

Karien Dekker

Candidate Statement

I want more people to ride feeling happy, healthy and safe.

I am a keen cyclist and commute to the city from Preston (VIC) three times a week, I ride the Great Vic Bike Ride annually and will be on the Around the Bay ride this year. I always enjoy the inclusive atmosphere at Bicycle Network events. Thank you for allowing me to become more active in this important network of riders!

As a Dutch woman in my fifties, I value health, safety and comfort over speed. I ride a normal city bike in my business work outfit with my laptop in my panniers. I chose to live in Preston so I can ride safely on the Merri Creek Trail or St George's Road, Canning Str and La Trobe Str to RMIT University.

I will bring:

1. Leadership experience in the public, private and non-for-profit sector;
2. Bicycle consultancy experience in the Netherlands: Project management of bicycle parking projects to create efficient transitions between bike, public transport and work/school;
3. A network of urban planners and geographers both in Australia and in Europe.

I have over 25 years of experience in leadership and oversight positions, both on voluntary boards and as a professional in academia, consultancy, schools and in public service.

As an academic at RMIT University and previously at Utrecht University (the Netherlands) my focus is on codesigning housing and social infrastructure which is inclusive for everyone, this includes public events, public transport, and public space (bike paths!).

My Australian and Dutch work experience can be useful for Bicycle Network Victoria. I came to Australia 10 years ago from the City of Utrecht, the Netherlands. Earlier in my career, I worked at Utrecht City Council as a project manager and was responsible for bicycle parking around Utrecht Central Station. As a paid consultant, I worked with the Fietzersbond (Dutch Bicyclists Union), Councils, Provinces and community organisations. Some examples include the organisation of Velo Mondial in Amsterdam, a pilot project 'Public Transport Bikes', and bike parking near bus stops in regional areas.