

COMMUNIQUÉ

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) held its meeting in Sydney on Wednesday, 13 August 2008. 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 morning prior to the meeting a site visit was made to the shared path adjacent to the recently completed Lane Cove tunnel project. The afternoon prior to the meeting ABC members met with Sensis representatives to discuss online cycleway mapping and directional modal options for 'by bike'. Sensis is conducting a pilot project on cycleway mapping utilising Whereis.com. This was followed by a session with reports on NSW Dept of Planning on the Coastal Cycleway, Premiers Council for Active Living, the RTA, NZ Transport Agency and ALGA to ABC members and guests.

OUTCOMES OF THE ABC MEETING

OVERVIEW

The main focus of the meeting was the Australian National Cycling Strategy (NCS) 2005-2010 implementation and the framework for the next NCS 2011-2016. The ABC draft annual report for the Australian Transport Council was discussed and the progress of the research projects.

PROGRESS ON NATIONAL CYCLING STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION

Web Based Cycling Resource Centre

CRC was launched in November 2007; the site is attracting visits from Australia (79%), New Zealand (4%), North America (7%), UK and Scandinavia (3% each). As at 30 June 2008, the CRC has had over 12,000 visitors since inception.

National Cycling Skills Training Standard

The project undertaken by the Bicycling Federation of Australia on cycle proficiency training, funded by DEWHA, has been progressed with further funding by DEHWA and a collaboration with the Amy Gillett Foundation and Cycling Australia, to develop a national cycling skills training program to be called AusCycle. The AusCycle program will be trialled in NSW later in 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 draft annual report with an overview of achievements in cycling by both ABC members and other agencies and organisations was presented for discussion. The ABC annual report will be submitted to the transport ministers (ATC) at their meeting in November 2008.

The highlights include:

- jurisdictional data of cyclists using major routes from the five largest capital cities shows an average annual increase for 2006 and 2007 of 23%
- over 320 kms of new cycleways were built in Australia in 2006-07
- several important research reports published by the Cycling Promotion Fund
- a new era of bicycle parking showcased with the opening of the King George Square Cycle Centre in Brisbane
- Ride to Work Day becoming national with all jurisdictions taking part for the first time in October 2007 and more than 29,000 participants
- an increase in funding announced by various governments for cycling infrastructure
- establishment of the web-based Cycling Resource Centre
- heightened national media coverage on cycling and its benefits.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

All research projects are progressing, research projects on public transport integration, urban planning, benchmarking cycling best practice and building design are being undertaken by the ABC. Reports will be made available on the ABC and CRC websites when completed.

BICYCLES AND POLICING

NSW Police gave an overview of how bicycles are used by the NSW police force. NSW Police are now conducting cycle training for police in other states.

POWER ASSISTED BICYCLES

The review, being lead by NSW RTA, is continuing with further input and comment being provided by ABC members. The outcomes from the last workshop, held in July 2008, were discussed on developing a national strategy. Further updates on the national strategy will be provided over the course of the review.

AUSTROADS TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AND ROAD DESIGN REVIEW PANELS

The ABC continues to have input into the development of new Austroads guides. The guides that have been published since the last ABC meeting are:

- AGRD07/08 - Guide to Road Design Part 7: Geotechnical Investigation and Design
- AGTM08/08 - Guide to Traffic Management Part 8: Local Area Traffic Management
- AGTM02/08 - Guide to Traffic Management Part 2: Traffic Theory

The guides are available on the Austroads website (www.austroads.com.au). Future drafts of parts of the Guide to Traffic Management and the Guide to Road Design will be referred to ABC members as they become available.

NEXT MEETING

ABC meeting #30 will be held in Hobart in November 2008.