



MEDIA RELEASE

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Projects make Canberra ‘the cycling capital’

Pedal Power ACT has welcomed funding in the 2008-09 ACT Budget which will go a long way toward making Canberra the ‘cycling capital’ of Australia. Specific cycling projects in the Budget include Jerrabomberra Wetlands path, on road cycle lanes on Cotter Road and cycle lanes on State Circle. In addition, cycle lanes will be included as part of roadworks on Tharwa Drive, Athllon Drive and Flemington Road.

Pedal Power spokesman, Tony Shields said cycling is booming in Canberra with Pedal Power’s cordon count finding the number of people cycling into Civic is up 48% over the last four years, ‘We need to build on that momentum to get the most out of cycling.’

Mr Shields said building a cycle path through the Jerrabomberra Wetlands is necessary to complete the cycle path around Lake Burley Griffin and make one of the best half day cycle rides in Australia. ‘Riding around Lake Burley is one of the iconic things to do in Canberra, this will make it even better,’ said Mr Shields.

Pedal Power welcomed cycle lanes on Cotter Road which will mean quick, safe cycling between Weston Creek/Stromlo Forest Park and Civic/the Parliamentary Triangle. ‘The cycle facilities at Stromlo Forest Park have boosted the popularity of cycling in Canberra, but a safe connection out to the Park was sorely needed,’ said Mr Shields.

Mr Shields said the Budget provided money for signing Canberra’s cycle paths though more was needed. ‘If we are serious about cycling we have to sign our cycle paths. Anybody who uses our cycle paths has experienced the frustration of coming to an intersection and wondering where to go because there are no signs. It encourages people to drive rather than cycle.’

Mr Shields described signage as ‘a permanent marketing program’. It provides people with the knowledge and security that they can get where they need to go without being late or getting lost.’ Mr Shields noted on the Sullivan’s Creek cycle path where directional signage was installed in 2007, Pedal Power’s cordon count had found a 30% increase in people cycling between 2006 and 2008.

Pedal Power also welcomed funding for a cycle path between the Bushfire Memorial and the Stromlo Forest Park, a feasibility study for a bike chairlift at Stromlo Forest Park and for bicycle lockers at Mawson.

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