



Office of the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for New England

Ref: MC21-010501

28 FEB 2022

Dr Nicholas Hunter and Mr Craig Richards
Bicycle Network
Via nicholash@bicyclenetwork.com.au

Dear Dr Hunter and Mr Richards

Thank you for your letter of 11 October 2021 to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development, the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP, regarding measures to support active travel. The Deputy Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

The Australian Government's record \$110 billion 10-year infrastructure pipeline will support and secure jobs, drive growth and help rebuild Australia's economy from the COVID-19 pandemic. These investments form part of the Australian Government's Economic Recovery Plan and will secure Australia's world-leading economic recovery by delivering nation-building infrastructure projects, meeting our national freight challenge and getting Australians home sooner and safer.

The Australian Government works closely with states, territories and local governments on the selection and development of road infrastructure projects for the 10-year rolling infrastructure pipeline. In recognition of active transport's contribution to health and wellbeing outcomes, and role with reducing road congestion, the Australian Government is providing funding to projects with active transport components. Examples of Australian Government funding that is being provided for such projects funded under the Infrastructure Investment Program include:

- \$456 million to upgrade Melbourne Commuter Car Parks;
- \$412.3 million for the NorthConnex project in Sydney which includes four kilometres of new or improved shared pathways for cyclists; and
- \$25 million towards the Causeway Bridge in Western Australia to improve transport paths for cyclists and pedestrians.

Under Tranche 1 of the \$3 billion Road Safety Program, over 180 projects for active transport/or vulnerable road user infrastructure are underway. Of these projects, 116 benefit pedestrians, 29 benefit cyclists and 35 benefit both.

Through the Australian Government's \$2.5 billion Local Roads and Community Infrastructure (LRCI) Program, more than 6,100 stimulus projects have been approved under Phases 1 and 2. The LRCI Program supports local councils to deliver priority local road and community infrastructure projects across Australia, supporting jobs and the resilience of local economies to help communities bounce back from the COVID-19 pandemic. Approximately 33 per cent of all LRCI projects are road projects, 62 per cent are community infrastructure and 5 per cent involve a combination of road and community upgrades. Of these, approximately 20 per cent will contribute to active transport such as upgrades to bicycle or walking paths. A number of other LRCI projects with benefits for active transport include road infrastructure or street lighting projects that list safety improvements for pedestrians as a project outcome.

Infrastructure Australia (IA) is an independent statutory body that provides advice to governments, industry and the community on infrastructure investments and reforms that will benefit all Australians. On 3 September 2021, IA released its 2021 Australian Infrastructure Plan. The 15-year Plan considers the benefits of daily active travel, such as walking or riding a bike, and recommends that governments prioritise and accelerate investment in active travel. The Australian Government is currently giving consideration to the Plan.


Australia has historically world-comparable standards for vehicle safety. With more people using our roads, more freight being moved and an increase in vulnerable road users, making safer vehicles more easily accessible by Australian drivers is high on the Australian Government's agenda. Australia has a strong record for introducing vehicle safety standards once they have been agreed internationally to ensure our vehicles are safe for road users.

The Australian Government has identified a range of vehicle technologies to protect vulnerable road users to be prioritised for implementation. They include Enhanced Devices for Indirect Vision, Blind Spot Information Systems for heavy vehicles, Side Underrun Protection for heavy vehicles and Reversing Aids for both light and heavy vehicles.

The National Road Safety Strategy 2021-30, released in December 2021, has a strong focus on minimising the interactions between heavy vehicles and vulnerable road users, like cyclists. In the Strategy, Heavy Vehicle Safety and Vulnerable Road Users are both identified as key priorities, with one action proposing to protect all road users from conflicts with construction vehicles through state/territory government construction contract requirements, such as requiring inclusion of safety technologies (see: <https://www.roadsafety.gov.au/>).

Thank you for raising this matter and I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JAKE SMITH". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Jake Smith
Chief of Staff