

**NSW Bike Plan
Submission by Email
Friday, 17 October 2008 5:47 PM**

The Illawarra Active Transport Taskforce is coordinated by Healthy Cities Illawarra and includes road safety representatives of the three Illawarra Councils, the RTA, NSW Health, the Heart Foundation, Bicycle User Groups, and local bicycle business. The Taskforce has been active for over two years, representing the interests of cyclists and pedestrians, and advocating for the greater use of cycling and walking for transport.

We have produced a report resulting from a survey of people's attitudes on why they are discouraged or encouraged to cycle or walk (Illawarra Active Transport Taskforce 2007, The Barriers and Enhancers to Using Active Transport in the Illawarra, Healthy Cities Illawarra, 22pp.).

Based on this, and our joint experience and knowledge, we provide the following suggestions towards the development of the next NSW Bike Plan:

- Ongoing safety campaigns are needed, targetted at all road users, to improve the actual and perceived safety of cyclists and pedestrians - safety was one of the major reasons identified as a barrier to the use of active transport in our study
- Much greater state government resources are needed for building separated cycle paths and walking paths, to reflect the need for a change towards more low-impact and healthier forms of travel, away from the private vehicle, particularly in light of the urgency for addressing global climate change - poor infrastructure was identified as the other major barrier to the use of active transport
- Integration of cycling infrastructure with existing roads and pathways, to reflect the needs of cycling commuters and recreational cyclists over long distances - much of the existing infrastructure is piecemeal
- Improving awareness of the infrastructure that is already in place, including pathways and linkages - through the use of signage, the media, tourism operators, local governments, bicycle businesses and web-sites
- A cycling media/promotion campaign, to highlight the environmental and health benefits of active transport, cyclists' right to be on the road and the expectation that cyclists will be treated with respect by other road users
- Allow politicians and senior public servants to lead by example by providing a bicycle and a helmet instead of a car
- Greater penalties for motorists who collide with cyclists
- Questions to be included in the drivers licence test on how to deal with cyclists and pedestrians to maintain their safety

Thank you for the opportunity to take part in this planning process.

Jill Merrin

Community Environmental Health Officer, Healthy Cities Illawarra
jillm@healthyillawarra.org.au, Ph 02 4226 5000, Fax 02 4226 5339,
www.healthyillawarra.org.au

"Healthy Cities Illawarra is a community-based, non-profit organisation that is part of a worldwide movement initiated by the World Health Organisation. We are committed to continued improvement of the health, environment and quality of life of the Illawarra community."