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Community Advocacy Leads to Improved Safety Measures for Cycleway Construction

The Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group (SCBUG) welcomed recent advice that their safety concerns regarding the cycleway upgrade works between Caloundra Road and Bell Vista Boulevard have been addressed following representations to the Council and the positive response from Stockland, the project developers.

Background

The SCBUG recently raised serious concerns about traffic diversion arrangements that were directing pedestrians and cyclists through industrial areas during the cycleway construction. Key safety issues identified included:

- inadequate signage causing confusion for commuters and residents
- unsafe mixing of pedestrians and cyclists with heavy industrial vehicle traffic
- poor sight lines and insufficient lighting along detour routes
- increased accident risks due to unfamiliar routing through areas not designed for active transport

Positive Outcome

Following community representation, Stockland have agreed to implement an improved approach that will:

- construct the new cycleway section first, allowing pedestrians and cyclists to use the new infrastructure during construction
- eliminate the need for detours through industrial areas
- provide a more direct and safer route for active transport users
- maintain construction progress while prioritizing community safety

The new arrangements will significantly increase safety along the cycleway.

Community Leadership

Craig Humphrey, Chair of the Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group, stated: "This outcome demonstrates the importance of community advocacy in ensuring our infrastructure projects prioritize safety and usability. While we support the cycleway development, it was crucial that the construction process didn't compromise the safety of our residents."

Acknowledgment

The SCBUG particularly wishes to thank **Division 1 Councillor Jenny Broderick** for her support and advocacy in facilitating discussions between the community and project developers. Councillor Broderick's responsiveness to community concerns and her commitment to ensuring resident safety during major infrastructure projects has been instrumental in achieving this positive outcome.

"Councillor Broderick's willingness to listen to our concerns and collaborate constructively with all parties involved has been exemplary," Mr Humphrey added. "Her support demonstrates the value of having local representatives who genuinely prioritize community wellbeing."

Mr Humphrey also extended the SCBUG appreciation to **Stockland** for their responsiveness to community feedback and their commitment to implementing improved safety measures.

Despite having an approved Traffic Management Plan that met regulatory requirements, Stockland demonstrated genuine community leadership by choosing to adopt a more user-friendly approach based on resident concerns.

"Stockland's willingness to go beyond compliance and prioritize community experience during this construction phase shows their commitment to being a responsible developer and good community partner," Mr Humphrey noted. "This collaborative approach sets a positive precedent for future development projects in our area."

Looking Forward

The SCBUG remains committed to collaborating with council and developers to ensure that future infrastructure projects incorporate community feedback from the planning stage through to completion.

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About the Organization

The Sunshine Coast Bicycle Users Group advocates for improved cycling infrastructure and safety across the Sunshine Coast region.