issues and concerns relating to a temporary closure
- Suggestions for how impacts on users can be reduced
- Preferred ways of receiving information during the project.

A copy of the survey is provided in Appendix A.

Respondents were given the option of either completing an online survey which was administered via Survey Monkey or a paper survey which could be downloaded from the Ausgrid website.

A number of communication tools were used to publicise the survey including:

- Large signs located on the northern and southern ends of the cycleway, with QR codes to the online survey
- Facebook posts with links to the survey on the Ausgrid page which were also shared on the Bicycle NSW, BIKESydney, and Bike North Facebook pages.
- The survey was open for 7 weeks between 11 December 2017 through to 2 February 2018.

2.2 Responses

A total of 123 surveys were completed during this period.

Facebook posts via the Ausgrid Facebook page which reached more than 14,400 people and was 'liked' by over 100 people.

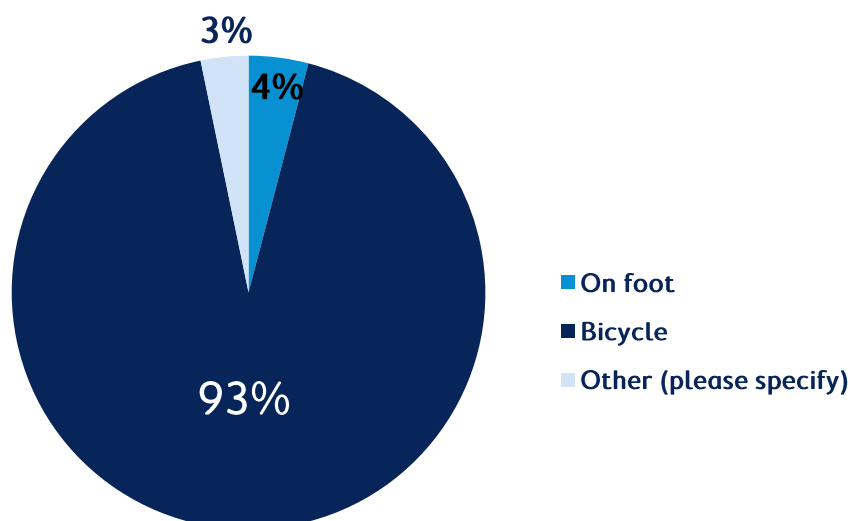
In addition to this, 46 comments and/ or questions were posted on the Facebook post. There were 54 'reactions' to the Facebook post.

3. Key Findings

3.1. Mode of transport

The vast majority of respondents (93%) usually travel across the cycleway on a bicycle. Five respondents travelled across cycleway via foot and four selected other which included roller skating, and both walking and cycling.

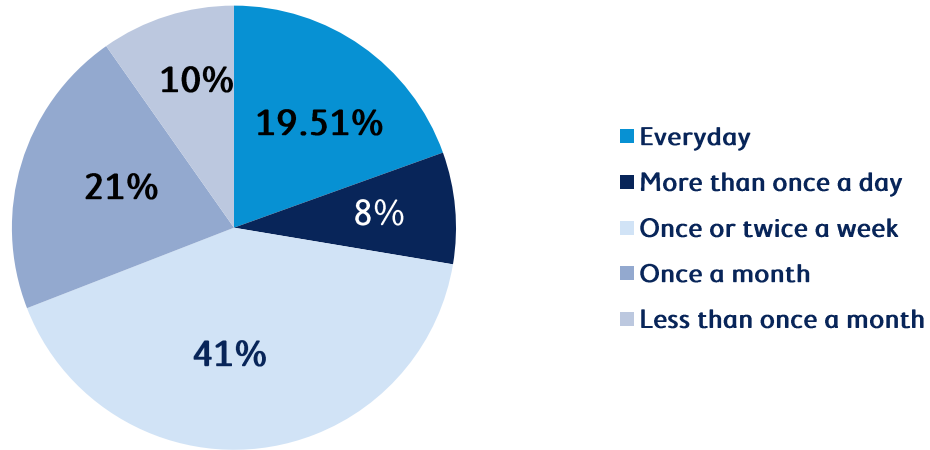
Figure 1 – Mode of transport



3.1.1 Frequency of bridge crossings

Over a third of survey respondents (51) travel across the bridge once or twice a day, and nearly a quarter of respondents use the cycleway every day (24). Just under a quarter uses the cycle once a month (26) and 8% of users (10) use the bridge more than once a day.

