



MEDIA RELEASE

6 May 2009

Budget will get more Canberrans cycling – though State Circle cycle lanes slip

Pedal Power ACT has welcomed the 2009-10 ACT Budget which contains \$9.3 million for new capital works over four years and \$6.4 million over years for maintenance of cycling facilities.

Pedal Power spokesman, Tony Shields, said the funding honours commitments made in the Labor-Greens government agreement signed in November last year.

‘It is excellent to see the commitment by the Government to get more Canberrans cycling, more often, being honoured, not only in the 2009/10 Budget but also the next three years. This is the biggest commitment any ACT Government has made to cycling and is a credit to the Government and The Greens.

Mr Shields said Pedal Power cordon counts have found a 48% increase in the number of people cycling into Civic over the last five years and this funding will keep that momentum growing.

‘A government that makes it easier to cycle is a government that is helping people to look after their health and save money on petrol. Also, we all benefit from less car parking demand, cleaner air and less greenhouse gas emissions.

In the immediate future, the capital works funding will go to build projects including cycle lanes on Ginninderra Drive and Barry Drive and cycle paths along Mouat St, Hackett and at The Causeway. ‘The Causeway project is particularly important. It will provide an important link in the Lake Burley Griffin cycle path and make this ride into the best half day cycle ride in Australia,’ said Mr Shields.

Mr Shields said the disappointment was that funding provided in the 2008/09 Budget for cycle lanes on State Circle had been moved back to the 2009/10 Budget because of delays with the NCA getting the project designed and planned.

Pedal Power says maintenance funding of paths is necessary to maintain Canberra’s cycle paths as the best in Australia. ‘Canberra has a great cycle path network, however in some places it is literally crumbling away. This funding will ensure our cycle paths continue to be the envy of our cities,’ said Mr Shields

‘This funding will further cement Canberra as Australia’s cycling capital,’ said Mr Shields.

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