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More Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community

MEDIA RELEASE

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Canberra at the forefront of cycling participation

According to new figures released today by Austroads and The Australian Bicycle Council, the ACT leads Australia in adult cycling and in bicycle ownership. In the ACT 19% of adults aged 18-39 ride in a typical week, more than any other region in Australia. Overall nearly 50% of Canberrans cycle each year and 22% do it every week. These figures compare favourably against national figures of about 40% and 18%.

Pedal Power spokesman Matt Larkin commented: "It's great to see the figures show what we already know – Canberrans love to ride their bikes. Canberra has some great infrastructure for cycling and a lot of keen Canberrans using it. This survey backs up Pedal Power's annual "cordon count" which found that the number of people cycling into Civic during the week has increased 64% over the last 7 years."

Canberra commuters were also near the top of the cycling pile with 9.5% of ACT residents riding for transport each week, against a national average of just 5.5%. Mr Larkin said: "Canberrans know cycling is a great way to get where you want to go, get healthy, and get your petrol bill down, all at the same time." Mr Larkin also invited Canberrans to come along and celebrate this achievement with the upcoming Ride to Work Day free breakfast event being held in Glebe Park on 12 October between 7am and 9am.

The ACT did not lead the way in every aspect of cycling participation however, there is a dramatic drop in the levels of riders over 40 and our levels of children cycling are much closer to the average.

As Matt Larkin points out: "At Pedal Power we are doing what we can to improve these levels with a Ride2School scheme and a New Horizons programme that aims to build the confidence of female and senior riders. But we still think more can be done, and that means better infrastructure to get more Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community."

In 2007, the ACT Government set an aim as part of the Sustainable Transport Plan to have at least 5 per cent of all trips in Canberra made by bicycle by 2011. In March 2011 the then Chief Minister Jon Stanhope announced a target of 14% of all journeys to work to be undertaken by walking or cycling by 2016.

Media inquiries: Matt Larkin 0450 879947

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



Background

The survey was carried out as part of National Cycling Strategy 2011-2016 which has objective of doubling cycling participation. The survey results and associated factsheets are available at:

http://www.cyclingresourcecentre.org.au/post/national_cycling_participation_survey

Pedal Power's 2030 Vision

<http://www.pedalpower.org.au/advocacy/docs/vision%202030%20update%20tri-fold%20v05.pdf>

Budget 2011-12 Transport Infrastructure Allocation

http://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget_2011/files/press/02_press.pdf

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