

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

RE:National Bicycle Routes

I am writing to demonstrate support for National Bicycle Routes. Dubbo is a regional area in Western NSW with a population of around 38,000 people. Over the last couple of years we have monitored the use of an off road cycle and pedestrian path that runs along the Macquarie River in Dubbo.

This path is used almost 2000 times every week. In 1997, 12% of users of the path were visitors to Dubbo, and in 1999 9% of users were visitors to Dubbo. Both measurement periods occurred during school term (so we were not expecting to see many visitors at all). This facility was described by those surveyed as 'terrific', 'friendly', 'beautiful' (and about eighty other glowing terms). I was surprised the path was used by so many visitors, and many of them indicated they would be back again, and that it was a terrific spot for a stop over.

So while this is a little anecdotal, there is evidence here to suggest that supporting cycling facilities will encourage tourism and stopovers in regional areas.

If you would like a copy of the report, just let me know.

thanks,

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