



**Government  
of South Australia**

Hon Stephen Wade MLC  
Minister for Health and Wellbeing

MHW-H20-2078

Mr Stephen Hodge  
Director – National Advocacy  
We Ride Australia  
PO Box 973  
MAWSON ACT 2607  
Email: [stephen@weride.org.au](mailto:stephen@weride.org.au)

Dear Mr Hodge

Thank you for your email dated 22 April 2020, regarding walking and cycling during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Marshall Liberal Government has a strong plan to protect South Australians from COVID-19, and is constantly updating our strategies for isolation, surveillance, testing and case tracing mechanisms.

While at this time the Government's highest priority is to ensure the immediate health and wellbeing of South Australians, we are also focused on planning how we can support the longer term wellbeing and resilience of the community.

This is being demonstrated through our commitment to investing in preventative health measures to reduce rates of chronic disease, including obesity. To this end, and consistent with a Government Better Prevention election commitment, Wellbeing SA was established in July 2019. Wellbeing SA will lead system change to embed prevention across the life course and disease continuum, to improve physical, mental and social wellbeing and reduce the preventable burden of disease for all South Australians. A five year implementation plan with a 20-year vision is currently in development.

Wellbeing SA has just launched Open Your World, available at: [www.openyourworld.sa.gov.au](http://www.openyourworld.sa.gov.au), an online campaign providing access to key information and resources to support health and wellbeing now and into the future. One of the focus areas of the campaign is 'Stay active and healthy' which includes links to information about cycling and walking safely, including initiatives through Walking SA, Cycling Trails SA, the Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council.

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Level 9, Citi Centre Building, 11 Hindmarsh Square, ADELAIDE SA 5000 | GPO Box 2555 ADELAIDE SA 5001 | DX 243  
Tel 08 8463 6270 | Fax 08 8463 6277 | Email [ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au](mailto:ministerforhealth@sa.gov.au)



Additionally, the Active Transport Health Project is a collaborative project between the Health in All Policies Unit, SA Health, and the Cycling and Walking Section in the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. It aims to support the development of the new South Australian Government Cycling Strategy and its acceptance, support and adoption across government. The Government understands the importance of having streets and neighbourhoods that support walking, cycling and other modes of active transport, as well as dedicated walking and cycling paths, and will continue to support and invest in infrastructure that supports people to be physically active.

Thank you for writing about this important matter.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Wade

**Minister for Health and Wellbeing**

10 June 2020