Figure 2 – Frequency of travel across the bridge

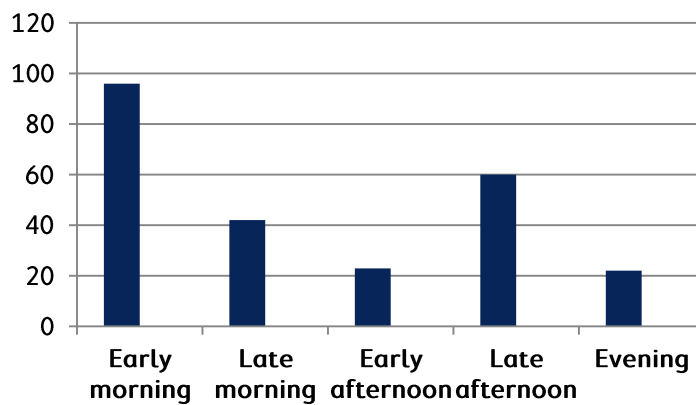


3.1.2 Bridge crossings by time of day

Survey respondents were asked what time of day they usually travel across the cycleway. Note that more than one response was permitted for this question.

The busiest time of the day is early mornings with 96 people (78%) usually crossing the cycleway at this time. This is followed by the late afternoon, when 60 people (49%) usually cross the cycleway. The evening and early afternoon are the quietest period for cycleway use.

Figure 3 – Time of day



3.1.3 Bridge crossings by day of the week

Survey respondents were asked whether they normally travel on week days or weekends. Note that more than one response was permitted for this question.

A total of 68.8% of respondents indicated they usually travel across the cycleway on week days, with 63.9% of the respondents indicating they travel across the cycleway on weekends, indicating that usage on both week days and weekends are quite similar.

Table 1 – Day of the week of travel

Answer options	Response percent	Response count
Week days	68.8%	84
Weekend	63.9 %	78

3.1.4 Trip origin and destination

Survey respondents were asked in which suburb they normally start their journey and in which suburb is their destination. Table 2 lists the suburbs where the most people start their trip and Table 3 lists the most popular destinations (4 respondents or more).

Responses for this answer were quite varied, with a wide range of trip origins indicated. A total of 21 suburbs were listed in this question. **Please note** 24 respondents out of 124 skipped this question.

Table 2 – Trip origin

Suburb	Response Percent	Response Count
Parramatta	10.10%	10
Granville	5%	5
Merrylands	5%	5
Concord	4%	4
Newington	4%	4
Answered question		99
Skipped question		24

Other suburbs of origin indicated included: Silverwater, Olympic Park, Westmead, Rosehill, Meadowbank, Sydney CBD and Lidcombe.

Table 3 – Trip destination

The most popular destination indicated was Parramatta at 24.74% followed by Olympic Park at 12.4%. A total of 15 suburbs were listed in this question. **Please note** 26 respondents out of 124 skipped this question.

Suburb	Response Percent	Response Count
Parramatta	24.74%	24
Olympic Park	12.4%	12
Silverwater	6.19%	6
Rhodes	5.15	5
Prospect	4.12%	4
Auburn	4.12%	4
Strathfield	4.12%	4
Answered question		97
Skipped question		26

Other destinations included: Meadowbank, Sydney CBD, Lidcombe, Clyde, Guilford and Merrylands.

