

17th November, 2014.

**To: The Hon. Stephen Mullighan,
Minister for Transport and Infrastructure
GPO Box 1533,
Adelaide SA 5001.**

Dear Minister,

Re: South Australia's need for an effective Statewide Bicycle Strategy & Network Plan.

As you will be aware, the **Port Adelaide Bicycle Users Group (PortBUG)** has been promoting improved provision for everyday, utility and recreational bicycle use for many years. Our focus has been on cycling for:

- daily personal transport - commuting to work and education, access to shops and service centres, business, economic activity and service provision
- social access and community participation
- access to recreation, fitness and sporting activities.

We have been especially concerned with those issues that bear directly on enabling **Active Mobility** for all - *across* the socioeconomic and cultural spectrum and *across all* ages and levels of ability. Our agenda is inherently focused on improved outcomes for social equity, economic resilience and local business activity, as well as issues more directly concerned with access to cycling facilities and infrastructure.

We write to express concern at the current lack of an overall cycling strategy or plan for South Australia. We are aware that '**Safety in Numbers**' - SA's previous bicycle strategy - 'expired' several years ago, and that since then both state and local government as well as the community have essentially been 'flying blind' with little or no guidance or consensus with regard to:

- building shared community understanding of the possibilities and benefits of Active Mobility
- development of an *integrated, connected* and *longer term* 'network plan' across *all* of Adelaide's metro area
- the roles and obligations of state government bodies, local government and in particular, for local communities and their engagement with everyday transport issues.

The PortBUG strongly believes that it is the role of a 'state bicycle plan' to meet the community's need for such understanding, consensus, guidance and engagement. Over many years we have learned that a long-term and shared view of infrastructure development and social change is essential. Projects such as the development of the **Adelaide Greenway Network** will be the work of years and probably several changes of government. It follows that to sustain the vision, motivation and effort required, both community and government need a longterm and broadly-based network plan if such major projects are to be realised.

We are also concerned that:

- in terms of its original design, intentions, function and outcomes, 'Safety in Numbers' does not appear to have been reviewed or evaluated
- that today the SA community remains no closer to a commonly shared view of a *more actively mobile future* than it was in 2008 when 'Safety in Numbers' was published
- that government itself appears no closer to an 'embedded', universal and indeed *bipartite* commitment to Active Mobility as a primary strategy in transport system development.

Essentially the PortBUG believes that the S.A. community deserves a broadly-supported and consistent approach to the development of secure bicycle facilities. We believe that Greenways and similar Active Mobility facilities should be considered as 'essential community infrastructure' just as roads, railways and drainage are.

We believe that Active Mobility – of which bicycle use is a key component – *must* also be recognised as a society-wide or universal social development imperative and not just the interest and preserve of a specific group of constituents. The research data tells us very clearly that Western societies - including South Australia's - are facing potentially overwhelming financial and social burdens of lifestyle disease, transport inequity and loss of social and economic participation, all directly attributable to either:

- a lack of sufficient daily physical activity throughout life *or...*
- a *lack of provision* for safe physical activity in the community.

As demonstrated at the recent Velocity conference here in Adelaide, *and* as clearly outlined in the Heart Foundation's 2013 '**Moving People 2030**' and its 2014 '**Move It: Australia's Healthy Transport Options**', the loss of daily physical activity from our lives *and* the lack of opportunity for *safe and secure* exercise in the course of daily routines should be of major concern to us all, and especially to those in Government!

PortBUG believes that at every level South Australia now urgently needs a clearly prescribed, long-term and well-founded *network plan* for development of bicycle provisions and active transport generally. Such a Network Plan needs to:

- embrace and add value to existing infrastructure
- identify opportunities and possibilities for major & *long-term* infrastructure development
- identify and connect all major trip destinations
- provide an overall Network Plan, identifying a functional hierarchy of route connectivity and design
- identify complementary roles for local and state government *and* for local communities in engaging with & implementing this Network Plan
- provide for all ages and levels of ability (the Dutch do this through the 'parallel' provision of *both* 'secure' and 'direct' route facilities to the same destination)
- be adopted as an on-going and long-term development process, capable of continued evolution as opportunities are presented.

Following Adelaide's hosting of **Velo-City 2014**, the PortBUG believes that SA now has an opportunity to demonstrate that bicycle use has an essential role to play in a modern transport system. On behalf of the Port community we ask that you ensure that South Australia is provided with the integrated bicycle strategy and network development plan that we need.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Powrie, Secretary,
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