



DULWICH HILL BICYCLE CLUB (est. 1908)



MEDIA RELEASE – 15 March 2007

BIKES BLANKED BY ALP

Local bike groups are reminding voters that in New South Wales elections you do not have to number all the boxes. It is OK to leave the ALP box blank. Blank, just like the ALP policy on cycling.

Carmel Tebbutt writes, "*With climate change firmly on the agenda, cycling also has an important contribution to make in reducing greenhouse gas emissions*". Yet the Lemma Government's Climate Change Policy doesn't mention bikes. This popular, zero emission form of transport could help reduce the fastest growing source of GHG emissions. Half Sydney's car trips are less than 5km, for which cycling is often faster. Half Sydney's households have bikes and many people would like to ride, but for lack of safe cycling facilities.

"Building regional cycleways is essential for meeting the community demand for healthy and emission-free transport" said Geoff Martin, President of Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club. Essential and overdue regional links in and around the electorate of Marrickville include:

- Greenway to link the Cooks River and Iron Cove
- Alexandra Canal Cycleway, from the Cooks River towards the CBD
- University of NSW to Sydney University (BikePlan2010 Route 28, due 2006 but not started)
- Beverly Hills to Mascot (BikePlan2010 Route 6, due 2002 but never completed)

"Climate change is the number one challenge for governments over the next four years", says Paul Boundy, of Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group. *"Transport is the fastest growing source of GHG emissions. Cycling is a practical, zero emission transport that could easily replace many short car trips. The Liberal/National Coalition recognises the value of increasing cycling and has produced an excellent, comprehensive policy statement. The Greens have a strong cycling policy. The ALP is blank on cycling"*.

The ALP claim to be spending many millions on cycling, but most of this money is funding big road projects. Highway shoulders are necessary for road safety reasons and to reduce maintenance costs, so claiming shoulders as cycleway spending is specious and misleading. *"The ALP need to be reminded that building roads does not reduce emissions"*, said Geoff Martin, *"but providing bike racks at schools will"*.

For the latest information about policies and candidates visit www.bicyclensw.org.au & www.vote4cycling.com.au

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(note: Both organisations run regular rides and can organise a photo opportunity)

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Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club (est. 1908) affiliated club to Cycling New South Wales, is Sydney's longest continuous cycling club which has generated champions in road, track and penny farthing events throughout its history. www.dhbc.org.au.

Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group a Bicycle User Group (BUG) established in 1991 and affiliated with Bicycle New South Wales. Our vision is for a safe, healthy, vibrant community whose planning and infrastructure provide for greater share of transport by walking and cycling, in order that the personal, community and environmental benefits of more sustainable transport can be realised. We also regard public transport services as essential.