3.1.5 Purpose of trip

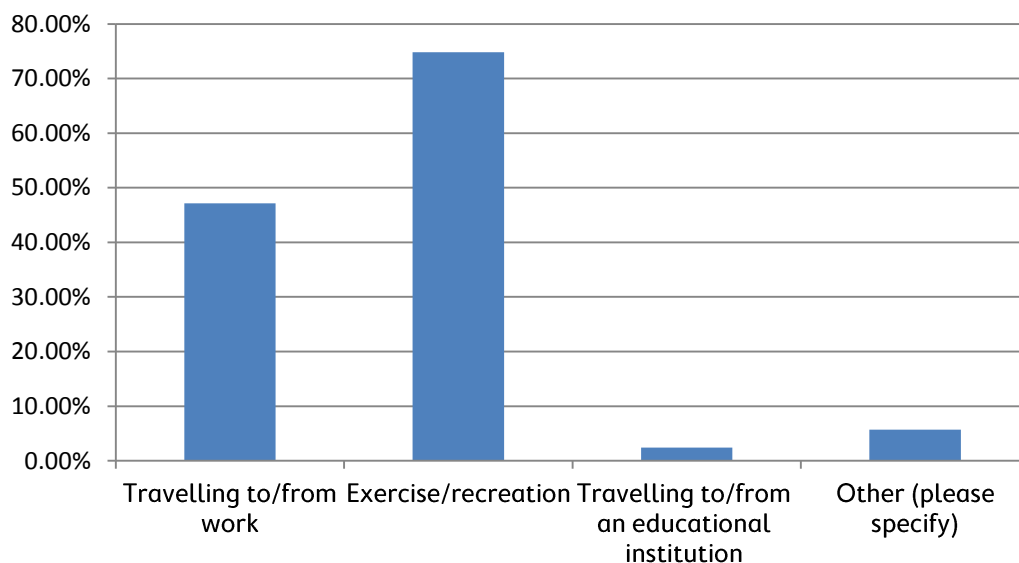
Survey respondents were asked about the purpose of their trip across the cycleway. Note that more than one response was permitted for this question and respondents were also invited to list other reasons for travelling across the bridge.

Almost 75% of respondents use the cycleway for exercise or recreation followed by 47.5% of respondents who use it to travel to and from work. A small number use it to travel to and from an educational institution.

Just over 5% of respondents use the bridge for other reasons, including:

- Travelling to shops
- Visiting family and friends.

Figure 5 – Purpose of trip across the bridge



3.2 Alternative routes

Respondents were asked whether they would be prevented from reaching their destination if the cycleway was temporarily closed. The majority of respondents (62.4%) indicated a cycleway closure would prevent them from reaching their destination.

The remaining 40.6% of respondents who selected 'no' were asked to provide details of any alternate routes they would use.

Some of these alternative routes included: other means of transport including cars, cycling along other road such as Parramatta or Silverwater Road, Parramatta River/Valley Cycleway, cycling along footpaths.

Although respondents listed alternative routes, they also indicated concerns using these routes, particularly safety and legality. Respondents who were concerned with the safety of alternate routes suggested that the most common alternatives would involve riding along Parramatta or Silverwater Road which are busy, main roads and would be unsafe for cyclists. Other concerns also indicated that other alternatives such as cycling along footpaths are illegal.

3.3 Key issues and concerns

Almost 80% of respondents (79) indicated they had concerns related to the temporary closure of the cycleway.

The top issues and concerns are:

- Lack of safe cycle friendly alternative routes would force cyclists to use busy main roads (Parramatta Road, M4), putting them at risk.
- Widely used and only link for many cyclists travelling between certain suburbs for work and recreation (Parramatta/Auburn/Olympic Park)
- Duration of closure and disruption to travel (increased distance and travel time).

3.4 Suggested mitigation measures

More than half of all survey respondents (66.3%) provided suggestions for how the impact on pedestrians and cyclists could be reduced during construction, this indicates that the majority of respondents were invested in ensuring minimal impacts to the cycleway.

The most common suggestions included:

- Partially close the cycleway to allow access during construction
- Provide regular updates, notice in advance, and adequate signage
- Provide a safe, reasonable and cyclist suitable detour route
- Carry out construction and closure in off peak hours (late evening).

Other suggestions were:

- Reroute the cables to another location
- Finish work as quickly as possible.

3.5 Information updates

The majority of respondents (68.37%) indicated they would like to receive information updates during the project.

Respondents were asked to select a preferred communication method.

The most popular communication tool is email and SMS, with 75% of people who answered this selecting it as their most preferred way of receiving information. This is followed by signs in the local area (45%), followed by printed newsletters and flyers (9.59%).

3.6 Facebook feedback

The Facebook post included links to the online survey and the project page on the Ausgrid website. The post was boosted to target users in the local area. The post reached more than 14,000 people, generated over 100 likes and was shared 14 times. The survey was also shared on the Bicycle NSW, BIKESydney and Bikes North Facebook page.

