



The Australian Bicycle Council

– More cycling, to enhance the well-being of all Australians

Outcomes of the Melbourne ABC Meeting – 24-25 August 2010

Cyclists and Insurance Coverage

The ABC will research:

Australian Compulsory Third Party Insurance coverage for:

- No fault coverage for cyclists involved in a crash
- Level of coverage
- National and intra state / territory comparisons

Personal insurance options for cyclists:

- Personal and third party coverage for on-road crashes with vehicles, other bikes and pedestrians
- Personal and third party coverage for off-road crashes with go-karts, other bikes and pedestrians
- No fault situation for crashes

Australian Road Rules

Australian Road Safety Act is the cap stone legislation for the road transport industry. The Act is written to provide overall strategies, e.g. Section 17 - Duty of Care. The Australian Road Rules (ARR) come under Road Safety Act. ARR provide absolutes and have prohibitive legislation or offenses attached to them, e.g. Vehicles must stop at a red light or penalty X will be incurred.

All ARR are designed to reduce vehicle crashes and increase user safety, including vulnerable users (pedestrians and cyclists). No changes will be considered to the ARR if they might reduce

road safety in anyway for any user. All proposed changes to ARR are can be submitted to State and Territory Road and/or transport authorities for consideration by Australian Transport Council's (ATC) Road Rules Assessment Group. If the Assessment Group feel that the proposed road rule change is worth while and not reducing user safety, then a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) needs to be developed and submitted to the ATC for consideration.

ABC and Austroads Projects

NS1435 – Effectiveness & Selection of Intersection Treatments for Cyclists

This research report will be available in late 2010. The report provides design recommendations as a result of research that investigated cycling crashes at intersections in South Australia and New Zealand.

NS1436 – Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides

This research report will be available in late 2010. The guide provides an overview of cycling design with referencing to the detailed design recommendations within the entire Austroads guide series.

NS1575 – National Cycling Strategy

The National Cycling Strategy 2011-16 is currently with the Australian Transport Council's (ATC) for their endorsement. The strategy is the guiding document for the ABCs activities and initiatives until 2016. This is the third national strategy developed for Australian cycling.



ABC Projects for 2010-11

NS 1525 – On-road Cycling on Higher Speed Roads Study of Best Practice

This research will be undertaken in 2010-11 under the guidance of the ABC and the Austroads Network Review Taskforce. The final report is expected to be available in late 2011.

Bicycle Parking Factsheet

The ABC has endorsed the 'Bicycle Parking Factsheet' developed by the ABC and the Cycling Promotion Fund. This factsheet has been developed to help developers understand how easy it is to integrate bicycle parking within their developments. The factsheet will be a PDF document that will be made available on the ABC, CPF and CRC websites.

Cycling Resource centre Upgrade (CRC)

The CRC will be in beta testing at the end of September and will be live in October 2010 – so watch out for our 'new' look website. The website address remains the same – www.CyclingResourceCentre.org.au

OECD ITF – Cycling Safety

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) International Transport Forum (ITF) Working Group on Cycling - (<http://www.internationaltransportforum.org/>) are researching cycling safety. The terms of reference are:

Analysis of international trends regarding bicycle use and safety

- Analysis of bicycle accident patterns
- Policy and administrative frameworks for bicycle safety
- Review of measures to improve safety of cyclists
- International comparisons and innovative policy measures

- Stated preference survey of commuter modal choice

The ABC and our representatives on the committee, Dr Julie Hatfield and Dr Jan Garrard, are active contributors to this group. The groups research is centred on reviewing international risk analysis and the design of cost effective safety interventions. The outcomes will be a set of guidelines for improving bicycle safety based on case study and data analysis of member countries. Results of the cycle safety research will be made available on the CRC when available.

South Australia's Cycle Trip Planner

The Cycling Instead website http://www.dtei.sa.gov.au/cycle_instead was showcased at the ABC meeting. The web-based planning tool was developed in-house at Department of Transport, Energy and Infrastructure. The tool allows users to choose the route type (on or off-road) and maximum gradient – a fantastic tool to show how easy it is to plot your course from A to B.



