



Candidate Statement

James Garriock

As President of Bicycle Network I'm requesting you elect me, and Vice President Prita, for a further term.

In 2019 you elected me on a platform of taking minimum passing distance legislation more seriously. The last three years have been quite a ride! Navigating the pandemic has taken diligence and commitment but it has been a privilege to serve. In addition to being President, at various times I've also chaired the Audit and Risk Committee, been on the Governance Committee and the Advocacy Committee.

In the middle of the pandemic, Victoria finally got its minimum passing distances, and new lanes popped up all over Australia. Cycling boomed, but event cancellations, lockdowns and economic uncertainty all brought challenges to Bicycle Network.

As President, I've re-started a monthly roundtable with the presidents of all the other bike advocacy organisations in Australia. I've also kept in touch with as many community bicycle advocates in Victoria, Tasmania and NSW as possible.

There are a lot of organisations active in the bicycle world, so I kicked off the first formal stakeholder engagement review in our history, where our directors met with BUGs, politicians, peer organisations and industry players to find out how we were perceived and how we could collaborate better. It has given us a sense of how we can work together toward shared goals. We also instituted a governance review and did a benchmarked board effectiveness survey. We're constantly working on improving our practices.

In addition to being President I've kept volunteering, commuting and doing my best to inspire people to ride bikes. I've worked as a wave leader on Peaks challenge, and kept up my streak of only commuting by bike, a task made easier by working from home for months on end.

In late 2021 I decided that if we couldn't have a Great Vic, then I'd have to do it myself. My son and I rode 1,000kms in 12 days around Victoria putting money into regional economies and hopefully inspiring a few of you to do the same.

Finally, this year we've appointed a new CEO, the first female CEO in our history. Amazing things lie ahead for BN and for bike riding in Australia. It has been three tumultuous years, and I'd like to stick around, providing support and guidance to the organisation for the next chapter. We need to sharpen our member offering, grow our events footprint, and win projects which help change behaviour. We'll articulate a vision for exactly what success could look like and how we're going to get there. We'll also improve our collaboration with local advocates and other organisations to achieve our goals in all States.



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In all that, my role will be to inspire, support and encourage our fantastic team. We are at an inflection point in the history of riding in Australia. If we seize this opportunity then we can use the bike to tackle the triple crises of climate, public health and congestion...all just by going for a ride.