

ITEM 22 NOTICE OF MOTION - COUNCILLOR CATH BLAKEY - BICYCLE PARKING SECURITY

Councillor Cath Blakey has submitted the following Notice of Motion –

“I formally move that Wollongong City Council –

- 1 Write to the new Minister for Transport and state members for Heathcote, Keira, Shellharbour and Wollongong, requesting bicycle security sheds at train stations within the Wollongong Council area, noting the community priorities for –
 - a North Wollongong Station
 - b Wollongong Station
 - c Thirroul Station, and
 - d Dapto Station
- 2 Include provisions for bicycle security and secure bicycle parking in the up-coming integrated transport strategy at railway stations.
- 3 Work with state agencies and community partners to publicise BikeVAULT, encouraging residents to register their bicycles on it, and report any theft.”

Background provided by Councillor Cath Blakey:

For many people a bicycle is the only transport they can afford and the only exercise they get. Bike theft is a crime disproportionately visited on the young and the poor.¹ Upwards of 30,000 bikes are stolen each year in Australia, and less than 10% recovered by police and returned to their rightful owners.² That is 1 bike stolen every 20 minutes across the nation. Bike theft is a significant cost burden on the community, and a deterrent to riding for transport.

BikeVAULT’s National Bike Register is a partnership between Crime Stoppers, the Police, bike owners and the wider community – to expose and defeat the illicit trade in stolen bikes. BikeVAULT is free for bicycle owners to register their bicycles details in case their bike gets stolen, it can be tracked and returned to the owner. BikeVAULT also helps bring awareness to the stolen bikes by having spotters who trawl for, and report stolen bikes found for sale online and at second-hand dealer premises, removing pathways to safely sell and profit from stolen property is the ultimate deterrent to profit driven theft.

¹ Bike theft affects the young and poor most – why is it not taken seriously? 2019 by Laura Laker <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/bike-blog/2019/feb/22/bike-theft-affects-the-young-and-poor-most-why-is-it-not-taken-seriously>

² Why bike identification is key to combatting bike theft! 2020 by Brad Kellas <https://www.propertyvault.com.au/news/stolen-bikes/231/why-bike-identification-is-key-to-combatting-bike-theft>