

Communiqué

ABC Meeting #40

21-22 March 2012



The Northern Territory's 5 km Palmerston to Howard Springs shared path was opened in late 2011.

The 40th meeting of the Australian Bicycle Council was held in Darwin from 21-22 March 2012.

Welcome: Steve Brown

Steve Brown is the newly appointed ABC Chair and is the Executive Director Regional Services VicRoads. He also chairs the Austroads Network Taskforce.

Northern Territory Cycling Update

Craig Bellamy (Manager, Corridor Land Management, Road Network Division) and Jo Cruikshank (Senior Transport Analyst, Transport Planning, Policy and Reform) from the Northern Territory's Department of Lands and Planning provided presentations about the Territory's transport planning and policy and infrastructure.

The Territory is expecting high population growth in next 10 years. The Northern Territory's 2030 plan provides high level commitment to reducing motor vehicle use. Other transport, land use and cycle planning strategies that impact on cycling in the Territory include:

- The Northern Territory Government's 10 year Transport Strategy
- Greater Darwin Plan 2012

The Department conducts an ongoing review of the cycle path networks in Darwin and Alice Springs. The outcomes are published in *Connected and Safe: An overview of the Territory's major cycle path networks in Darwin and Alice Springs*.

The Territory has high cycling participation rates as evidenced by the National Cycling Participation Survey. A high proportion of people use bicycles for their journey to work as evidenced by the Census journey to work data.

The Department has undertaken snap-shot counts in Darwin over four years. The results indicate a preference for off road paths and show little difference in cycling rates between wet and dry season.

Reasons cycling rates are higher than other jurisdictions include: flat terrain; short journey distances; a lower average age of the population; good cycle path network; and unique features such as shared footpaths and relaxed helmet rules.

In the NT helmets are mandatory for children aged 17 and under. Over the age of 17 helmets are mandatory on road but optional on cycle paths. The Territory does not collect data on helmet use but the Department's road safety message is to wear a helmet.

To better integrate cycling with public transport secure bicycle enclosures have been installed at the: Casurina bus interchange; Palmerston bus interchange; Coolalinga park and ride; and Humpty Doo park and ride.



Secure bicycle enclosure at Coolalinga park and ride

The enclosures are accessed by key. The electronic swipe systems used in other jurisdictions are not suitable for the Territory's weather. Additional security is provided by CCTV monitored by the public transport agency and passive surveillance by passer bys.

The Territory has two road safety centres - one each in Darwin and Alice Springs.

There is a strong cycling culture in some regional and remote communities. Alice Springs in particular is working towards developing the region as a mountain biking tourism destination. There is a lot of interest in remote communities but there are also significant issues such as: infrastructure; access to bicycles and maintenance; and attitudes towards cycling which is frequently seen as a children's activity.

The latest path to open in the Territory is the Palmerston to Howard Springs path that follows the old Northern Australia rail line. Where possible the Northern Territory Government is building infrastructure to separate bicycles from motorised vehicles.

Path mounted solar lighting is being tested on the new path at Howard Springs. The lights are unobtrusive and cost about \$100 each. They have been in place for six months and were unaffected by the wet season.



Path mounted solar lighting

The Katherine path has been constructed over historic railway infrastructure. The sleepers and railway lines have had to be retained due to their heritage value. The Department has used open mesh to build bridge over the railway line to retain the infrastructure. This approach had also been successfully used in other jurisdictions for walking paths in environmentally sensitive areas.



Katherine shared path

Shade shelters, most of which incorporate interpretive signage, have been constructed along the pathways. The structures also include water fountains.

The Territory has developed an online fault reporting system <http://transport.nt.gov.au/travelsmart/cycling/report-a-fault>. The system identifies where the fault is on the path so that it is easy to locate.

Web Site Up-dates

Australian Bicycle Council website

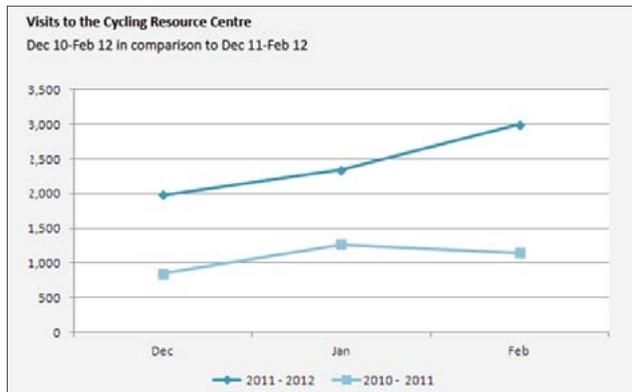
The update of the ABC website is now complete and usage of the site will be monitored via Google Analytics.



Cycling Resource Centre

Use of the Cycling Resource Centre is steadily growing. The CRC categories will be revised to aid site navigation and accommodate upcoming Austroads projects.

