



DULWICH HILL BICYCLE CLUB (est. 1908)



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LOCAL GROUPS JOIN FORCES TO PEDAL ELECTION MESSAGE

“The big issues in the inner west this election are climate change, public transport, air quality, road congestion and health. For all of these, a key answer is encouraging cycling.” says Paul Boundy, Convenor of Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group. *“Yet the government has given up building its regional cycleways and is even removing bike lanes from some key bike routes. The bike plan matched funding for Councils only covers a fraction of their projects.”*

According to Geoff Martin, President of Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club, *“Some politicians still think cycling is a fringe issue and an activity just for the Cooks River on Sundays. They don’t realise that cycling is a major problem solver and a mainstream activity. Half Sydney’s households have bikes. Bicycles outsell cars every year in Australia. A quarter of Marrickville households don’t have a car as a means of transport. Encouraging cheap, healthy, and efficient transport will benefit everyone in the community.”* *“So many people that we talk to really want to ride their bike, to work or to the shops, but need the government to do more to improve safety and provide facilities before they would feel safe enough to do it”.*

Local bike groups Dulwich Hill Bicycle Club¹ and MASSBUG² are pooling resources to help ensure all candidates get the message and support healthy transport.

This week the Liberal/Nationals Coalition released their seven page policy, “Supporting cycling – making cycling a viable transport option”. *“We’re impressed with the comprehensive, thorough and constructive policy statement from the Liberals”*, says Paul. *“Importantly, the Liberals and The Greens both include targets for increasing cycling and for improving safety. We’re still waiting for the ALP to release a cycling policy. We couldn’t find any mention of cycling in any of their health, environment, climate change, transport or infrastructure policies³.”* Geoff was particularly pleased at the “whole of government approach” being taken by the Liberals, and with The Greens’ commitment to a setting aside 5% of the RTA budget to catch up with other states, because NSW is so far behind in providing cycling facilities.

BikePlan2010 (RTA, 1999) includes the following regional cycleway projects due by 2006 in the Inner West/City:

- Route 28 “University of NSW to Sydney University” (2006) – **not started**
- Route 6 “Beverly Hills to Mascot” (2002) – **never completed**
- Route 44 “Mascot to Darlinghurst” (2002) – **built but severed by William St (due to Cross City Tunnel)**
- Route 17 “Harbour Bridge to Woolloomooloo” (2005) – **not started**

BikePlan2010 has no north-south linkages anywhere between Strathfield and Mascot. The Cooks River to Iron Cove Greenway and the Alexandra Canal Cycleway are both missing links crying out for funding.

“Our message to voters,” Geoff and Paul agree, *“is to consider who will do more to deliver cleaner, quieter, safer streets and more liveable communities by encouraging cycling. Not just for your primary vote, but for your second and third preferences as well.”*

Voters can be informed with the latest information about policies and candidates at www.massbug.org.au

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

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¹Dulwich 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.

² Marrickville-South Sydney Bicycle Group a Bicycle User Group (BUG) established in 1991 and affiliated with [Bicycle New South Wales](http://www.bicyclenewsouthwales.com.au). 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.

³ <http://www.morrisiemma.com.au> > policy