

## COMMUNIQUÉ

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) held its first meeting for 2008 in Melbourne on 10-11 April. The meeting was chaired by John Erceg, Austroads Network Program Manager. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising from the meeting.

The meeting was preceded by a site visit around some new and not so new bicycle infrastructure to the north of Melbourne and into the CBD organised by Graham Bradshaw (Retail Cycle Traders Australia) and followed by an afternoon information session.

The Thursday afternoon session included updates on; Brisbane City Council's bike parking facility, a review of an international study tour by Elliot Fishman (Cycling Promotion Fund) and Victoria's 'Bike Ed' program for children, to ABC members and their guests.

### OUTCOMES OF THE ABC MEETING

#### OVERVIEW

The meeting focused on implementing a number of high priority actions from the Australian National Cycling Strategy 2005-2010 including; various research projects; progress on the Austroads guides; update on the HEAT program; and overview of the National Cycling Skills Training Standard.

#### PROGRESS ON NATIONAL CYCLING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

##### Web Based Cycling Resource Centre

Promotion of the CRC in November / December 2007 included electronic copies of the media release being sent to all local government authorities in Australia, bike magazines, professional associations and universities in Australia and New Zealand. The web-based CRC has been active since November 2007. The usage statistics from the CRC show a steady increase in visitor numbers, 88% of which are from Australia and 7% from New Zealand.

##### National Cycling Skills Training Standard

A standard framework for evaluating cycling skills training for adults and children is progressing. The Victorian governments 'Bike Ed' for children will be available in July 2008.

#### 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 was presented to the transport ministers (ATC) in February 2008.

The ATC report provides an overview of the continuing increase in popularity of cycling across the nation. It highlights some of the achievements to date and reports on each of the actions contained in the NCS. The highlights include:

- web-based cycling resource centre launch
- 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 and fact sheets to help manage pedestrian-cyclist conflict minimisation. These fact sheets are available on the ABC web site.
- marketing strategies – e.g. events, maps, brochures and web based information have been developed
- cycling proficiency – Bicycle Federation of Australia in partnership with Cycling Australia set up a national cycling training scheme for adults
- local government survey – completed and results published on the ABC web site, the CRC and sent to all Australian local governments.

The ATC report is now available on the ABC website.

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

All research projects are progressing. The five in-house research projects (Australian road rules, public transport integration, urban planning, building design and road construction standards), stemming from the BFA report on 'Impediments to increased cycling', now have working groups that will scope and manage the projects over the next 18 months.

### AUSTROADS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD DESIGN REVIEW PANELS

The ABC continues to have input into the development of new Austroads guides. Three of the new guides have been published and are available on the Austroads website ([www.austroads.com.au](http://www.austroads.com.au));

- Guide to Traffic Management – Part 5: Road Management
- Guide to Traffic Management – Part 6: Roundabouts, Intersections and Crossings
- Guide to Traffic Management - Part 11: Parking

Future drafts of the Guide to Traffic Management and the Guide to Road Design will be referred to ABC members as they become available. Any issues arising will be addressed at future meetings.

### AUSTRALIAN TOUR OF DR ENRIQUE PEÑALOSA

A report on the success of the ABC facilitated Australian tour of Dr Peñalosa ([www.pps.org/info/placemakingtools/placemakers/epenalosa](http://www.pps.org/info/placemakingtools/placemakers/epenalosa)) was provided by each of the host jurisdictions. Dr Peñalosa is an exuberant advocate of cyclist and pedestrian friendly environments, efficient public transport systems, social justice, and as the ex-mayor of Bogota was instrumental in the creation of Bogota's Cyclovia.

### HEAT PROGRAM

The Healthy and Active Transport Program (HEAT) budget submission has been sent to the federal government seeking support for the program widely supported by local government and community organisations.

### NEXT MEETING

ABC meeting #29 will be held in Sydney in August 2008.