



More Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community

MEDIA RELEASE

8 April 2011

Cycling into Civic up 64% in seven years

The number of people cycling into Civic has increased 64% over the past seven years according to the latest count by Canberra cycling group, Pedal Power ACT.

The results are from the most recent “cordon count” conducted by Pedal Power volunteers who recorded 2,177 people cycling into Civic on Tuesday, 1 March 2011.

Pedal Power Executive Officer John Armstrong said cycling numbers continue to be strong, “While cycling numbers this year were comparable with 2010, the increase since 2004 shows a consistent growth in bicycle usage in Canberra”.

The Pedal Power yearly cycling snapshot was the first of its kind in Australia. It began in 2004 when 1,329 people cycled into Civic.

While Mr Armstrong credits part of the increase to the continued hard work of the many Pedal Power volunteers in advocating and demonstrating how great bikes can be for Canberra, he also praised the leadership of some of the ACT’s politicians.

“There is no doubt that the ACT Government’s commitment to improvements in cycling facilities as part of the Sustainable Transport Plan is a major factor in the continuing increase in commuter cycling,” said Mr Armstrong.

“However, the work of the ACT Greens in promoting cycling has also been important, and Pedal Power is really excited about the interest in promoting alternative transport shown by the new Federal Member for Fraser, Andrew Leigh”

“There is no doubt that people take to the bike to make a difference to the environment, but the most telling difference is to their health and their wallet. Cycling saves your wallet and your waistline. It means happier, healthier and wealthier Canberrans” added Mr Armstrong.

Pedal Power ACT Inc is supported by the ACT Government under the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program and by ACT Sport and Recreation Services



Looking for further improvement

The ACT Government has signalled their intention to continue to invest in modern bicycle infrastructure with the recent release of the Cycling and Pedestrian Priority Infrastructure Report prepared by the consultants Cardno Eppell Olsen.

“The ACT Government should commit new funding in this year’s Budget to commence development of the Civic Cycle Loop, which their own report suggests is justified” John Armstrong said.

“A project like the Civic Cycle Loop – where for the first time we would have genuine second generation or European style cycle infrastructure in Canberra – would not only draw people out of their cars and reduce the pressure on our roads, but it would really put Canberra on the map as a cycle friendly city – the true cycling capital of Australia.”

Background

Pedal Power conducts a count of all entries into Civic by using 31 volunteers to 'cordon' off the Civic boundaries to count cyclists. The same method has been used since 2004. Since this time, Bicycle Victoria has adopted similar methods to also conduct counts in Melbourne, and similar counts are conducted in early March in all other capital cities.

The busiest locations recorded into Civic were Commonwealth Ave Bridge (606 bicycles), McCaughey St cycle path - Turner (292), Watson St cycle path - Turner (278), Lake Burley Griffin (western) bike path (256), and Northbourne Ave (224). One bicycle was counted every two seconds entering or leaving the cordon.

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