

## Health, bike riding and the Bicycle Victoria purpose

### Explanatory memorandum for a special resolution to change the constitution at the 2009 Annual General Meeting of Bicycle Victoria.

The recent September Health survey confirms past feedback from members on the strong connection they see between health and our purpose to get *More People Cycling More Often*:

- Members report that bike riding provides a significant health benefit in their lives; many say they would be unlikely to reach their physical activity goals if they were unable to ride
- Members are physically active to a level well beyond the minimum recommended by the government.

(Search 'health' on [www.bv.com.au](http://www.bv.com.au))

Looking at our society:

- Members recognise the problem our community has with diseases that are caused by inadequate physical activity
- Members think that raising the level of physical activity in the community would be a positive factor in disease prevention
- Members support strong efforts by government to increase physical activity in the community, recognising that this will bring many other benefits in addition to better community health.

The Board of Bicycle Victoria recognises and values the many individual and societal benefits individual and societal benefits that come from an increased level of bike riding that come from an increased level of bike riding including a better environment, improved transport system and more friendly neighbourhoods.

In the view of the Board the strong connection between bike riding and health has not been given appropriate prominence in the high level statements made by Bicycle Victoria.

Over 2009 the Board has been developing high level statements that confirm the link between Bicycle Victoria's purpose and the resulting health benefits including:

- Our visionary picture is 'We want everyone to experience that life is better on a bike'
- Our aim is to measurably grow the 'cycling world' through *More People Cycling More Often*
- Our ultimate milestone is to make riding a cultural norm so we have healthy people in a healthy society.

In order to strengthen the organisation's ability to pursue its purpose Bicycle Victoria is applying for formal status as a health promotion charity. This application is being reviewed by the Tax Office.

This status will allow us, among other advantages, to increase the number of revenue streams that support our purpose. For example with this status members will be able to make tax deductible donations to campaigns, programs and projects. The organisation will be able to apply to philanthropic trusts. (Search 'charity' on [www.bv.com.au](http://www.bv.com.au))

The Board believes it is appropriate to reflect the strong connection with health in our formal constitutional purpose. We are determined to continue, however, the familiar priorities and activities of the organisation as well as the means by which we achieve our purpose

which include working for better bicycle infrastructure, running behaviour change programs, putting on major bike riding events and providing member services and information.

The Board is asking members to approve a change in our constitution that indicates unambiguously to the wider community that by pursuing *More People Cycling More Often* we are working towards healthier people in a healthy society.

Our legal advisers have recommended that the purpose be amended to:

*The purpose of the association is to promote the health of the community through the prevention and control of disease by "More People Cycling More Often"*

This wording is consistent with our application to the Tax Office.

We have also been recommended to make two other minor changes which are described overleaf in the Notice of special resolutions for the meeting.

The following people have written letters of support for our application to change our status to health promotion charity.

**The Hon Bronwyn Pyke** MLA

**The Hon Kevin Andrews** MP

**The Hon Lindsay Tanner** MP

**Mark Birrell**

Chairman of Infrastructure Partnerships Australia, Cabinet Minister in the Kennett Government

**Louise Baur** MBBS(Hons), BSc(Med), PhD, FRACP

Professor, Discipline of Paediatrics & Child Health, University of Sydney; Director, NSW Centre for Overweight & Obesity; Consultant Paediatrician, The Children's Hospital at Westmead

**Wendy Brown**

Professor – Physical Activity and Health, School of Human Movement Studies, The University of Queensland

**Greg Davies**

Chief Executive, Diabetes Australia Victoria

**Professor Tim Olds**

School of Health Sciences, Physical Education, Exercise and Sport Studies, University of South Australia

**Neville Owen**

Professor of Health Behaviour; Director Cancer Prevention Research Centre, The University of Queensland

**Dr Chris Rissel**

Director, Health Promotion Service; Associate Professor, School of Public Health, University of Sydney

**Associate Professor Jo Salmon**

Centre for Physical Activity and Nutrition Research, Deakin University

**Graeme Sloman**

Emeritus Director of Cardiology, Royal Melbourne Hospital; Emeritus Director of Cardiology, Epworth Hospital; President, Zone I, Asian Pacific Congress of Cardiology

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

Melbourne Town Hall, Yarra Room

7pm Monday 16 November 2009

The 34th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Bicycle Victoria will be held at 7.00pm on Monday 16 November 2009 at the Yarra Room, Melbourne Town Hall (cnr Swanston and Collins streets). (Search '2009 AGM' on [www.bv.com.au](http://www.bv.com.au))

We welcome all members to attend the AGM. We ask members who are attending to RSVP to enable us to order refreshments. Please RSVP by close of business Monday 9 November by calling (03) 8636 8888 or use the contact form on the front page of the website and put 'AGM RSVP' in the subject.

We encourage members to submit questions in writing. We will answer at the Annual General Meeting all questions submitted in writing by close of business Friday 16 October. Please use the contact form on the front page of the website and put 'AGM Question' in the subject.

We will accept questions submitted at the meeting but may not be able to answer them at the meeting. Answers to questions submitted in writing to the Annual General Meeting will be published on the website with other questions submitted in writing.

### Formal Agenda

- 7.00 \* Welcome  
Apologies  
Confirmation of the minutes of the 2008 AGM
- 7.15 Chief Executive Officer's Report
- 7.30 President's Report
- 7.45 Financial Report
- 8.00 Special resolutions
- 8.15 Volunteer recognition
- 8.30 Questions & Answers
- 9.00 Announcement of Board election results and introduction of new Board Members
- 9.15 Meeting close

*\* Timing after the start is indicative*

The annual report is available at [www.bv.com.au](http://www.bv.com.au)  
(Search: Annual Report).

## Notice of special resolutions

Notice is given that at the Annual General Meeting of Bicycle Victoria Incorporated ("the association") to be held on Monday 16 November 2009, it is intended that the following resolutions will be proposed as special resolutions:

1 That the purpose of the association be changed from  
*'More People Cycling More Often'*

To:  
*The purpose of the association is to promote the health of the community through the prevention and control of disease by "More People Cycling More Often"*

2 That in clause 63.3 a new subclause be added as follows:  
*"(d) is endorsed by the Commissioner of Taxation as a Deductible Gift Recipient."*;

And by inserting a new clause after clause 63.3 as follows:  
*"63.4 This clause must not be amended without the consent of the Commissioner of Taxation."*

These special resolutions together with the ordinary business will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting.

All current members are entitled to attend and vote and each member over 18 years old is entitled to one vote at the meeting.

If you can not vote in person, you are able to appoint another member as your proxy by giving notice to the Secretary, Bicycle Victoria by fax (03) 8636 8800 or mail (PO Box 426, Collins St West, VIC, 8007) no later than 5.00pm Friday 13 November 2009. A member can hold up to five proxy votes. The proxy vote form is available from the website [www.bv.com.au](http://www.bv.com.au) (Search: Proxy form).

### Bicycle Victoria 2009 Board election

This year three of the nine Board positions fall vacant after the three year terms expire. In addition a vacancy exists due the resignation of a director with a term of one year remaining. Enclosed with this issue of *Ride On* is a notice about the 2009 Bicycle Victoria Board election. To go to the election page at [www.bvboardelection.com.au](http://www.bvboardelection.com.au)