

## Bicycle NSW Bike Plan Community Consultation Mudgee workshop November 2008

### Notes from Mudgee workshop

The Bicycle NSW South Western regional NSW BikePlan workshop was held on 19 November 2008, at the Australian Rural Education Centre home of the Mudgee Bike Muster

#### In attendance were:

Mudgee BUG

Orange BUG

Dubbo BUG

Green Pedal Tours

Mid Western Regional Council

Australian Rural Education Centre

RTA - Local representatives

Health NSW Local representatives

The workshop opened with a formal acknowledgement of the traditional owners of the land, and an introduction by Elizabeth Hole, Chief Operating Officer, Bicycle New South Wales.

This was followed by an overview of cycling history in New South Wales, and an outline of the *NSW BikePlan* by Mr. Matt Faber, from the PCAL NSW BikePlan team.

#### The workshop discussions included the following:

There is a need to provide relevant information to Doctors on the associated health benefits of cycling.

There needs to be greater participation by members of BUGs in local council road traffic committees, either as representatives or observers.

The current council's bike plan is seen as outmoded and needing to be re written.

The council's allocation of funding for cycle infrastructure is often subordinate to other expenditure priorities. Councils are urged to review alternate funding opportunities to offset the present 50-50 funding arrangement.

A change of focus to prioritise traffic requirements at lights and intersections in favour of cyclists and pedestrians would create better safety and flow.

Ensuring sufficient input from local bicycle user groups in council LEPs.

Implementing council funding for cycling maps and cycling guides through local tourism associations, would enhance attraction of local area and inject more money into the community.

Enforcing road rules, and providing compulsory questions on cycling as part of driving test would increase motorist's awareness.

There is a need to improve behaviour of all road users. A media campaign is seen as a useful tool in creating mutual respect between motorists and cyclists.

Local community and employers need to do more to generate more interest in regularly cycling to work.



An emphasis on rider safety education campaigns would reduce traffic hazards. This could be done by utilising banners, media, bumper stickers, bike rallies, information on face book and general lobbying etc.

More needs to be done to encourage regular cycling. Various methods employed could include, providing statistics on the health benefits, bike hire, local advertising, and promoting the RTA web site.

### Infrastructure

Cyclists need to access information on cycle routes, links to public transport and bike rides. These can be advertised through local council and various publications such as PushOn and encourage membership of Bicycle New South Wales. Local bike shops could also play an integral part in fostering good riding habits and providing relevant information.

### Travel by Train

To encourage train usage by cyclists rail authorities need to lift the limit on number of cycles permitted. Provision for Bikes on trains. Refer to Vic rail and Queensland to understand how they manage it.

### Travel by Coach

To encourage uptake of local tourism cycles need to be allowed on coaches.

### Health

Doctors to refer patients to local BUGs to assist in promoting healthier active lifestyles.

Promoting the health benefits of cycling to schools

Live well at School campaign.

### General comments

Big Ride and other associated bicycle rides need to be commercially viable and self-supporting to be an ongoing success.

Strengthening ties with other active transport organisations is seen as an advantage.

More disabled access is required.

Lobbying commercial businesses for support would encourage more cycling.

Collecting more data on cycling would be beneficial to all stakeholders.

Lobbying tourism organizations to increase awareness of cycling.

Making available bike hire at travel accommodation will help to increase local tourism opportunities.

Ride to work and ride to school to be funded and advertised by the RTA

Information on cycle routes to be provided on the RTA's web site.

