

ITEM C

NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR COX - WOLLONGONG BECOMES A BIKE FRIENDLY CITY

Councillor Cox has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that –

Council develop a 30 year plan to transform Wollongong into a bike friendly city, with the ambition that by 2050:

- 1 Every road has a dedicated cycleway, that is physically separated from car traffic.
- 2 Bikes outnumber cars on our roads, and more trips are made by bike than by car.
- 3 Wollongong is recognised as a global leader in active transport.

The 30 year bike plan should include measurable targets and milestones that are embedded into our current strategic plan. These targets and milestones should be measurable, and should map out a clear path to reach achieve out ultimate 2050 goal of a cycleway on every street. The first milestone would be the completion of the 2014-2018 Bike Plan.

Background provided by Councillor Cox:

30 years was the time it took the city of Copenhagen to transform their road network to prioritise bikes and build a world class cycle network which is a sustainable, efficient transport system and a major tourism generator for Denmark.

Our 2022 strategic plan has 6 main goals. An integrated cycle network can significantly contribute to two of them.

One goal is “We are a healthy community in a liveable city”. Unfortunately this is not currently the case. 64% of adults in the Illawarra Local Health District are overweight or obese, up from 48% in 2002. Our Local Health District has the third highest rate of obesity in NSW* This increase in obesity has coincided with an increase in car dependence over that same time frame. Incidentally, in the City of Copenhagen where 62% of people ride to work, the obesity rate is around 15%.**

Providing our citizens with a universal cycle network that is safe and accessible for everyone - from 6 year old kids, to pregnant women to pensioners - could be the most effective initiative we as city councillors can implement to improve the health of our population.

Another of those 6 goals is “We have sustainable, affordable and accessible transport.” With one of the highest rates of car use in the world, we have a long way to go to achieve this goal. Council does not run the train network. We cannot build a light rail. We don’t even run the free bus. But we are responsible for cycleways, and we have the capacity to transform our city to a bike friendly city - which is sustainable, affordable and accessible.

The 30 year plan should aim for separated bike lanes on every street, with bike lanes considered as essential as bitumen or curb and guttering. Any road being resurfaced, built or repaired should have separated bike lanes built in during that process.

Sources:

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<http://www.healthstats.nsw.gov.au/Indicatorgroup/LocationBasedAllIndicatorGroup?code=bmi&name=Overweight%20or%20obesity&locationcode=18393&LocationType=Local%20Health%20District>

** <https://www.oecd.org/els/health-systems/Obesity-Update-2017.pdf>.