

Ms Fran Bailey
Committee Secretariat
Standing Committee on Primary Industries
and Regional Services
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Thursday, 1 April 1999

Dear Ms Bailey,

I am enthusiastic cycling tourist. I have enjoyed extended cycling tours of Vietnam, South East Queensland, South Korea, Taiwan and Kansas, USA.

I actively look for attractive cycling holiday destinations, and have been disappointed by the lack of suitable opportunities in Australia. The inadequate planning for cycle tourism in Australia is surprising given that we are fortunate to have a beautiful country with excellent weather... fundamental requirements for a cycle tourism destination. It is even more surprising given that the international cycle touring market is so great.

In Australia, the high speeds, inadequate shoulders and heavy traffic on major roads can be intimidating for many cyclists. Until we have ordinary men, women and children able to ride with safety and confidence, cycletouring will remain a marginalised activity.

Minor roads tend to be poorly mapped, insufficiently signed and not always well networked for touring. It takes considerable expertise to plan a good bicycle tour in the absence of specific infrastructure.

With the closure of so many bridges on minor roads, cyclists can be faced with a long and time-consuming detour, often with no advance warning. It is vital that disused road (and rail) bridges be maintained as thoroughfares for cyclists and walkers.

Bicycle touring is a highly sustainable form of tourism. Bicycle tourists are good spenders and encouraging them is very cost-effective.

Bicycles are also very efficient transport for everyday short trips and networks of bicycle paths can contribute a lot to improving community fitness, and the wellbeing of the community itself.

Rail systems and cycling networks complement each other and should be planned with this in mind.

I urge you to consider the development of a **NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE NETWORK**.

Yours sincerely



Linda Carmody

Linda Carmody
37 Dutton Street
Coolangatta 4225
Ph: 07 55368 198
Mobile: 0419 783 890
Email: lcarmody@bigpond.com