4. Conclusions

The Duck River cycleway is clearly a well-used and popular route for cyclists and some pedestrians, both for recreational purposes and as an access route. The majority of trips are for exercise and recreation, although nearly half of the respondents also use the cycleway to travel between work and home. It is busiest during the early morning and late afternoon and the highest frequency of use is once or twice a week, closely followed by almost every day. It is mostly used on weekdays, however weekends were nearly equally as popular.

The majority of respondents showed interest in providing suggestions, indicated they had concerns in regards to its closure, and that the closure would prevent them from reaching their destination. Several respondents referred to the cycleway as the “M4 for cyclists”; this comparison highlights the importance of the route as the only safe and convenient link between suburbs for cyclists. These responses, alongside the fair amount responses received, highlight the important role of this cycleway as a local access and recreation route.

Given the importance of the route to the cyclist community, the lack of safe alternatives and the level of interest shown in responses received, all options should be explored to minimise impacts. Preferable mitigation measures include providing a suitable alternate route during construction, allowing partial access, night work in off peak hours, and reducing duration of any closure.

Cycleway users and groups such as BIKESydney, Bicycle NSW and City of Parramatta cycling committee will need to be notified well in advance of any changes to access so they can plan their activities and travel accordingly. A range of communication tools will need to be used such as signs, email and SMS updates, letterbox drops, website updates, and information distributed through local council and cycling networks. Alternative access routes which are currently available through third parties should be explored using the findings of this survey to negotiate options.

The communication strategy should be considered within the context of the overall Camellia to Lidcombe cable project as well as any other projects occurring in the area. Liaison with these projects will also be required to ensure construction activities are coordinated and to ensure any cumulative impacts are identified and managed effectively.

Appendix A – survey

Duck River Cycleway User Survey

Ausgrid is planning to install new 33,000 Volt powerlines and cables from the Camellia substation in Rosehill to the Auburn substation at 2 Silverwater Road. Some of these cables will be installed along Duck River Cycleway, which may cause some disruption including temporary closures or detours during construction. To assist us to plan the work in a way which minimises the impact on pedestrians and cyclists, we are conducting a survey to find out more about how the cycleway is used.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey. Please contact us if you have any questions about the survey or the cable project (*see contact details on back page*).

1. How do you usually travel on the Duck River Cycleway?

- On foot
- On a bicycle
- Other (*please specify*) _____

2. How often do you travel on the Duck River Cycleway?

- More than once a day
- Almost every day
- Once or twice a week
- Once a month
- Less than once a month

3. What time of day do you usually travel on the cycleway?
(*Tick as many as are applicable*)

- Early morning
- Late morning
- Early afternoon
- Late afternoon
- Evening

4. On which day of the week do you usually travel on the cycleway? (*Tick as many as are applicable*)

- Week days
- Weekend

5. What is usually the reason you use this cycleway?
(*Tick as many as are applicable*)

- Exercise/recreation
- Travelling to/from work
- Travelling to/from an educational institution (*ie. school, TAFE, university*)
- Other (*please specify*) _____

6. In which suburb do you start your journey?

7. In which suburb is your destination?

8. If the cycleway was temporarily closed, would this prevent you from reaching your destination?

- Yes
- No, there are alternate routes I can use to reach my destination (*please specify*)

Please see over the page

9. Do you have any issues or concerns about the cycleway being temporarily closed during construction?

- No
 Yes (please specify)

10. Do you have any suggestions for how we can reduce impacts to pedestrians and cyclists if this cycleway needs to be closed during construction?

- No
 Yes (please describe)

11. Would you like to receive information updates during construction?

- No (Go to end of survey)
 Yes

12. How would you like to receive information updates during construction?

- Printed newsletters/flyers in my letterbox
 Signs in the local area
 SMS/Email (please provide either mobile number or email address) _____

Thank you – Ausgrid appreciates the time you have taken to complete this survey. Your feedback will be considered by the project team for the construction planning.

Submitting your survey

Please submit your survey by **Friday 2 February 2018**
Email the survey to majorprojects@ausgrid.com.au or post it to
Community Engagement Team
Major Projects
Ausgrid
GPO Box 4009, Sydney NSW 2001.

