



# Bikes on Buses at risk of failure

In November 2005 the ACT Government introduced bike racks on buses. Unfortunately not all buses have racks though and the Government has been putting racks on buses as new buses were bought and pledged to have racks on all buses by 2012. In 2010 the Government bought 26 extra-long Stear-tag buses. We have been in contact with the Chief Minister's office and the Department of Territory and Municipal Services (18 August 2010) who have told us these may not be able to be fitted with bike racks because of their extra length. If this is the case it would seriously undermine the Bike'n'Ride scheme. This is because these extra-long buses would be used on the Inter-Town Routes which are the only routes where ACTION currently guarantees bikes will have racks see

[http://www.action.act.gov.au/bike\\_n\\_ride.html](http://www.action.act.gov.au/bike_n_ride.html)

You can express your concern by emailing the Minister for Transport, Jon Stanhope, and the relevant Liberal (Alistair Coe) and Greens Shadow Ministers (Caroline Le Couteur). [Stanhope@act.gov.au](mailto:Stanhope@act.gov.au), [Coe@act.gov.au](mailto:Coe@act.gov.au), [LeCouteur@act.gov.au](mailto:LeCouteur@act.gov.au)

Below are statements on the fitting of bike racks to all ACTION buses. Attached is our media release

1. at <http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/downloads/issues-papers/Stanhope%20Transport%202010.pdf>  
Jon Stanhope "All [ACTION] buses that can accommodate racks will be fitted by the end of 2012"

2. The edited below from <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2009/pdfs/20090915.pdf>

We are continuing the highly successful and highly used bike racks on buses initiative. All of ACTION's new clean diesel buses will have bike racks, giving Canberrans greater sustainable transport options.....

.....To help meet this target, the government committed \$49.5 million in the 2008-09 budget for a fleet replacement program to be rolled out over the next three financial years to acquire 100 new accessible buses. The introduction of the new MAN Euro 5 clean diesel bus brings the government close to that DDA target.

In addition, the 74 low-floor buses are fully accessible and, as they roll out, will become a welcome addition to the fleet. And the 26 Scania steer tag buses also to be rolled out over the next two years as part of the fleet replacement program will be fully accessible low-floor buses.

3. John Hargreaves "ultimately there will be bike racks on all buses"  
<http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2007/week13/3825.htm>

4. The ACT Assembly Select Estimates Committee was told by ACTION that all buses would be fitted with racks- see para 7.98 at this link  
[http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/downloads/reports/Estimate09\\_Volume1and2.pdf](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/downloads/reports/Estimate09_Volume1and2.pdf)

5. The Canberra Times was told by ACTION that all new buses would have racks  
<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/news/local/news/general/services-cut-despite-unused-buses/1913881.aspx>

6. ABC news report specifically saying the same thing  
<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2008/08/15/2336986.htm>



# MEDIA RELEASE

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20 August 2010

## **Bike racks on buses at risk of failure**

Canberra cycling group, Pedal Power, today warned that the ACT Government's bike'n'ride scheme is at risk of failure if all buses are not fitted with bike racks. The warning comes after ACTION recently purchased extra-long 26 Steer-tag buses which would be outside the standard legal length for rigid vehicles if bike racks were fitted to them.

Pedal Power spokesman, Tony Shields, said he understood that the ACT Government was working to ensure that the buses could be fitted with racks. 'It is essential that all buses be fitted with racks so that people know that when a bus turns up they can put a bike on it. You don't need a marketing degree to know if the reverse occurs, people won't use the service. Who would stand around on a wet night wondering if a rack might be on a bus sometime soon?'

The Steer-tag buses were specifically bought for the high volume inter-town routes. Mr Shields said that this was ironic as ACTION's website specifically states that the inter-town routes were the only routes that ACTION guaranteed that buses would be fitted with bike racks. 'Pedal Power supports public transport but it is a major step backwards for one government initiative to increase sustainable transport while undermining another.'

Mr Shields said the bike'n'ride scheme had been introduced in November 2005 by Minister, Simon Corbell. 'Pedal Power has supported the scheme since then, though it was troubled at its beginning from not having enough buses fitted with racks. Patronage has dramatically picked up as more buses have been fitted with racks. However still not all buses have racks and this seriously undermines patronage because only on the inter-town routes does ACTION guarantee racks with buses.'

'As new buses were being bought they were being fitted with bike racks and we were looking forward to the day when all buses had racks and people could turn up safe in the knowledge that if the bus was there it would have a bike rack. We hope the issues with the new buses can be sorted out so patronage can be maximized and Canberra and the ACT Government can gain the full benefit from bike racks on buses.'

Mr Shields said buses with bike racks were common in many cities along the West Coast of America, including Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles. 'If it works in the California, the most car-centric place in the world, it will work in Canberra.'

Mr Shields said Pedal Power is hopeful of a good outcome. 'The Government has invested a lot of time and money into this sustainable transport initiative, and gained public support for it, so that is a good reason to get it right and keep that support'.

Pedal Power has over 3000 members and its mission is 'More Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community'.

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