

Ellis, a Marrickville resident, has fully embraced cycling as a core part of his daily routine. Living in the Inner West, he finds riding a bike to be the easiest and most enjoyable way to get around, whether it's for short trips, commuting to work and university, or even heading out for dinner with friends. "These days, I ride mostly for fun or to get places, but it's so integrated into my life that it doesn't feel like a chore at all," Ellis says.

Biking to the train: A perfect match

For Ellis, the Inner West's growing network of bike paths has made cycling the ideal way to travel locally. One of his favourite rides is to Sydenham Station, where he connects with public transport for longer trips. "I ride to Sydenham a lot, especially when I'm going to uni or into the city. It's super easy, and I don't have to deal with traffic or parking," he explains. The seamless connection between cycling and public transport is a major plus for him, allowing him to travel further without relying on a car. "The metro from Sydenham is so frequent now, I don't even have to check the timetable. I just lock up my bike and go."

He's also a fan of the Wilson Street cycleway and the routes through the Inner West that allow for a safer, more scenic journey. "The Southwest Link bike route that takes you through the Inner West to Wilson Street is the one I use all the time. When I saw the Southwest Link bike route map, I was like, 'That's exactly the best way to go,'"

Safer bike paths and more parking

Ellis notes that the recent improvements in local bike infrastructure have made a big impact on his sense of safety and ease when riding. "The new shared paths make a huge difference. I feel a lot more comfortable knowing there are paths designed for bikes," he says.

Bike parking is another aspect that's improved, making it easier for Ellis to ride to destinations and leave his bike without worry. "The bike lockers at Sydenham Station are great. I used to hesitate about leaving my bike out all day if I had a full schedule, but now with the Opal-enabled secure bike sheds and cameras, it feels a lot safer. Plus, there are so many parking spots that I know I'll always find a place," Ellis explains.



Riding makes you feel more connected

When asked what he loves most about cycling, Ellis highlights the sense of connection it brings to his community. "Riding a bike makes you feel more connected. You see your neighbours, wave to people, and just feel like you're part of the area. It's not like being stuck in a car, isolated from everything," he says. For Ellis, cycling offers the freedom to explore at his own pace, often taking the longer, more scenic routes because they're simply more enjoyable.

Ellis believes that cycling is the perfect way to navigate the Inner West, especially for short trips. His advice to others is to look beyond the main roads. "You don't have to stick to the routes you'd drive on. There are so many quiet streets and hidden paths that are perfect for bikes. Just follow the bike signs, and you'll discover a whole new side of the area," he says. With cycling offering a healthier, more connected way to get around, Ellis hopes that more people in the area will see it as an easy and enjoyable option for their everyday trips.

"Riding a bike makes you feel more connected"

