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21 February 2008

RE: Victoria Road upgrade (RTA December 2007).

Thank you for the briefing from your department and the invitation to comment on the above.

Please find enclosed Bicycle NSW's submission. As the peak body in NSW, we view the plans for Victoria Road as one part of a bicycle infrastructure network designed to encourage bike riding. Accordingly our submission comments on other major project proposals including the Callan Park Draft Land Use Plan.

Bicycle NSW is affiliated with numerous local community bicycle groups, several of which are located in or use areas impacted on by the proposal. It is widely recognized that walking, cycling and public transport are key components of Sydney's sustainable transport future. Our input into the State Plan and our continuing dialogue with relevant NSW Ministers supports our efforts to encourage bike riding as a practical mode of transport in NSW.

We would welcome the opportunity to work with you and other key stakeholders to develop balanced sustainable transport options for the Victoria Road upgrade project. In particular we can assist on integrating existing cycling routes into the project, working with local community cycling groups and promoting the long-term benefits of the proposals.

Should you wish to discuss our submission further, please contact my adviser Helen Box (phone 9218 5404) to arrange a meeting at your convenience.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex S. Unwin".

Alex S. Unwin
Chief Executive Officer
Direct line 02 9218 5410

cc: Mr Michael Woodland
Director
Urban Assessments
Department of Planning

Bicycle NSW Submission

Commenting on the **Callan Park Draft Land Use Plan** and the **Victoria Road upgrade**, taking into consideration the **Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay “Making Sustainability Work” Project** and the **M4 East extension**.

Framing this Submission

Bicycle NSW has been invited to comment on the following major project proposals:

1. **Victoria Road upgrade (RTA December 2007).**
Proposal includes Iron Cove Bridge duplication options.
2. **Callan Park Draft Land Use Plan (SHFA November 2007).**
Proposal includes prioritising and enhancing pedestrian and cycling movements (6.1.9).

Because bike riding infrastructure is most effectively planned for and delivered when considered in terms of a **network**, Bicycle NSW is commenting on these two projects in this single submission. From this perspective, the Victoria Road and Callan Park projects can be understood to present opportunities for bike riding infrastructure within a larger region that is roughly bounded:

- in the **North** by the Epping Road separated shared use path now near completion, and existing Parramatta Valley Cycleway;
- in the **West** by Sydney Olympic Park, which features cycleways linking to the westbound M4 shared path;
- in the **South** by the Cooks River Cycleway and Port Botany;
- in the **East** by the rapidly growing network of separated shared bicycle paths being constructed by the City of Sydney Council.

This region, shown in the map on page 3, encompasses two other major projects:

- **Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay “Making Sustainability Work” Project.**
A three year joint project of Ashfield, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Canterbury Councils, which has recently been awarded \$1.83m by the **NSW Environmental Trust** Urban Sustainability Major Projects Program.
- **M4 East extension.**
Which reviews transport links to Port Botany and Sydney.

