

The Australian Bicycle Council (ABC) held its 48th meeting in Hobart on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th February 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 Darwin in June 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 discussed options for the development of a future National Cycling Strategy and whether this strategy may be broadened into an Active Travel Strategy that includes walking. The group also discussed whether it would be better to develop separate walking and cycling strategies rather than a single Active Travel Strategy. The ABC also discussed options for the continuation of the ABC or a similar group that may also include walking. A proposal will be put forward to the Austroads Board for consideration at the next Board meeting.

National Cycling Participation Survey

The ABC agreed to proceed with the 2015 National Cycling Participation Survey (NCPS) in March/April 2015. This will be the third biennial NCPS and will provide data that can be used to measure the trend in cycling participation from 2011 to 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 will be submitted to the Transport and Infrastructure Senior Officials' Committee (TISOC) to be included in the papers for the subsequent Transport and Infrastructure Council meeting. The report will be made publicly available after it has been reviewed by these groups. 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 Communications

The secretariat provided the ABC with a set of “communication principles” that could be used to refine communications campaigns that involve bicycles such as road safety campaigns or event promotion material. The principles are under discussion and will be further refined before the next meeting.

National Road Safety Strategy – Action Plan 2015-17

The ABC discussed the recently-published NRSS Action Plan 2015-17 and considered how current or future work may be influenced by the actions defined in the plan. The following actions directly address vulnerable road users as follows:

Action 1 Prioritise and treat high-risk rural and urban roads, focusing on the main crash types and vulnerable road users.

Action 12 Expand the application of lower speed limits in areas with high pedestrian and cyclist usage.

Action 17 Implement and promote a range of Safe System demonstration projects in urban settings, with a focus on the safety of vulnerable road users.

The Action Plan also includes the following actions that are somewhat related to cycling:

Action 3 Review road infrastructure safety programmes to establish best practice processes for identifying, prioritising and developing projects based on fatal and serious casualty reduction criteria.

Action 13 Implement programmes to build community understanding and support for effective speed management measures.

Action 15 Strengthen national police enforcement operations to improve road safety compliance.

Action 19 Examine and progress options to improve measurement and reporting of non-fatal and disabling injury crashes, particularly through the development of matched crash and hospital database systems.

Progress Towards a National Serious Injury Definition

To improve the quality and consistency of reporting of serious injury data, BITRE is leading an Austroads-initiated pilot project in the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development. The project is to provide a proof of concept for a national approach to reporting on serious injuries from road accidents in Australia. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2017 in line with Action 19 of the National Road Safety Action Plan 2015-2017.

Guidelines for Designing Signalised Intersections with Bicycles

The NSW Government has investigated issues around signalised intersections on bidirectional cycleways. The NSW Government has used the findings from these investigations to improve the operation of existing signals and will update the guidance provided to traffic engineers to incorporate provisions for bicycle infrastructure. The ABC was in support of this work and it was recommended that any findings be considered for inclusion in the Austroads Guides in future.

Austroads Projects Managed by the ABC Secretariat

The following two Austroads projects were completed in December 2014 and were released as both case studies on the ABC website and as Austroads research reports.

The two completed projects are:

- **NS1779 – Low Cost Interventions to Encourage Cycling**
This project identifies effective low-cost measures that encourage people to use bicycles for short transport journeys including journeys to work. This project identifies hard and soft infrastructure interventions along with behaviour change programs that are cost effective and can encourage cycling.
- **NS1780 - Urban Cycling Infrastructure Design Resource**
This project identifies infrastructure case studies that showcase innovative planning and design.

The ABC secretariat is managing one project in the 2014-15 year to develop guidance on bicycle wayfinding. Sustainable Transport Consultants have been awarded the contract and are currently working on the first draft of the guidance, having already completed a literature review in 2014.

The 2014-15 project is:

- **NT1998 – Bicycle Wayfinding**
This project aims to develop guidance for practitioners who are looking to provide wayfinding signage, road marking and other provisions to aid bicycle users to navigate bicycle networks. The project has delivered a literature review and a draft report. The next stage will be to deliver a set of detailed guidelines. The results of the project will be released as a research report.

The following two new projects have been proposed for 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 a significant amount of additional content that has been developed to provide practical advice to those designing and installing bicycle parking.

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. A draft of the NGTSM is currently available for public comment, however the Active Travel component has not yet been made public. The ABC will comment on the draft of the Active Travel component when it is made available.

NT1788 – Level of Service Metric

The Level of Service Metric project aims to develop multi-modal metrics for measuring level of service. The project has developed a set of metrics and has tested their application through a number of case studies. This report has now been published by Austroads.

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.

Working Paper 5 of the project 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 that address safety concerns regarding bicycle lanes in roundabouts and provide additional guidance on separated bicycle facilities at roundabouts. These recommendations will be considered by the Road Design Task Force at their next meeting which is due to take place in the next few weeks.

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.

Guest Presentations

Bicycle Network

Chris Carpenter called on government to update or develop policies that seek to mainstream cycling and to ensure that all levels of Government act in accordance with those policies.

Bike South

Mary McParland described her role as an independent consultant that provides advice and assistance to five local governments in the Hobart Greater Metropolitan Area.