



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**23 September 2004**

### **One year on – crossing still dangerous!**

Canberra cycling group, Pedal Power, has called on the Liberal and Labor parties to give a firm commitment to build a cycling and walking underpass near Russell Roundabout.

Mr Shields said an underpass is clearly needed near the roundabout to allow cyclists, joggers and walkers to access Lake Burley Griffin from the Russell Defence complex. Currently, people have to run across four lanes of traffic on Parkes Way travelling at 80km/h to reach Lake Burley Griffin.

‘Just over a year ago, 100 Defence employees met on-site with Senator Gary Humphries to ask for the underpass to be built and still there is no definite agreement on whether the underpass will be built. Let’s hope someone does not have to be injured, or killed, before action occurs’, said Mr Shields.

‘The political parties seem willing to throw lots of money at Defence, but they don’t seem willing to spend the money to make things safe for Defence personnel who want to exercise at lunchtime or cycle to work,’ said Mr Shields.

An agreement had been reached between the Federal Government and the ACT Government to jointly fund the project. Mr Shields said Senator Humphries was a keen supporter of the project and had secured Black Spots funding for the project, but more funds were needed from the Federal Government to complete its share of the funding and none were made available in its 2004-05 Budget.

The ACT Government did not specifically fund the project in its 2004-05 Budget but there were funds allocated to complete missing links in Canberra’s cycling and walking networks and Pedal Power has discussed with Roads ACT funding the underpass using these funds.

A 2001 report by engineers, RD Gossip Pty Ltd, found the case for the underpass ‘compelling’.

Pedal Power has over 1600 members and its mission is ‘More Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community’.

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