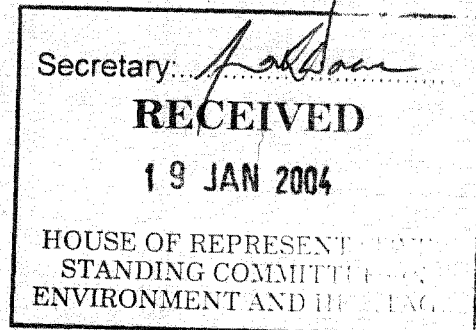


16 January 2004

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Environment and Heritage
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Bicycle Federation of Australia Inc
ABN 49 052 182 081



Inquiry into Sustainable Cities

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Bicycle Federation of Australia Inc (the BFA) is a national peak body of state, territory and regional cycling groups that promotes cycling for recreation, transportation and tourism, and lobbies for better cycling facilities. Our member groups are listed on our website: www.bfa.asn.au

One of our member groups is Bicycle New South Wales (BNSW). I understand that BNSW has made a submission to the Inquiry, dated 31 October 2003.

The BFA would like to support the BNSW submission and make the following points:

- Large Australian cities are becoming more unhealthy places with high levels of obesity (1) and greater reliance on private motor vehicles.
- Private motor vehicles make a significant contribution to air pollution and greenhouse gases (2,3,4)
- The infrastructure required for the private motor vehicle is extensive. Up to one third of Sydney's 'available' public land is taken up by motor vehicles through road space, parking, and areas to support motor vehicles (5).
- Poor land use and transport planning practices contribute to the development of transport systems which are not sustainable and which discourage physical activity (6).
- Programs such as TravelSmart (7,8) can result in a large increase in cycling and other sustainable transport modes (walking and public transport) and a reduction in private vehicle use
- Increasing the use of sustainable transport modes results in communities that are healthier, more 'neighbourly', more equitable and more sustainable.

We would welcome the opportunity to make a short verbal presentation to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Rod Katz
President
BFA

References:

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4. Commonwealth of Australia, *The National Greenhouse Strategy*, 1998, Australian Greenhouse Office: Canberra.
5. Bicycle New South Wales, *Submission to House of Representatives, Environment and Heritage Committee, Inquiry into Sustainable Cities 2025*, 31 October 2003.
6. Frank, Lawrence D; Engelke, Peter O; Schmid, Thomas L, 2003, 'Health and Community Design: The Impacts of the Built Environment on Physical Activity', Island Press; May
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7. Department of Transport Western Australia, *TravelSmart; A cost effective contribution to transport infrastructure*, 2000.
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