The CRC has used Google Analytics since December 2010. We now have time comparative data for the site which shows very positive trends in usage.



Engaging Local Government

Local Government Cycling Participation Survey

Twelve local councils are participating in the Australian Local Government Cycling Participation Survey. This project uses the survey tool and methodology of the National Cycling Participation Survey to provide local councils with municipal level data.

A number of councils expressed a keen desire to include attitudinal questions in the survey. We are working with Port Phillip Council to include an attitudinal component on a test case basis. It is envisaged that, if successful, this will be available as a 'bolt on option' to the cycling participation survey.

Australian Bicycle Professionals Network

The ABC is planning a series of technical webinars for people planning and implementing cycling infrastructure and behaviour change programs.

National Cycling Strategy 2011-16

In January 2012 the ABC published the *Australian Local Government Bicycle Account 2011*.

The *National Cycling Strategy 2005-10 Implementation Report* has been provided to SCOTI for approval to publish.

The *National Cycling Strategy 2011-16, 2011 Implementation Report* is being prepared.

Austroads Projects

On-road Cycling on Higher Speed Roads

This report is in its final stage and will be provided to Austroads for approval to publish in April 2012. A series of fact sheets will be published with the final report.

Providing for Cyclists on Roundabouts

This project was contracted to the consultants Via Strada in March 2012. It is expected that the research work will be completed by mid year.

Future project proposals

The project proposals for 2012-13 and 2013-14 are currently being prepared.

Australian Bicycle Council Projects

Bicycle Parking Manual

The ABC, with Bicycle Network, is developing a comprehensive bicycle parking manual. The document will provide guidance relating to regulations, assessing need, scoping projects, design, management, evaluation and use of parking and end of trip facilities. The document will provide clear recommendations based on performance but will not recommend specific products or services.

Australian Road Rules

The ABC is establishing a project team to review the Australian Road Rules to identify impediments to cycling.

Safe Cycling

The ABC is currently developing a project scope to understand the contributing factors of fatalities and injuries to cyclists.

Bicycle Standards

An ABC representative will sit on the Australian Standards Review Committee that is considering the standards relating to bicycles.

Active Travel Developments

National Urban Policy Forum

The first meeting of the National Urban Policy Forum was held in Canberra on March 15. The forum represents industry and community in urban policy implementation. Active travel is a focus.

Moving People 2030 Taskforce

The Moving People 2030 Taskforce was announced in mid March. The group is concentrating on investment in public transport, cycling and walking.

Major Cities Unit Position Paper on Active Travel

The Major Cities Unit is preparing a Position Paper on Active Travel for the Federal Government.

Power Assisted Pedal Cycles

The Parliamentary Secretary for Infrastructure, Catherine King, has approved in-principle the amendments to the Australian Design Rules to include Pedalecs. States and territories have been asked to formally approve the rule change and commit to undertake the work required to implement the change at a jurisdictional level.

Western Australian Cycling Review

The Western Australian Bicycle Network Plan 2012-2021 was released in March for a three month consultation period.

Exercise as Medicine – Workplace Physical Activity Guidelines

The Exercise Is Medicine (Australia) taskforce is developing a national “Guidelines for Promoting Physical Activity and Exercise in the Workplace”, which includes a number of health initiatives and resources. The guidelines are a result of collaboration with academia, government and private industry stakeholders. The guidelines and associated resources are near completion it is anticipated they will be released 20 July 2012.

VicRoads SmartRoads

Steve Brown provided the ABC with an update on VicRoads’ SmartRoads. Melbourne’s transport demands are growing with significant population growth, a doubling of trucks by 2030 and a 10% annual increase in the number of cyclists (particularly in the inner 10 km). All modes want more space but there are neither funds nor community desire to build more roads.

There is no single solution to managing congestion.

Solutions include:

- Reducing travel demand through land use planning and creating employment opportunities closer to where people live
- Encouraging shifts to more efficient and sustainable modes
- Getting smarter about the use of the roads and use of traffic lights
- Providing more information to people to help them make decisions
- Where possible, as the last answer, creating more capacity.

The SmartRoads approach squeezes efficiency out of the existing space. The emphasis is on moving people and goods, not cars. It uses a three step framework:

- Road Use Hierarchy
- Network Operating Plan
- Network Operating Gaps

The intersection outside the VicRoads office in Kew has been used as a demonstration project.

Australian Bicycle Council meetings

Future ABC Meetings will be held:

- 3 + 4 August 2012: Cairns
- 23 + 24 Jan 2013: Adelaide

Australian Bicycle Council

The Australian Bicycle Council coordinates the implementation of The Australian National Cycling Strategy 2011 - 2016. The Council also maintains the Cycling Resource Centre (CRC) an on-line information hub of cycling information. www.cyclingresourcecentre.org.au.

The Council’s secretariat is provided by Austroads with funding from the Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure and Transport.

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