



MEDIA RELEASE

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Bikes outsell vehicles for the sixth year running

Canberra cycling group Pedal Power has welcomed figures showing that for the sixth consecutive year more bicycles have been sold in Australia than motor vehicles.

Pedal Power spokesman, Tony Shields, said the figures showed the increasing popularity of cycling and that Canberra was part of that trend.

'In Canberra we've certainly noticed increased numbers of people cycling and our cordon count of people cycling into Civic and ANU in March last year showed a 12% increase on the previous year,' said Mr Shields.

Figures show that in 2005, 1.1 million bicycles were sold in Australia compared to 988,269 cars. This is the fourth year that bicycle sales have topped 1 million.

Mr Shields said there were a number of factors behind the increased popularity of cycling.

'Cycling offers something for everyone. It is a gentle form of exercise that doesn't involve pounding the pavement. Families can do it together. You can cycle competitively or non-competitively. There's mountain biking, road racing, BMX, cycle touring or simply just going out on the weekend for a ride,' said Mr Shields.

Commuting by bicycle has particularly increased with the rise in petrol prices prompting people to get on their bike. 'Whinging about petrol prices doesn't make you feel better, but going for a bike ride does,' said Mr Shields.

Mr Shields said that the ACT Government had been encouraging people to cycle more with more cycle lanes, a new cycle map and bike racks on buses launched last year. To further increase cycling Mr Shields said the missing gaps in Canberra's cycle network need to be filled in, including signing cycle paths.

'Canberra has over 350km of cycle paths, however, much of it is not signposted. Signage is a smart way to increase leverage of an existing asset and increasing cycling,' said Mr Shields.

New bicycle parking guidelines for commercial buildings, expected to be released early this year, will also help increase cycling.

Pedal Power has over 1500 members and its mission is 'More Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community'.

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Year	Motor vehicles *	Bicycles **	Bikes' lead
2000	787,100	926,924	+ 17%
2001	772,681	774,938	+0.3 %
2002	824,309	1,109,736	+ 34 %
2003	909,811	1,003,844	+ 10 %
2004	955,229	1,247,981	+ 30 %
2005	988,269	1,120,337***	+ 13 %
* VFACTS figures. ** Australian Customs figures. *** End-of-year estimate.			