The ABC takes some bikes for a spin – utilising the bike share facilities

Melbourne

The ABC members met at Melbourne's Federation Square Bike Share Station with Mr Gordon Oakley, General Manager, Member & Motoring Services for the Royal Automobile Club of Victoria (RACV) who have set up the Bike Share scheme in Melbourne. Gordon discussed how the new scheme is going; slower with the local membership scheme, but higher than anticipated casual use especially considering the winter launch and the need to bring your own bike helmet.

The bikes were lighter and more manoeuvrable than initially thought by the group, very robust and comfortable to use.

The ride took in on-road, unseparated and on-road separated cycle lanes in Melbourne's CBD, down to the Yarra Federation Trail.



Figure 1 - A rider at the Melbourne Bike Share scheme station at Melbourne University. *Photo: Wayne Taylor*

ABC working for Safer Cycling

The ABC is participating in two large multi agency research projects on cycle safety.

“Safer cycling: a partnership project to better understand cycling patterns, hazards and incidents”

Dr Ros Poulos, Dr Julie Hatfield, Prof Raphael Grzebieta, A/Prof Andrew McIntosh, A/Prof Chris Rissel.

Researchers at the University of New South Wales are undertaking a large cohort study of NSW cyclists to provide much needed data to inform policy and planning for safer cycling. Researchers hope to enrol two thousand cyclists to measure cycling crash, near miss, and injury rates, over a one year period. These rates will be examined in the light of attitudinal and behavioural factors, exposure (distance and duration of travel), and infrastructure utilisation. In addition to the data

gained through questionnaires, a rich source of contextual understanding will be added to the research through interviews with enrolled cyclists who experience crashes, and through a series of detailed engineering safety audits on a subsample of crash locations. The research is being funded by an ARC Linkage Grant, with RTA, Bicycle New South Wales, Sydney South West Area Health Promotion Service and Willoughby City Council as research partners.

If you are a cyclist and interested in being part of the study, please contact Dr Ros Poulos r.poulos@unsw.edu.au

"Cyclist injury mechanisms in Bayside Melbourne: implications for education and infrastructure"

Dr Paul Biegler, Dr Stuart Newstead, Dr James Taylor and Marilyn Johnson

A twelve month prospective study will be undertaken of all cycling injuries presenting to the Emergency Departments of Sandringham Hospital and the Alfred. Injured cyclists will be requested to consent to a structured interview covering demographic details, precise description of crash circumstances, specific risk factors, and the train of events leading to the crash. Patients presenting out of hours will be contacted during business hours to provide incident details. To elucidate whether biases might impact on the accuracy of event recall a sub-study will be undertaken to compare the contemporaneous responses of a small cohort with those individuals' responses to identical questions after a two week delay. Data will also be obtained on the nature, body location and severity of injury.

Statistical analysis will focus on isolating a causal link between a given crash mechanism and a specific pattern of injury. These data will be used to make conclusions about what mechanisms are responsible for the greatest frequency and severity of injury, and are associated with the highest socioeconomic cost, in order to inform effective countermeasure development. For example, is the wearing of safety colours protective? Does the use

of portable audio equipment endanger the rider or other road users? Are commuting cyclists at greater risk than recreational riders? Is bunch riding protective compared to riding alone? What roles are played by rider age, rider experience, cycling speed, riding on road/bike lane/bike path, weather conditions, rider inattention, road conditions, road furniture, driver inattention, type of vehicle and failure to give way?

The ABC contributed to a special issue of the Journal of the Australasian College of Road Safety on-line in August at:

<http://www.acrs.org.au/publications/journalscurrentandbackissues.html>

Future ABC Meetings

The next ABC meeting will be held on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 November 2010 hosted by Territory and Municipal Services in the Australian Capital Territory.

