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Hobart’s bikeability scored as part of national initiative

In an Australian first, We Ride Australia has scored every Australian capital on the ability to travel by bicycle between local destinations with Hobart scoring 28 out of a possible 100.

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

“Hobart scored well in pockets but is lacking the network of cycling links that would greatly increase its bikeability,” Peter Bourke said.

“Consideration of the ‘quick build’ solutions such as pop up lanes and lower speed limits being rolled out as COVID measures in other cities have been shown to quickly increase the bikeability score,

“Our objective is to enable cities and towns of all sizes to carry out basic network analysis for cycling and encourage them to build connected, convenient bike networks that we know encourage more short daily trips by bicycle,” he said.

“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 more¹ and more local jobs are created² 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 Hobart comparable to cities such as Los Angeles (26) and Phoenix AR (27). The closest city in Australia is Darwin (34).

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 to arrange comments or interviews with We Ride’s Executive Officer, Peter Bourke.

Further information, see next.

¹ 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>

² 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

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
- International city scores can be seen at <https://bna.peopleforbikes.org/#/>