



Media release

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Cycle City Albany Strategy adopted by Council

A bold plan to transform Albany into one of Australia's primary cycling destinations received unanimous support at an Albany City Council meeting this week.

The Cycle City Albany Strategy, which has been in development for more than 12 months, includes a variety of initiatives to promote cycling throughout Albany.

The Strategy's declared vision is for the City of Albany to "become one of Australia's primary cycling destinations – a Cycling City where the community embraces the social, health, economic and environmental benefits provided by cycling".

City of Albany Community Services Executive Director Cameron Woods said the Strategy was a result of positive collaboration with a range of community stakeholders over many months.

"This plan has received passionate support from the community and it is great to see it finally adopted by Council," he said.

Mr Woods said the Strategy was a bold vision which would take several years to fully realise.

"Making improvements to our cycling infrastructure is a key aspect of the plan, but equally as important is our aim of developing and promoting a positive culture surrounding cycling so that it is seen as a legitimate and normal use of the road," he said.

"As a mode of transport, cycling provides significant economic, environmental and social benefits to the local community.

"With our temperate climate, spectacular scenery and the unique 1000km Munda Biddi Trail, Albany is also well placed to become a hub for cycle tourism."

Some initial projects planned for 2014-15 include as a result of community feedback include:

- A Feasibility Study for Hanrahan Road/Princess Royal Drive (including arterial routes into the CBD).
- Albany Hwy Shared Path (Western Alignment) - project funded by COA, Main Roads and Department of Transport.
- Barnesby Road Shared Path – linking school zone to Centennial Park/North Road precinct.
- Middleton Road on-road cycle lane (Stage 1) from St Emilies to Tasman Street.

These four projects were identified as a high priority, from the extensive consultation with the community and key stakeholders and are part of a three year co-funding agreement with Department of Transport.

END

See next page for background information

Cycle City Albany Strategy

VISION

For the City of Albany to become one of Australia's primary cycling destinations – a Cycling City where the community embraces the social, health, economic and environmental benefits provided by cycling

The Vision is bold and is expected to take 20+ years to achieve completely. It is supported by five objectives and a number of strategies to frame the way forward and enable Albany to become one of Australia's primary cycling destinations.

OBJECTIVES

Objective 1: To develop and maintain a bicycle network of safe, connected and accessible routes and facilities.

Objective 2: To be a City where walking and cycling become easy choices of travel for trips of up to 5kms, around identified community hubs.

Objective 3: To develop a bike riding culture in the City of Albany so that cycling is seen as a legitimate and normal use of the road, with mutual respect between all users.

Objective 4: To be a City that is recognised as a prominent regional cycling destination, delivering economic and tourism benefits for the community.

Objective 5: To develop management mechanisms to support and guide the implementation of the Cycle City Albany (2014-2019) Strategy.

Who is involved?

The City of Albany has engaged positively and proactively with stakeholders to identify the community's needs and aspirations. A Project Control Group (PCG) was set up by the City to strategically oversee the development of the Bike Plan.

The PCG met regularly and consisted of representatives from:

- City of Albany
- Department of Transport
- Main Roads WA
- Albany RoadWise Committee
- University of WA Albany Student Services
- Albany Cycle Club (ACC)
- Schools and Parent Groups
- Albany Bicycle User Group (ABUG)
- Albany Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI)

Significant consultation was also undertaken with the general Albany community.

In 2013 transport planners Cardno were commissioned by the City of Albany to prepare a five year cycle plan (City of Albany Bike Planning Report) for the Albany urban area and the immediate surroundings.

The Cardno Report formed the basis for the Cycle City Albany Strategy.

Benefits of cycling

As a mode of transport cycling provides numerous and well documented benefits for individuals and communities in three key categories:

- **Economic benefits**
When a bike is substituted for a car there is reduced congestion costs, reduced infrastructure costs and reduced health costs.
- **Environmental benefits**
Cycling is a carbon-neutral, energy efficient transport mode.
- **Social benefits**
Cycling is a social activity which allows riders to interact with each other and their environment. Cycling increases community.