Further information

Call **1800 604 765** (free call from fixed phones)
Email majorprojects@ausgrid.com.au
Visit www.ausgrid.com.au/camelliatolidcombe



Appendix B – Data tables

Q.1 How do you usually travel across the Duck River cycleway?

Answer Choices	Responses	
On foot	4.07%	5
Bicycle	92.68%	114
Other (please specify)	3.25%	4
	Answered	123
	Skipped	0

Q.2 How often do you usually travel across the cycleway?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Everyday	19.51%	24
More than once a day	8.13%	10
Once or twice a week	41.46%	51
Once a month	21.14%	26
Less than once a month	9.76%	12
	Answered	123
	Skipped	0

Q.3. What time of day do you usually travel on the cycleway? (You can tick more than one)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Early morning	78.69%	96
Late morning	34.43%	42
Early afternoon	18.85%	23
Late afternoon	49.18%	60
Evening	18.03%	22
Other (please specify)	0.82%	1
	Answered	122
	Skipped	1

Q.4 On which day of the week do you usually travel on the cycleway? (You can tick more than one)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Week days	68.85%	84
Weekend	63.93%	78
Both	2.46%	3
	Answered	122
	Skipped	1

Q.5. What is usually the reason you use this cycleway? (You can tick more than one)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Travelling to/from work	47.15%	58
Exercise/recreation	74.80%	92
Travelling to/from an educational institution (ie. school, TAFE, university)	2.44%	3
Other (please specify)	5.69%	7
	Answered	123
	Skipped	0

Q.6. In which suburb do you start your journey?

Responses	Response Count
Parramatta	10
Granville	5
Merrylands	4
Newington	4
Auburn	3
Concord	3
Lidcombe	3
Rosehill	3
Westmead	3
Ermington	2
Kingsford	2
Meadow Bank	2
Olympic park	2
Randwick	2
Seven hills	2
Silverwater	2
Abbotsford, , Ashbury, Balmain, Bangor, Bass hill, Belmore, Birchgrove, Bonnyrigg, Burwood, Camperdown, Casula, Chippendale, Concord West, Darlinghurst, Denistone, Drummoyne, Epping, Fairfield, Five dock, Girraween, Glasdesville, Greenwich, Guildford West, Guildford, Harris Park, Hurstville, Lane Cove, Lilyfield, Marrickville, Northmead, Pemulwuy, Rhodes, Rydalmere, Ryde, St Marys, Summer Hill, Turramurra, Villawood, Wentworthville, Winston Hills, Woolooware, Yennora	1
	Answered: 99
	Skipped: 24

Q.7 In which suburb is your destination?

Responses	Response Count
Parramatta	23
Olympic Park	12
Silverwater	6
Rhodes	5
Auburn	4

Meadow Bank	4
Lidcombe	3
Prospect	3
Strathfield	3
Sydney CBD	3
Clyde	2
Eastern Creek	2
Homebush	2
Merrylands	2
Abbotsford, Canley Heights, Concord, Darlinghurst, Ermington, Fivedock, Granville south, Guildford, La Perouse, Liverpool, Newington (via Prospect), North Strathfield, Holroyd, Rosehill, Smithfield, Tempe, Turrumurra, Wentworthville, Winston Hills, Wynyard	1

Q.8 If the cycleway was temporarily closed, would this prevent you from reaching your destination?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	62.38%	63
No	40.59%	41
(If no) what is the alternative route or method you would use to reach your destination?		48
	Answered	101
	Skipped	22

Q.9 Do you have any issues or concerns about this cycleway being temporarily closed during construction?

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	21.78%	22
Yes	78.22%	79
(If yes, please specify)		70
	Answered	101
	Skipped	22

Q.10 Do you have any suggestions for how we can reduce impacts to pedestrians and cyclists if this cycleway needs to be closed during construction?

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	33.67%	33
Yes	66.33%	65
(If yes, please specify)		67
	Answered	98
	Skipped	25

Q.11 Would you like to receive information updates during construction?

Answer Choices	Responses	
No (please go to end of survey)	31.63%	31
Yes	68.37%	67
	Answered	98
	Skipped	25

Q. 12 How would you like to receive information updates during construction?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Printed newsletter/flyers in my letterbox	9.59%	7
Signs in the local area	45.21%	33
Email/SMS (Please provide email address or mobile number)	75.34%	55
	Answered	73
	Skipped	50