

Media Release

9th August 2007

Embargoed Until 8am, Thursday 9th August 2007

Bipartisan Backing of Bicycle Boom

The Minister for Health and Ageing, The Hon Tony Abbott MP today launched the landmark document *Cycling > Moving Australia Forward* at Parliament House.

Minister Abbott was joined by Shadow Minister for Sport, Recreation and Health Promotion, and Shadow Minister for Local Government, Senator Kate Lundy and former editor of *The Age*, Michael Smith – each highlighting the tremendous potential of cycling to address key challenges facing Australia; soaring transport emissions, up 30% since 1990, as well as obesity, rising fuel costs and traffic congestion.

Minister Abbott said “Cycling is a clean, green and healthy way to travel. At a time of rising obesity and fuel costs, there has never been a better time for Australians to get on their bikes”.

Tony Abbott also used the occasion to announce that the Commonwealth Government will provide funding of \$30,000 to the Cycling Promotion Fund to do a scoping study on what sort of approaches will work in getting more people to get on their bikes with the objective of getting adults engaged in physical activity.

“Today marks a turning point for cycling in Australia. Once considered a marginalised activity, cycling is now our 4th most popular physical activity for adults and 1.3million new bicycles are sold each year, outnumbering cars for the seventh consecutive year” said Stephen Hodge, 6 time Tour de France competitor and group spokesperson.

Coinciding with the launch was the announcement of the Australian cycling sector’s key asks in the lead up to the federal election. “We are calling on all political parties to support our proposal for federal funding for cycling. Promoting smarter transport choices and improved bicycle infrastructure will help Australia tackle some of its greatest challenges in the health, environment and economic sectors.” says Hodge.

“Cycling is a practical, low cost and healthy way for people to lower their impact on the environment, cut their petrol costs and stay healthy. Federal support is needed to make cycling a real choice for more Australians.”

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