

Dear Mark:

I'm unable to attend the 28 Oct Workshop.

I was involved in providing input to and comments on the draft publication on behalf of Bicycle NSW.

A major problem for the bicycling movement has been the lack of awareness of this publications by planners at both state and local levels of administration and among urban designers, town and county and transport and traffic planners. A further issue is that insufficient attention is given to pedestrian and cyclists needs by architects in the early design stage of medium to large project design (landscape planners do this a lot better).

Mind you, a similar problem exists, though not so badly placed, with recognition, understanding and use of the RTA's NSW bicycle guidelines, although the RTA has run courses over recent years to address this problem.

The Department of Planning has also largely ignored this important (joint) publication in the preparation of its draft City Plans. However, I have not actually seen any of the final City Plans - so I had better look at any made before throwing stones. Perhaps adjustments have been made to the drafts following our representations to some of them (see attached emails and letters to Sam Haddad and Chris Johnson).

Moreover, there is a mistaken belief among relevant professionals (and thus among senior people advising and influencing our politicians) that cycling is not an important existing and future transport mode - it is seen usually only in its recreational role. Good future planning and transport strategies rely on getting this poor and wrong attitude changed. Perhaps that's another story?!

At the local level, there is an exception to this ignorance among the now settled in senior staff of the City of Sydney, pressed over recent years by Clover Moore and her Independent team bicycling objectives (and to some of the bicycle movement's advocacy - getting a hearing is vital to success).

The update and relaunch is therefore going to be very welcome all around.

Conclusion:

It would be appreciated if I would be able to have a brief meeting with you in early November, when I'm back from one of my many bike tours and have had a chance to refresh my understanding of the publication and look at matters based on advocacy experience over recent years.

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