



MEDIA RELEASE

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Pedal Power welcomes commitment to build underpass

Canberra cycling group, Pedal Power, has warmly welcomed yesterday's commitment by the ACT Government to fund its share of the cost of a walking and cycling underpass near Russell Roundabout.

Pedal Power spokesman, Tony Shields said an underpass is needed near the Russell roundabout to allow the 5000 employees at Russell to access Lake Burley Griffin without having to run across four lanes of traffic on Parkes Way travelling at 80km/h.

Mr Shields said, 'The Minister for Urban Services, John Hargreaves is congratulated for recognising the need for the underpass to encourage safe walking and cycling. The underpass is also consistent with the Government's Sustainable Transport Plan to increase cycling and walking.'

Mr Shields said the ACT Government can get the underpass built at one third of the total cost because an agreement has been reached with the Department of Defence and National Capital Authority to jointly fund it.

The ACT's funding requirement for the underpass would be around \$820,000 compared to an estimated cost of around \$2.4 million if the ACT was to build the underpass on its own, said Mr Shields.

Mr Shields said the only negative was that, this stage, ACT funding for the underpass will be spread over the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years meaning that it could be some 18 months before the underpass is built.

Mr Shields said the underpass had been recommended in two engineering reports and is consistent with the Burley Griffin vision of increasing Canberrans' interaction with Lake Burley Griffin. It was also noted as one of Canberra's Top 15 Missing Cycle Links in Canberra in a recent Government report.

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

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