

Diverse transport systems are healthy transport systems

17/09/2018

Hon. Stephan Knoll
Minister for Transport, Infrastructure, and Local Government
Minister for Planning
GPO BOX 1533, Adelaide, SA, 5001

Dear Minister,

It is with great disappointment that our members have learned about cuts to funding for cycling infrastructure in the 18/19 budget. The funding provided to councils through the State Bicycle Fund is critical to build a bicycle network which encourages people to drive less and alleviates congestion on arterial roads. We had expected that this would be a priority for your government, particularly as you continue to support increased urban densities. **Where will all the people fit with more and more cars? How will your transport funding decisions impact people's quality of life? Urban density policy is always accompanied by policy to support active transport and public transport.**

You may discount cycling because you see it as too simple or too old fashioned yet around the world it is seen as essential to future mobility. Not only will this cut to the SBF significantly impact current bicycle use, it will also have a significant impact on the **100's of small businesses operating within the SA Bike Economy**. Without supporting infrastructure, secure bike paths, pathway connections between streets, safer ramp ways, secure road crossings and so on, we can expect little or no further growth in cycling numbers, and the ongoing closure of businesses and loss of jobs; a thoroughly unsuitable outcome. **These businesses have been ignored by previous Governments and our hope was the new Liberal State Government would provide them with greater assistance by continuing to invest in the local cycling networks that generate their livelihoods.**

While billions are invested in roads it is unfathomable that the already insufficient funding for the SBF has been ripped away. **Essentially your budget has ripped funding away from supporting individual Active Travel choices that actually saves your Government money.** Cycling is the healthiest transport choice and the science now clearly tells us that each person who cycles for day-to-day transport *reduces* the burden of health care and *saves* the community in both the short and long term. We ask you to reconsider the funding cut to the SBF - we understand in the order of \$2 million. Instead of reducing future funding for cycling, we suggest that SA follow world trends and significantly increase investment. The evidence is very clear; better infrastructure equals more people riding which means less health costs, infrastructure costs and congestion. **Ignoring global evidence puts the health and well-being of the SA population at risk.**

A staggering 60% of the population are interested in cycling but concerned about safety. Although many are reluctant to ride the current infrastructure, daily bicycle users in SA still represent a significant body of opinion within the community. **They will see these cuts to the SBF as clear evidence of your Government's discounting their choice of daily transport and as a penalty directed at them simply because of this choice.** We urge you to reconsider. If not, we ask for you to respond with an explanation for our **members and businesses involved in the SA Bike Economy; why did funding for their transport network get cut in the 18/19 budget, how large are the cuts, and when will the cuts not only be reinstated but funding increased?**

Kind regards

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