

Communique

August 2006

The Australian Bicycle Council Meeting No. 23 Townsville, Queensland 11 August 2006

(Tim Hughes, the NZ rep's comments in brackets and blue)

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) met in Townsville on 11 August, 2006. The meeting was chaired by the ABC Chair, Dennis Walsh. This communiqué summarises the main discussions, decisions and actions arising at the meeting.

The meeting was preceded by a seminar on 10 August attended by Council members, local Townsville City Council representatives, bicycle user groups, and state agencies to discuss the successes and challenges for cycling in Townsville.

Outcomes of the ABC Meeting on Friday, 11 August 2006

Cyclist Friendly Workplaces

The National Ride to Work Day, which will be held on 4 October 2006 was launched in Melbourne on Monday, 8 August 2006. Brochures are available on how to prepare for the National Ride to Work Day. Please contact Harvey Murkitt in Bicycle Victoria for further information.

Best Practice in Adult Cycling Proficiency Training

This project has now been completed. (This project was about possible mechanisms for delivering adult training - refer ABC website)

(NZ is also leading a project to improve cycling skills education in schools - a contract is being let for the development and trial of NZ national cycling skills education standards based on the UK model which involves a much higher proportion of cycle training conducted on road.)

Influencing Strategy

ABC meetings are seen as an important part of the Influencing Strategy. The meetings provide opportunities in a supportive environment to share perspectives on cycling. It was agreed that jurisdictions hosting meetings examine the possibility of organising a forum or seminar group prior to each ABC meeting with local invitees (police, local government, bicycle user groups, state agencies, cycling industry etc) being invited, have sessions promoting the National Strategy and distribute copies, set up a display with the latest material and fact sheets; CPF will hold a "Business of cycling breakfast" at one meeting per year.

Scoping Paper on Performance Indicators

The Council noted the progress of this paper, which will be reported on further at the next meeting. (These are indicators for reporting on progress for cycling in the jurisdictions – Land Transport NZ is also working on developing NZ performance indicators.)

Scoping Paper on Accessing Federal Program Funds for Local Governments

The Council noted the progress of this paper, which will be reported on further at the next meeting.

Scoping Paper on Impediments to Cycling

The Council noted the progress of this paper and agreed that the priority is to focus on those actions related to regulatory aspects.

Draft Survey on LG cycling initiatives and network plans

A draft LG survey was presented to ABC members for feedback. The purpose of the survey is to determine the current level of cycle infrastructure, and level of priority for cycling within local government, and to find out how the ABC can facilitate local government involvement in cycling activities. Alton Twine will finalise and distribute the survey along with a copy of the National Cycling Strategy. ([This project makes a most useful contribution to NZs *Getting there – on foot by cycle* implementation project for benchmarking local government or RCA performance for walking and cycling project](#))

Cycling Support and Promotion

A presentation was given to ABC members outlining the progress in the TravelSmart programs nationally. A summary of the TravelSmart Townsville pilot was also presented including results.

The national TravelSmart working group is currently compiling priority research directions and also focusing on working more closely with health to access the Department of Health funding. ([Land Transport NZ staff recently attended the Travel Smart conference in Melbourne and are networking with the Australians on Travel Behaviour Change](#))

Power Assisted Bicycle Regulations

The Council noted a proposal to alter the definition of 'bicycle' that appears in the Australian Road Rules and other relevant legislation, so that the maximum power output for a bicycle with a motor is 400 watts or less rather than 200 watts or less. However, it was agreed that a more detailed submission covering the definition of "power assisted" bicycle, standards in other countries, safety impacts and possible criteria for managing these devices was required before a specific power output is agreed.

The Council is preparing a detailed submission for future consideration by the Australian Road Safety Group and Australian Motor Vehicle Design Group.

([There is scope for harmonising Australian and NZ rules on these. NZ references the Australian Design rules in its vehicle requirements](#))

Australian Road Rules Maintenance Working Group

The Council noted the progress of this working group which included the reporting of the 2006 package of draft road rule amendments for consultation including the bicycle box issues.

There was general agreement on the need to use the ABC as the forum for raising ARR changes regarding bicycles.

Austroroads Traffic Management and Road Design Review Panels.

The Council noted the progress of this paper, which will be reported on further at the next meeting. ([This group is commenting on cycling aspects of the major revision to the Austroroads](#))

guides, which are widely used in NZ. While usually only a minor part of the meeting the offline contribution on this is a significant part of NZ 's involvement)

Next meeting

The next ABC meeting #24 will be held in Adelaide from November 22 - 23 2006 to coincide with a national cycle tourism conference.