



\$5.3M MILLION FUNDING PACKAGE FOR CYCLISTS

The ACT Government is proposing to allocate \$5.3million over the next four years for cycle route initiatives, ACT Urban Services Minister, Brendan Smyth announced today.

As part of this program \$460,000 will be spent in 2000/01. Draft capital works programs for the following years propose \$1.5 million in 2001/02 and \$1.5 million in 2002/03 and \$1.9 million in 2003/04.

“Cycling is an important means of getting to destinations across Canberra as it assists in reducing peak traffic congestion, fossil fuel use, greenhouse gas emissions and improving health,” Mr Smyth said.

“The *Canberra Bicycle Strategy 2000* was released in 1997 and has a target of increasing proportion of cycling journeys to work to 6 per cent by 2007. The ACT Government is committed to cycling as an accessible and affordable mode of transport, and these projects will improve infrastructure for Canberra cyclists,” he said.

The proposed works for 2000/01 include completion of a 400-metre section of the Lake Tuggeranong bike path, alongside Mortimer Lewis Drive.

“This is a major bicycle commuter route for Tuggeranong to and from the Woden Valley, with links to Civic and other parts of the ACT. It is also a major recreational path as it will complete the path around Lake Tuggeranong,” Mr Smyth said.

Mr Smyth said that, in line with the Government’s commitment to encouraging cycling as an alternative form of commuter transport, a number of other projects would take place in 2000/01:

- Two sections of the Lyneham-Dickson bike path (between Goodwin Street bridge and De Burgh Street, and between Northbourne Avenue and Challis Street), be realigned to provide a safer, more direct route.



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- On-road cycling improvements to Belconnen Way and Ginninderra Drive
- On-road cycling facilities be constructed on the road shoulder as part of a \$3.6 million upgrade of the southbound carriageway of the Monaro Highway, between Lanyon Drive and Isabella Drive.
- Construction of a new cyclepath along Jim Pike Avenue, Gordon
- Variety of minor projects to repair damaged paths and construct new paths in developing areas of Canberra
- A feasibility study into the expansion of intermodal transport, for example, the installation of bicycle facilities at bus stops.

Statement ends / Tuesday 23 May 2000

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