

DRAFT
NEWCASTLE CYCLEWAYS MOVEMENT
BUSINESS PLAN - FRAMEWORK

VISION

More cycling in Newcastle / Lake Macquarie Region,
by advocating for and providing services aimed at making cycling a safer, more enjoyable and convenient transport option.

GOALS

1. Engineering - Better facilities for cycling
2. Encouragement – Helping new riders and old to get on their bikes.
3. Enforcement – Making sure there is action on bikes, not just talk.
4. Education – Teaching safe cycling strategies / sharing cycleways and roads.

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

- Proportion of trips to work made by bike at the next census. Could be supplemented by surveys
- NCM membership strength
- Local Bike Plans exist and are accessible via website.
- Local Council Budget have specific Budgets for bicycles
- Km of completed cycleways. (protected from vehicle traffic. White lines don't count)

ACTIONS

Engineering. – Improving the Cycling Network

- Lobby Federal State and Local bodies for a bigger slice of the transport / health / environment cake. Advocate measures that reduce the burden of vehicular traffic and the public subsidy of car use and parking.
- Push for key local projects to be completed as soon as possible
 - Fernleigh Track all the way to Swansea...complete spur lines such as Dudley, John Darling and Burma Track. Wallsend Glendale, Newcastle CBD and Honeysuckle, Major shopping centre approaches, Eleebana Esses.
- Insist on use of State Traffic guidelines for bicycles / Ausroads in local road design / marking.
 - Remove the unsigned "Bike pictures" from any road where they don't meet Ausroads guidelines.
 - Remove non compliant Bollards from all cycleways.
- Influence local decision making by attendance on road and safety traffic committees and Fernleigh Track Management Committee
- Input priorities to Local Bike Plans, focussed first on removing gaps / connecting to safe on road and off road routes
- Suggest alternatives to costly off road cycleways via remarking / re-routing of existing networks. Turning footpaths into shared cycleways where no safe on road option is possible. Advocate for the re-partitioning of public road space in favour of cyclists.
- Advocate for more publicly accessible planned maintenance / scheduled approach to cycleway maintenance and road shoulder maintenance and clearing.
- Provide feedback to RTA, Council and developers re development proposals and how they influence cycling
- Use of lower local speed limits (including 30-40kmh zones) so cyclists can safely get to their local pathway.
- Advocate for the integration of cycling with public transport through better cycle parking and provision for bikes on buses and trains.
- Investigating and advocating ways to create carbon tax benefits for projects that will increase cycling.

Encouragement – Raising Community Awareness

- NCM Award annually to a local councillor or Council Officer who best advances cycling interests
- Continue NCM's programme of short rides and tours to help people to take up and enjoy cycling
- Write letters and articles to local media re cycling events, safety issues and cycling benefits. Advocate for the environment, health and economic benefits of increased cycling.
- Presenting at local council Public sessions.
- Organise / help others to organise special events like Bike Week.
- Ride to School / Assist with Bike Bus

Enforcement

- Seeking a concrete commitment to cycling. Seek uniform bicycle law that enforces requirements for Federal State and local Bicycle Plans and budgets which mandate requirements to use Ausroads guidelines. NCM should seek input to local plans. Plans should be on display / accessible on internet and reviewed regularly. (At least 6 monthly)
- Communication between authorities and cycling organisations

Education

- Assist local organisations / schools to learn about safe cycling, basic bike maintenance.
- Cycling Education in schools – helping to promote the NSW Ride to School programme
- Teach knowledge of safe sharing of the road – Make cycling questions compulsory part of licence testing for car drivers.