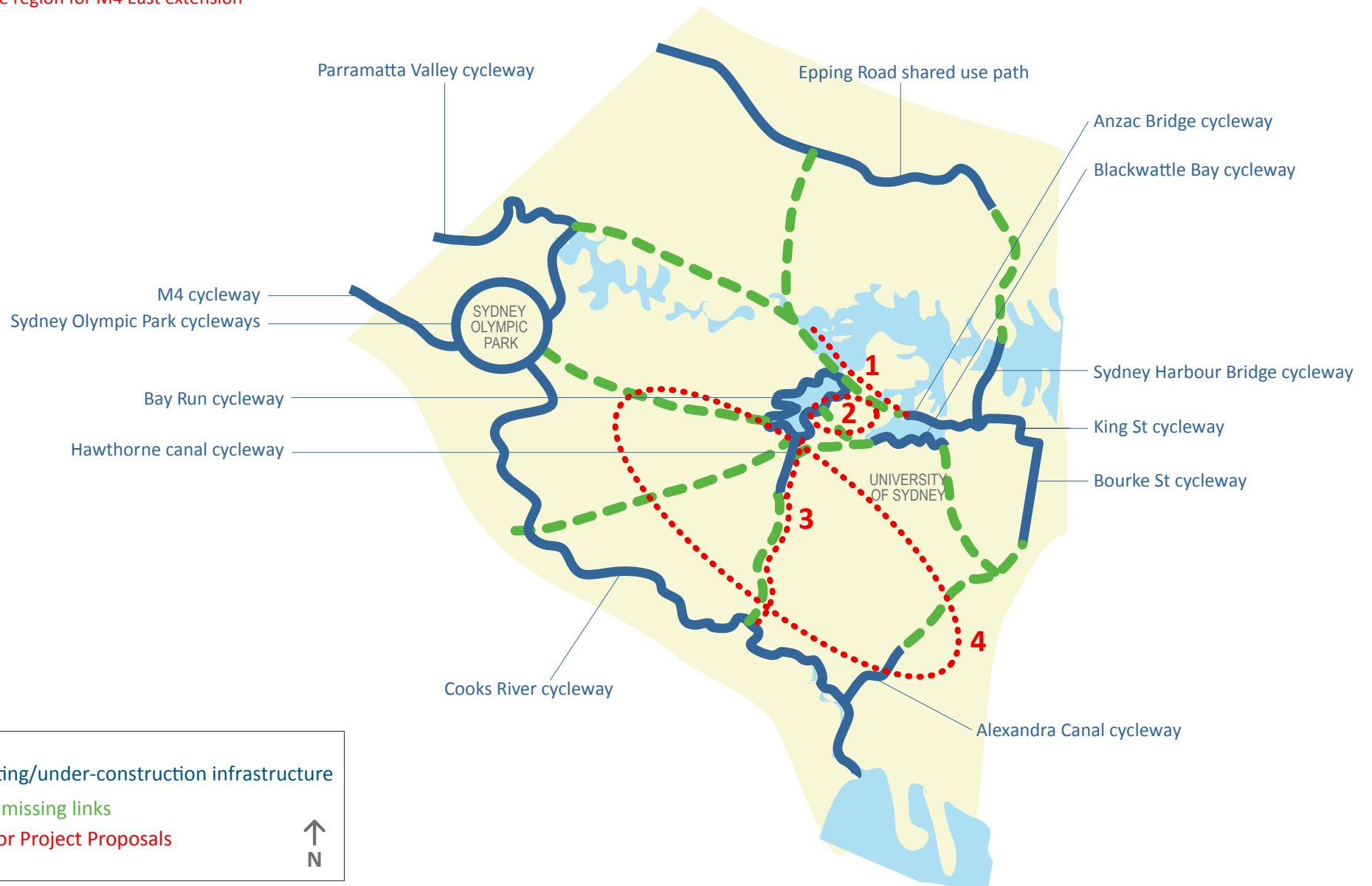
The **NSW State Plan** also provides a frame for this submission. Leveraging existing investments in cycleway infrastructure by creating the links to deliver a bicycle network that will increase active transport helpful to the following priorities:

- S4** Improved health through reduced obesity;*
- S6** Increasing share of peak hour journeys on public transport;*
- S7** Safer roads;*
- E3** Cleaner air and progress on greenhouse gas reductions;*
- E7** Improving the efficiency of the road network;*
- E8** More people using parks, sporting and recreational facilities;*
- R3** Reduced levels of antisocial behaviour;*
- R4** Increased participation and integration in community services;*
- P1** Increased business investment;*
- P2** Maintain and invest in infrastructure.*

Leveraging existing investment: connecting the links to create a bicycle network

Four major projects, in a region bounded by existing/under-construction cycleways to the North, South, East and West.

1. Callan Park Draft Land Use Plan
2. Victoria Road upgrade
3. Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay
4. approximate region for M4 East extension



1. Victoria Road Upgrade

This proposal offers a key opportunity to upgrade an important strategic bike route.

