



Australian Bicycle Council Meeting No. 26 Canberra, ACT 10 August 2007

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) held its second meeting for 2007 in Canberra on 10 August. The meeting was chaired by the ABC Chair, Dennis Walsh. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising from the meeting.

The meeting was preceded by a site visit to Stromlo Forest Park mountain bike facilities organised by Peter Thompson (TAMS) and an afternoon information session.

The purpose of the afternoon session was for each jurisdiction to present their 'State of the Nation' reports to the ABC members.

OUTCOMES OF THE ABC MEETING ON FRIDAY, 10 AUGUST 2007

OVERVIEW

The ABC meeting focused on implementing a number of high priority actions in the Australian National Cycling Strategy 2005-2010 including: status of the web-based Cycling Resource Centre (CRC), update on the National TravelSmart project, the results of the Local Government Cycling Survey, implementation of the National Cycling Strategy (NCS), the ABC report to be discussed at SCOT and TAC, results of the research projects put to Austroads, progress on the Austroads guides, information on the HEAT program proposal and overview of the National Cycling Skills Training Standard.

PROGRESS ON NATIONAL STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Web Based Cycling Resource Centre

A presentation on the current status of the web-based CRC was provided to the members. The website content has been developed. A web designer has been appointed and development of the site has commenced. Discussion on options for promoting the new site concluded that each jurisdiction would be responsible for informing their peak user groups, industry bodies and other stakeholders.

August 2005 Sustainable Cities Report (Department of Environment and Water Resources)

DEWR have advised that the Australian Government response on the Sustainable Cities Report is pending.

TRAVELSMART PROGRAM

A report on the National TravelSmart program was given by Queensland Transport. The program was developed to engage, educate, and monitor travel patterns of the community and to encourage sustainable transport usage by making it an easy and viable option.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CYCLING SURVEY

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) and the ABC conducted a survey of councils across Australia. The survey received 194 responses, which is a high response rate. The results illustrate:

- the current level of cycling infrastructure
- the current level of priority for cycling within local government



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- how the Australian Bicycle Council can facilitate local government involvement in cycling activities

The results show that councils across Australia are making sound progress in the implementation of cycling infrastructure, signage, end-of-trip facilities, education, promotion and events. The councils that responded to the survey had spent a total of \$37 million per annum on cycling. They currently manage some 5000 km of existing off-road facilities, and 3000 km of existing on-road facilities. Sixty-seven percent of metropolitan councils that responded to the survey reported that they formally consider cycling when planning roads, compared to 27% of regional rural council's formally considering cycling when planning. The full report on the survey is to be finalised over the next few weeks and copies are to be distributed to councils with a joint letter from ABC and ALGA.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL CYCLING STRATEGY & ABC ANNUAL REPORT

Progress on the implementation of the NCS for each jurisdiction was reported to the ABC based on responses received from ABC members. A higher level progress report is being prepared for SCOT and then for transport ministers (ATC).

The SCOT/ATC report will provide an overview of the continuing increase in popularity of cycling across the nation, highlight some of the achievements to date and report on each of the actions contained in the NCS. The highlights include:

- Web based cycling resource centre - currently under development
- Cycling and land use policies, strategies and planning instruments – most jurisdictions have policies or guidelines in place
- Recognition of the health benefits – various state government departments are working within the various jurisdictions to promote cycling as a healthy alternative
- Development of a strategic research program - three year strategic research program related to the goal of increasing cycling has been developed
- Development of cycling networks – all jurisdictions have been working to increase their cycle networks, end of trip facilities, and public transport integration
- Providing for cyclists' needs on roads – development of policies and procedures that consider the needs of cyclists during the construction and/or maintenance of all new and/or existing roads
- Promoting safe cycling to school – various promotions are underway
- Use of shared paths - Austroads has published a report Pedestrian-Cyclist Conflict Minimisation on Shared Paths and Footpaths
- Cycling awards - Cycling Promotion Fund conducts the National Bicycling Achievement Awards
- Marketing strategies – e.g. events, maps and brochures have been developed
- Cycling Proficiency - BFA in partnership with Cycling Australia set up a national cycling training scheme
- Local government survey – completed and results about to be published

The report will be forwarded to the next SCOT meeting in September 2007 and then to ATC later in the year. The report will then be available on the ABC website.

RESEARCH PROJECTS



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Three projects put forward by the ABC have been included for consideration in the Austroads forward work program. Provision has also been made to produce a single document for cycling practitioners which summarises cycling related information in the new Austroads publications. Other funding options are being explored for other projects.

AUSTROADS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD DESIGN REVIEW PANELS

ABC continues to have input into the development of new Austroads guides. Future drafts of parts to the Guide to Traffic Management and the Guide to Road Design will be referred to the members as they become available. Any issues arising will be addressed at future meetings.

HEAT PROGRAM

The federal election policy proposal prepared by an alliance of the Australian cycling sector, the Healthy and Active Transport Program (HEAT), was provided for the information of ABC members.

NATIONAL CYCLING SKILLS STANDARD

A presentation was made on the cycling education pilot program carried out in New Zealand, based on a UK program, designed to educate children and adults on safe cycling.

NEXT MEETING

The next ABC meeting #27 will be held in Perth on 15-16 November 2007.