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## Canberra scores highest in Australia for bike riding

In an Australian first, We Ride Australia has scored every Australian capital on the ability to travel by bicycle between local destinations with Canberra leading the nation with 61 out of a possible 100.

We Ride’s Executive Officer, Peter Bourke, led the Bicycle Transport Analysis (BTA) project in Australia.

“Canberra has come out as the leading capital with its extensive on and off-road network providing good links throughout the city,” Peter Bourke said.

“Investments in projects such as the Inner City Loop bikeway and ongoing commitment to closing missing links has reinforced Canberra as our most bikeable city,

“However, Canberra’s mode share is still low by international standards and the ratings and associated stress maps will help pinpoint where and how Canberra can invest to make riding easier, more enjoyable and safer,”

“This has never been more important as many Australians have chosen to ride a bike during the COVID-19 pandemic because they felt safer with so little traffic on the roads,”

“Also, as we invest in COVID recovery, we mustn’t forget that people arriving at local shops by active transport spend more<sup>1</sup> and more local jobs are created<sup>2</sup> building bikeways than roads for the same amount of money,” said Mr Bourke.

The ratings system was developed by We Ride’s partners in the USA and uses open source, publicly available data. More than 650 North American, European and Australian cities have now been scored with Canberra comparable to cities such as Brooklyn NY (60), Paris (61) and Boulder CO (63). The closest cities in Australia are Sydney (43) and Melbourne (44).

The Bicycle Transport Analysis will be extended in 2021 and Local Governments wishing to participate in the program should contact We Ride Australia.

### Contact:

Media contact: contact Stephen Hodge, 0411 149 910, [stephen@weride.org.au](mailto:stephen@weride.org.au) to arrange comments or interviews with We Ride’s Executive Officer, Peter Bourke.

**Further information** – see next

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<sup>1</sup> For a summary of the evidence, Sustrans, 2019. Accessed 3.11.20:

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/media/5224/common-misconceptions-of-active-travel-investment.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Mining Recovery Act Data for Opportunities to Improve the State of Practice for Overall Economic Impact Analysis of Transportation Investments. 2012, AASHTO, Accessed 3.11.20:

[http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/NCHRP08-36%28103%29\\_FR.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/docs/NCHRP08-36%28103%29_FR.pdf)

**Further information:**

- The BTA's utilise open source data, including the Australian Census and OpenStreetMaps (OSM), Qgis along with GIS data made available by cities and Councils.
- The full range of city maps and breakdown of the scoring can be seen at [www.weride.org.au/bta](http://www.weride.org.au/bta)
- International city scores can be seen at <https://bna.peopleforbikes.org/#/>
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