In addition to the potential to develop high-use bike riding corridors connecting the Epping Road cycleway in the north, and the Parramatta Valley cycleway in the west directly to the city via the inner west, this upgrade also creates opportunities for improving recreational bike riding facilities as part of the Bay Run.

In particular, a new bridge crossing can

- improve safety by separating Bay Run activities (walking, running and bike riding) from motorised traffic;
- reduce conflict between pedestrians and people riding bikes;
- and provide connectivity between residents and local trip attractors, including the Balmain Shores residential development, Birkenhead Point shopping precinct, Sydney Secondary College Balmain Campus, and the new public, open and green Callan Park.

Bicycle NSW notes that currently this proposal does not provide specific details for walking and bike riding infrastructure. As the Victoria Road upgrade project advances, we appreciate that specific detail will be developed with reference to the RTA's own NSW bicycle guidelines (2003). We appreciate the ongoing consultation of the RTA with local Bicycle User Groups (e.g. BayBug and LBug) who provide valuable local input, which Bicycle NSW will be happy to help harness.

Above all Bicycle NSW is enthusiastic about the potential for the creation of a North-City corridor and Iron Cove Bridge crossing for bike riding, thereby meeting key community demands, not only for sustainable transport and reduced traffic congestion but also facilitating regular physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

2. Callan Park Draft Land Use Plan

Bicycle NSW is pleased to see bicycle path infrastructure included as a key component at a number of points in the Callan Park Draft Land Use Plan. We strongly support the proposal to improve walking and cycling paths as a means to access, travel within, and pass through the site.

Specifically we strongly support plans to:

- enhance community access via improved entry points along the perimeter of the site
- upgrade the connection with the Bay Run, in particular by controlling vehicular access to the foreshore

- promote walking and cycling and minimising car use throughout the site, by formalising bicycle path linkages between the eight Precincts proposed, and installing bicycle parking at each Precinct.

The Callan Park plan also reveals the potential for two additional high use bicycle transport routes:

- Between the Callan Park and Camperdown campuses of the University of Sydney, providing both students and staff with an active transport alternative, at an ideal bike riding distance of 3-4 km.
- The above route could make good use of the disused goods rail corridor running between Canterbury and White Bay, as covered in more detail below.

3. Cooks River to Iron Cove GreenWay “Making Sustainability Work” Project

The **NSW Environmental Trust** Urban Sustainability Major Projects Program earlier this year awarded \$1,830,000 to a three year joint project of Ashfield, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Canterbury Councils. This project focuses on the sustainable management of a public GreenWay linking the Cooks River and Iron Cove, requiring the innovative cooperation of agencies from different levels of Government.

There are many promising components to this proposal, and we highlight that as an active transport route, the GreenWay is highly relevant to the Victoria Road upgrade and Callan Park Land Use Plan.

The coordination of the Victoria Road upgrade and the Callan Park Land Use Plan can result in the development of a valuable bike commuting and recreational route, which provides access from the North-City Victoria Road corridor, via Leichhardt, Ashfield and Marrickville, to the Cook’s River cycleway. This separated popular path currently connects Sydney Olympic Park at Homebush and Port Botany.

This is a standout opportunity to cost effectively deliver another key link in the bicycle **network**.

4. The M4 East extension project

Bicycle NSW is not aware of any tabled plans or any formal community consultation process underway at the present time. However we understand that this project is a priority for the NSW Government. These comments are included at this early stage to highlight the opportunity to incorporate key bike riding infrastructure in this major project.

In particular, bike riding infrastructure associated with the proposed M4 East extension could:

- link the southern side of the University of the Sydney (Camperdown campus) and the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital with the existing Alexandria canal path, servicing the southern suburbs.
- link the Bay Run, via Five Dock and Concord, to Sydney Olympic Park, and from there via the M4 shared use path, to Parramatta and Western Sydney.
- link the southern end of the Bay Run via Burwood and South Strathfield to join the popular high use Cooks River cycleway.

In addition to these strategic off-road connections, at a local level there are many opportunities to provide on-road bicycle lanes. These allow the community to access the regional links indicated above from their homes and/or places of work and study.