



# Pedal Power ACT Inc.

8 April 2008

Committee Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on the National Capital and External Territories  
Department of House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

## **NCA and Bowen Drive Pedestrian Crossing**

We submit the below to the inquiry into the role of the National Capital Authority

Pedal Power has been concerned about safety of the pedestrian crossing of Bowen Drive near the National Gallery for over 5 years. Other groups share these concerns:

- Mr Spokes at Acton Ferry Terminal bicycles is concerned for the school groups which it hires bikes to
- ACT Cross Country Club is concerned because of the danger for runners
- Walking groups are concerned because of the danger of the crossing

"Canberra's Cycling Network: Priorities for Capital Works", a 2007 report which Roads ACT uses to prioritise its cycling capital works expenditure, lists it as the number one priority in the ACT.

Last year we contacted the NCA when we heard they would redesign Bowen Drive for an entrance to the National Gallery. Kip Tanner of Pedal Power spoke to Ken Gibson of the NCA in two phone calls and was told we would be consulted while the project was being designed so we could work with them to make the crossing safer. We left phone and email messages to take up this offer, but now the project has largely been completed, without any input from us. There have been some changes on the ground – the road has been narrowed at the crossing to a single lane of both sides which makes the time spent on the road shorter. However we still understandably feel like we have been lead up the garden path somewhat.

For the past five years, the NCA has been reluctant to do major work here because of its long term plans to "grass over" the section of Bowen Drive that goes under Kings Ave Bridge and make a major intersection at King Edward Terrace/Kings Avenue. However in the event, this has meant nothing has been done.

We have also some concerns about cycling facilities in the Parliamentary Triangle linking in with the rest of Canberra.

Yours sincerely

Tony Shields  
Volunteer Advocacy Team Leader  
Pedal Power ACT  
'More Canberrans cycling, more often, for a better community'

