



Ecological Sustainability - Social Justice - Peace and Non-violence - Grassroots Democracy

Paul French
Brisbane Central Business District Bicycle User Group
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16 August 2010

Dear Paul

Thanks very much for your letter regarding government support for cycling.

The Greens concur with your frustration that successive federal governments have failed to invest in cycling infrastructure, in spite of the now well-understood environmental and social benefits, while spending tens of billions on infrastructure for motorists.

In addition to this lack of interest from the federal government, we are concerned that Infrastructure Australia, whose job it is to make decisions about major infrastructure spending, is not receiving high quality proposals for sustainable transport solutions.

For this reason we have drafted legislation - the **Safe Climate (Sustainable Transport Infrastructure) Bill**, which assigns to Infrastructure Australia a new role to:

- develop and implement a national sustainable transport strategy;
- assess and prioritise proposals for sustainable transport projects and infrastructure;
- provide advice on policies and laws relating to sustainable transport projects and infrastructure; and
- to encourage investment in sustainable transport infrastructure.

Key priorities will be:

- national transition planning for a carbon constrained economy, in accordance with national greenhouse targets and mid range assessments of global oil supplies;
- prioritising electrification of the Australian land transport sector;
- the establishment of an independent expert advisory committee on sustainable transport to assist with the development of the national transport strategy and to develop lists that prioritise transport projects and infrastructure needs; and
- a scoping study for a National Very Fast Train link to provide an alternative to commuting by air which will eventually link Australia's major metropolitan centres.

You can read more about this, and another eleven of the Greens 'Safe Climate' bills at www.safecclimatebill.org.au.

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Authorised by Ebony Bennett, Australian Greens, Canberra

With respect to unsafe road conditions, we would certainly be willing to consider a review of the Australian Road Rules and would welcome more information about the ARR's pro-car bias, as well as examples of better rules in other countries.

You might also be interested to know that in June, Australian Greens Deputy Leader, Senator Christine Milne, was awarded an Honourable Mention in the Australian Bicycling Achievement Awards in the Award for Contribution towards Cycling by a Politician. The award recognises Senator Milne and the Greens' success in negotiating the \$40 million National Bike Paths Fund during negotiations for the federal stimulus package - the largest ever direct federal investment in cycling.

Senator Milne said at the time "the Greens were very pleased to be able to deliver this historic investment for cyclists through the stimulus package and I thank Minister Albanese, joint winner of this Honourable Mention, for his cooperation. Helping more Australians get on their bikes instead of into cars is good for all of us - good for our health, our air, our infrastructure and our climate. The community is clearly leading governments, with Australians of all ages getting into cycling for the enjoyment and health benefits as well as social and environmental reasons. In an age of climate change, obesity and peak oil, governments have to take the community's lead and make cycling as easy as possible."

Yours sincerely

Emma Bull
on behalf of the Australian Greens