



**HON WILL HODGMAN MP**  
**LIBERAL LEADER**

12 March 2014

Emma Pharo  
Bicycle Tasmania  
GPO Box 1814  
Hobart TAS 7001  
Via email - [advocacy@biketas.org.au](mailto:advocacy@biketas.org.au)

Dear Ms Pharo

Thank you for your email of 3 March seeking responses from the Liberals on a range of issues of interest to your members.

I have pleasure in responding on behalf of all Liberal Members and Candidates.

We are happy to answer any supplementary questions, and would appreciate if our responses could be published in full, as written.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Will Hodgman'.

**Will Hodgman MP**  
**Liberal Leader**

**How have you supported and promoted bicycling for transport in the past?**

The benefits of cycling are well known - not only does it provide an excellent opportunity for exercise and the accompanying health and wellbeing benefits, but it also helps ease congestion on our roads, is an inexpensive and accessible way for Tasmanians to travel, and provides great opportunities for recreation and enjoyment of our towns, cities and natural environment.

We recognise that the right to safe usage on our roads is shared equally by motorists, motorcyclists and cyclists. It is crucial that all three groups are committed to each other's safety – a "them versus us" culture is unhelpful.

To this end, if elected, we have committed to task the Road Safety Advisory Council to design a strong marketing campaign based on "Sharing the Road" principles which will promote stronger respect, and care between all road users.

And we have also committed to refer the One Metre Rule legislative proposal put forward by the State Government to better protect cyclists to the Road Safety Advisory Council with the recommendation that a trial be considered if deemed to be practical, having regard to the specific nature of the Tasmanian road network.

New signage will also be developed for those Tasmanian roads popular with cyclists to warn motorists of heavy cyclist use in those areas. This will be funded from the Road Safety levy.

**Will you commit to ongoing funding to the Department of Sport and Recreation at current levels or higher? The Department of Sport and Recreation manages an ongoing allocation of \$1.5 million pa to the Trails and Bikeways program.**

We recognise that increasing the uptake of cycling will provide health and wellbeing benefits to cyclists, reduce traffic congestion, provide Tasmanians with an accessible and affordable way to get around as well as opportunities for recreation.

Today, we could not commit to increased financial support for greater funding beyond what has been allocated over the forward estimates. However, with a growing economy and fiscal discipline, we can commit to consulting with Bicycle Tasmania into the future to progress the issue of greater assistance.

**Will you commit to a NEW allocation of \$30 million to the PUCN program? Under the current Government there is in-principle support for the Principal Urban Cycling Networks program (PUCN) but no funding approval.**

We believe that the approach taken by previous governments to encouraging cycling has been ad-hoc. Although some bike focused infrastructure has been developed, there is no consistent, forward thinking approach for developing suitable infrastructure, which will facilitate and encourage more Tasmanians to take up and enjoy cycling.

We recognise that this largely disjointed network of bike friendly infrastructure is actually discouraging a greater uptake of cycling. You may be interested to know that we have committed to create a new, independent body called Infrastructure Tasmania to manage and invest in vital infrastructure including rail, major roads, energy, ports, and water and sewerage, if elected. The creation of Infrastructure Tasmania will take the politics out of infrastructure development, with decisions made based on what's in the long-term interests of Tasmania.

We cannot commit to a new allocation of \$30 million to the Principal Urban Cycling Networks program today. However, we can commit to consulting with Bicycle Tasmania in the future to progress the provision of more bicycle infrastructure, in the context of future budgets.

**If elected, would you participate in a bicycle round table event in mid 2014, held to gather key stakeholders to evaluate current and potential actions to keep riders safe?**

Although we have not to date received any approaches in relation to an annual professional development event around best practice, and could not today commit to a new funding allocation for this purpose, we would welcome any discussions with Bicycle Tasmania about this proposal moving forward.

**Will you support priority bicycling projects in your Electorate?**

**Several projects have been identified by our members as the most important in your electorate. They are: [http://www.biketas.org.au/facilities\\_projects](http://www.biketas.org.au/facilities_projects)**

We recognise the need to invest in bicycle infrastructure, both on and off road, to ensure cyclists can ride in safety and to encourage more people to take up cycling.

We commend the work that your organisation has undertaken on behalf of your members to identify a range of infrastructure projects across the State that will connect existing infrastructure or major population or activity centres across the state.

In consultation with the cycling community and local government, we are committed to continue to work with Bicycle Tasmania, through Infrastructure Tasmania, to identify priority projects and explore funding options to upgrade and develop suitable bicycle infrastructure, thereby bringing forward local government investment and developing an interconnected network for cyclists.