

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

Dear Ms Bailey,

I am writing in support of the development of a National Cycle Route Network. The major issues in support of such a development are :

* the issue of sustainable and environmentally friendly transport systems for the population at large, is becoming increasingly urgent. Cycling is well recognised as a desirable alternative to motor vehicle use, and can be utilised in conjunction with other forms of public transport if well planned. Good cycle routes would encourage people to abandon their motor vehicle in favour of bicycles, as they will promote greater convenience and safety for commuters.

* the health benefits of cycling are well recognised as an antedote to the increasing health issues of obesity and cardiovascular disease associated with lack of exercise within the population. However, the increased hazards associated with cycling are a deterrent. Such hazards are associated with bicycles having to compete with motor vehicles for space on the already crowded roads. Such hazards can be dramatically reduced by well planned networks of cycling routes that give bicycles a "place to be", such as is afforded to pedestrians and drivers of motor vehicles. Increased cycling will result in increased health and wellbeing of the population and their environment.

* The interest in cycle touring holidays is increasing internationally. Australia should be promoting this form of holiday actively as a means of attracting more tourists to the country. However, tourists need to be assured that they can have a relaxing and enjoyable holiday in safety. The recent deaths of two overseas cyclists touring around Australia is a great deterrent to potential cycling tourists. These deaths resulted from the unsatisfactory and dangerous mixing of Road Trains and cyclists. This again reinforces that cyclists are simply not given a valid 'place to be' in our transport system. While this remains the case, it is simply too dangerous for most cyclists to take the risk of taking to the open road for a touring holiday. Consequently Australia misses out on valuable tourist dollars. As researched by Tourism Victoria (Hopkins, 1999) cycle tourists spend on average the same as Backpackers of about \$59 per day, but stay much longer than other tourists,

thereby spending about twice as much. The provision of an interesting and safe cycle route network would promote the safety and enjoyment available to cycle tourists in Australia.

There are many arguments in favour of developing a National Cycle Route, of which I have only presented the three I consider to be most significant. I strongly support the development of such a network, and urge you to do as well. Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely,

Pam Dean
Lecturer
School of Occupational Therapy
University of South Australia
PO Box 2471
Adelaide SA 5001
Australia
ph +61 8 8302 2487
fax + 61 8 8302 2645
E mail : pam.dean@unisa.edu.au