

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) held its 49th meeting in Darwin on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th June 2015. The meeting was chaired by Craig Moran (Austroads Network Program Manager) and the secretariat was Tony Arnold. The next ABC meeting will occur in Brisbane in September 2015.

The ABC Beyond 2016

The Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development have committed to funding the administration of the ABC until the end of 2016. This coincides with the end of the current National Cycling Strategy. The Department has also indicated that it will not fund the administration of the ABC after this time.

The ABC have developed a proposal for the development of a future National Active Transport Action Plan which will provide specific actions to be achieved by Austroads and Austroads members. This proposal has been submitted to be considered at the next Austroads Board meeting which takes place in early July 2015.

National Cycling Participation Survey

The results of the National Cycling Participation Survey were noted and it was agreed that the results would be published in a quick-reference form with engaging graphic design, to improve the accessibility of the data. The results should be available in July or August 2015.

National Cycling Strategy – Implementation Report 2014

The National Cycling Strategy Implementation Report is an annual report that documents progress on the delivery of the National Cycling Strategy. The 2014 Implementation Report has been completed and has been signed off by the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee (TISOC) and the Transport and Infrastructure Council. The report will be made publicly available on the 26th June 2015. The report highlights key themes for 2014 which include:

- Cycling / Active Towns
- Rail trails and Tourism
- Safety of Vulnerable Road Users
- Sharing the Road
- Minimum Passing Distance
- Integrating Cycling into Planning Metrics
- Building Practitioner Communities

National Framework for Cycling Communications

The secretariat provided a draft version of the National Framework for Cycling Communications. This document aims to provide guidance to communications practitioners involved in road safety campaigns or event promotion activities that involve bicycles. The framework will be further developed before the next meeting.

National Road Safety Strategy – Action Plan 2015-17

The ABC discussed the National Road Safety Strategy Action Plan 2015-17 and considered how current or future work may be influenced by the actions defined in the plan.

The ABC discussed the European Transport Safety Council report entitled *Making Walking and Cycling on Europe's Road Safer*. This report provided many recommendations (on page 8) that may be of interest to Australian safety practitioners as shown below:

Key recommendations to EU institutions

Within the context of the revision of Regulation 2009/78 on the Protection of Pedestrians and other Vulnerable Road Users:

- *Upgrade type approval crash tests to be more closely aligned with the pedestrian safety requirements of Euro NCAP crash tests.*
- *Mandate the head form to windscreen test, adjusting the impact speed to a level appropriate to real life collision circumstances and introduce a head form impactor that would better reflect the fragility of the human skull.*

Within the context of the revision of Regulation 2009/661 concerning Type-Approval Requirements for the General Safety of Motor Vehicles:

- *Adopt legislation for the mandatory fitment of all new vehicles with an overridable assisting Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) system.*
- *Develop mandatory requirements for safer goods vehicles for improved cabin design, underrun protection and removing exemptions that exist so as to require use of side guards to protect other road users in collisions with trucks.*
- *Adopt legislation for the mandatory fitting of all new passenger cars and light trucks and vans under 3.5 tonnes with Autonomous Emergency Braking (AEB) systems.*

Key recommendations to Member States

- *Encourage local governments to adopt zones with a speed limit of 30km/h in residential areas and areas used by many pedestrians and cyclists.*
- *Further develop a policy of modal priority for road users, particularly in urban areas, the hierarchy being based on safety, vulnerability and sustainability. Walking should be at the top of the hierarchy, followed by cycling and use of public transport.*
- *Try to arrange for cycle traffic and motorised traffic to be physically separated where the speed of the latter is too big or where the traffic flow is too high to allow them to mix safely.*
- *Restrict heavy goods vehicle circulation in urban areas at certain peak times when there are high numbers of pedestrians and cyclists and develop recommended routes for heavy goods vehicles.*

Austroads Projects Managed by the ABC Secretariat

Projects in the 2014-15 financial year:

- **NT1998 – Bicycle Wayfinding**

This project aims to develop guidance for practitioners designing wayfinding signage, road marking and other provisions to aid bicycle users to navigate bicycle networks. The ABC members suggested some additions to the latest draft of the report to define the optional inclusion of travel times and shared path indications.

The project has delivered a literature review and a final report. The reports are currently undergoing an approval process. It is anticipated that this guidance will be made public in July or August.

Projects in the 2015-16 financial year:

- **NT2011 - Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides**

This project will ensure that the Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides document is updated with the latest content as published throughout the various Austroads Guides.

- **NS1996 - Bicycle Parking Review**

This project will provide updated bicycle-related content for the Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 11: Parking. The project will also look to publish an Austroads Research Report containing a significant amount of additional guidance material that has been developed to provide practical advice to those designing and installing bicycle parking. This project has been awarded to a consortium of GTA and STC consultants.

Other Austroads Projects

TP1885 – National Guidelines for Transport System Management

The NGTSM provide guidance for transport planners and enable the identification, assessment, appraisal and evaluation of proposed transport initiatives. The current project looks to incorporate active travel in these guidelines for the first time, providing an improved ability to compare the costs and benefits of transport policy decisions across all transport modes.

The first version of the NGTSM has been published, however the Active Travel component has not yet been made public. The ABC will provide feedback on the draft of the Active Travel component when it is made available.

NT1783 – Development of the Accessibility Planning Network Operating Plan

The purpose of this project is to incorporate accessibility planning concepts into the network operations planning (NOP) framework such that issues of accessibility are properly considered and addressed in the process of NOP.

The April 2015 version of the project report was provided to the members of the ABC for comment and to enable members to discuss progress with their jurisdictional representatives.

NP1718 – Update to the Guide to Road Design

The “Austroads Guide to Road Design Part 4B: Roundabouts” is currently being reviewed by the Austroads Road Design Task Force. The ABC has proposed changes to this guide to address safety concerns regarding bicycle lanes in roundabouts. These recommendations have been adopted, with changes made to the guidance on bicycle lanes in roundabouts. The guide revision process is ongoing.

NT2013 – Update to the Guide to Traffic Management

The ABC has made recommendations to the Traffic Management Working Group for an improvement to a diagram (figure 4.7) that is used in the Austroads Guide to Traffic Management Part 4: Network Management. The improved diagram is based on recent guidance provided by Sustrans in the UK. The ABC also recommended the addition of guidance that helps in the selection of appropriate path widths and separation for bicycles and pedestrians depending on volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The additional guidance is based on guidance published by Queensland TMR.

The recommendations provided by the ABC have been adopted in the latest draft of the Guide to Road Design Part 4. The guide revision process is ongoing.

Professional Driver Training

The ABC discussed professional driver training initiatives happening in the UK that seek to improve the skills of professional drivers while interacting with bicycles on the road. The ABC members have agreed to investigate opportunities to improve driver training, especially for heavy vehicles operators. Possible avenues for improvement may include looking at bus driver training, heavy vehicle regulations and driver licensing/registration

Guest Presentations

Darwin City Council

This presentation outlined the Darwin Bike Plan which has been developed through a partnership between Darwin City Council and the Northern Territory Government. The development of the plan included a survey that gathered information from almost 1000 residents who provided information on riding habits and preferences.

Pedals NT and Bicycle NT

This presentation described the relationship between cycling advocacy and cycling sports organisations in the Northern Territory and the new role of Pedals NT in coordinating activities.

Parks and Wildlife

This presentation outlined some of the mountain bike projects that have been carried out in Alice Springs and Charles Darwin National Park.