

7 October 2008

ACT Labor - united in its commitment to cyclists

Minister for Territory and Municipal Services, John Hargreaves MLA, today re-affirmed ACT Labor's commitment to cycling,

"Since 2001 the ACT Labor Government spent approximately \$30 million on building, maintaining and upgrading Canberra's extensive network of on road and off road cycleways and pathways," said Mr Hargreaves.

"This investment included introducing on-road cycle lanes to Canberra's roads, which the Liberals opposed. ACT Labor believes that on-road cycle lanes form an important part of Canberra's road infrastructure and we welcome the Liberals' back flip on this initiative.

"We have also introduced such services as free travel for cyclists on busses fitted with a bus rack to entice Canberran's to leave their cars at home" Mr Hargreaves said.

In the 2008/09 Budget the ACT Labor Government allocated \$3.4 million to fund projects that provide new or improved facilities for cyclists and pedestrians.

This included funding for projects such as the Jerrabomberra Wetlands path, Cotter Road cycle lanes and a cycle path between the Bushfire Memorial and Stromlo Forest Park. We are also building cycle lanes on State Circle, as well as including access for cyclists as part of road works on Tharwa Drive, Athllon Drive and Flemington Road.

A further \$200,000 has been allocated for improvements to signs on cycle paths.

In addition to this, each year some \$3 million is provided for the maintenance of community paths. This brings the annual total expenditure on Canberra's paths to close to \$7 million per annum.

"ACT Labor is pleased that the Canberra Liberals have adopted our target of 5% of Canberrans travelling to and from work by bicycle by 2011," Mr Hargreaves said.

"ACT Labor is united in providing cyclist with the best option of commuting to and from work and providing safe and accessible cycle paths for recreational activities both now and into the future." Mr Hargreaves concluded.

Statement Ends

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