

## Annual Report 2004 - 2005

### The year in review

2004/05 was a watershed year for bicycle advocacy in the eastern suburbs. The local government elections in March 2004 delivered unprecedented influence to political groupings, and individual members, sympathetic to BIKEast's objectives. Since the last AGM there have been many positive achievements by the councils and, as always, some frustrating delays in the delivery of basic facilities promised in the bike plans or, in some cases (Botany Bay, City of Sydney) the delivery of a comprehensive bike plan.

The most encouraging developments over the last year include: the recent completion (or near completion) of some iconic bike routes in the Randwick, Waverley and Woollahra LGAs, the appearance of decent bicycle parking facilities in Waverley, Randwick and Sydney (city), and an apparent increase in the number of people cycling in the area are most encouraging developments for BIKEast. Without doubt, the most disappointing news of the past year was the funding cuts to the RTA's bicycle budget for FY 2005/06. However, it is unclear what impacts this decision will have locally and a recent injection of funding (for local roads) from the Federal Govt may, incidentally, end up delivering better outcomes for cyclists.

### BIKEast meetings & events

BIKEast continues to hold meetings for review of new and ongoing issues once per month. In November 2004 the venue for those meetings was changed to a new location (Waverley School of the Arts, Bondi Road). In order to promote networking among local councillors/council staff and reach out to the general community BIKEast has also hosted the following events.

#### Building the Cycling Century

A BIKEast forum held in October 2004 was attended by the Deputy Mayors of Sydney and Woollahra Councils and the opening address was delivered by the Mayor of Randwick Council. The theme of the 2004 forum: *Building the Cycling Century* was primarily aimed at inspiring the Councillors and council staff in attendance. To that end the Councils were also awarded custom designed trophies to put on display in their respective council offices. The awards were based on recent achievements and/or positive developments in the ongoing in the development of local bicycle infrastructure.

#### Promoting Bicycle Commuting

The theme of a BIKEast seminar held in September 2005 was *Cycling to Work: Saves \$\$, Makes Sense*, and was primarily aimed at inspiring and providing assistance to potential bicycle commuters living in the eastern suburbs. To this end the seminar was conceived as a way to kick-start a BIKEast Bike Buddy mentoring program for would be bike commuters.

Despite the efforts of BIKEast members to organise and publicise these events, both were (unfortunately) poorly attended by the general community.

### Local Govt Advocacy

Since the last AGM, BIKEast has gained more support from the five Councils, who have all increased funding for bike facilities, as was expected after the political changes. The following section provides a brief overview of recent achievements by Council and highlights some of the advocacy work done by BIKEast during the last year.

## **City of Botany Bay**

Despite some difficulty BIKEast has managed to make contact with the Traffic Engineer and finally obtained a copy of the latest draft CoBB's Bike Plan – basically a map of the area marked up with existing and proposed (primary and secondary) bike routes. We were also able to establish that the Council is in the process of negotiating the design and funding for an off-road bike path along Wentworth Road between Mascot and Pagewood. BIKEast has indicated its willingness to support and assist Council where necessary in expediting this key project.

## **City of Sydney**

The City of Sydney spent well in excess of \$500,000 (mainly in the former South Sydney City Council area on a series of bike facilities in the Surry Hills-Redfern-Darlington areas)..

The CoS also commenced a major bicycle planning review for the CoS Cycling Strategy. BIKEast and MASSBUG met with Peter Seamer, General Manager, City of Sydney after representations. This was followed up with a joint submission for the initial consultation stage of the Bicycle Strategy Review. BIKEast is represented on the consultative working party for the strategy.

The re-convening of BikeSydney in late 2004 has allowed BIKEast to wind down its involvement with CoS to keeping a watching brief on issues related to the regional bike routes and, making submission on major projects, and where necessary, offering support to Bike Sydney.

## **Randwick City Council**

Randwick City Council spent \$100,000 on centre line marking the shared paths along Alison and Darley Roads, bike lanes on Houston Road, Kingsford and installing bike parking facilities at Coogee, Clovelly, and Maroubra beaches, the Des Renford Aquatic Centre, and at the Administrative Centre/Town Hall. RCC has also recently completed a significant upgrade of the off-road cycle path along Wansey Rd between Alison Rd and High St (UNSW).

BIKEast continues to actively participate in the Randwick Bike Plan Working Party. A general submission was made to the RCC draft plan of management for 2005-08. Local BIKEast members assisted council staff in conducting site inspections of key intersections for routes marked on the Bike Plan. Detailed submissions and ongoing correspondence addressed the following issues:

- ❖ the intersection treatments on Coogee – Randwick route, Cnr Rainbow & Botany Sts;
- ❖ the installation of bike parking facilities at 'the Spot', Randwick; and
- ❖ the proposed off ramps connecting Gardeners Road to Southern Cross Drive;

## **Waverley Municipal Council**

Waverley has completed bike facilities as part of its Bronte - Queens Park system along Queens Park Road and up to the edge of Bondi Junction, at a cost of well over \$80,000.

BIKEast continues to actively participate in the Waverley Bike Plan Working Party. A general submission was made to the councils draft plan of management for 2006/07. Detailed submissions and ongoing correspondence addressed the following issues:

- ❖ the intersection treatment at Edgecliff and Old South Head Roads, Bellevue Hill;
- ❖ the installation of bike parking facilities at Bondi/Bronte beaches, Bondi Junction (including direct correspondence with Westfields);
- ❖ parking provisions rates for bicycles in DCP No.14 – Land Use & Transport.

## Woollahra Municipal Council

WMC allocated a budget of \$127,000, most of which went to marking lanes, renewing logos and completing the Bondi Junction to CBD and Birriga Road routes. WMC also made a significant paradigm shift with the decision to begin the use of marked on-road bike lanes as part of traffic calming measures – whereby the funding for such lanes is not drawn from the budget allocated for bicycle facilities.

BIKEast continues to actively participate in the Woollahra Bike Plan Working Party. A general submission was made to the WMC draft Plan of Management in February. Detailed submissions and ongoing correspondence addressed:

- ❖ the provision of adequate bike facilities in the proposed upgrade of Wallis Street Woollahra (on the BJ – CBD route) – the plans were altered significantly based on the BIKEast submission.
- ❖ on-road bicycle facilities through Paddington on the Bondi Junction – City route;
- ❖ The design of bike facilities arising from the Cross City Tunnel project, under traffic calming for Wallis Street, Woollahra and for Cascade Street, Paddington - the plans were altered after representations at the local Traffic Committee.
- ❖ A Community Grant application was made with Woollahra Council seeking funding for tools important for BIKEast to expand its advocacy and promotion work.
- ❖ the intersection treatment at Hopetown and New South Head Roads, Vaucluse;
- ❖ the intersection treatment at Cascade St and Glenmore Road, Paddington;
- ❖ supporting proposed 40 km/h speed limits on local roads (Greens Coucillors);

## Other projects

### Centennial Parklands

Representatives of BIKEast attended workshops for the preparation of the draft Centennial Parklands' Plan of Management and the draft Moore Park Master Plan. A detailed submission was made to the draft PoM, as a follow-up. Individual submissions were made to the draft plan of management for Moore Park by BIKEast members.

BIKEast also requested that CP agree to an annual review meeting and made a detailed submission on priority cycling issues to be addressed for the Parklands. The meeting is due to occur in late 2005.

### Regional bicycle routes

This year BIKEast completed the audits of routes for the proposed network of regional bike routes and has assembled a spreadsheet with route descriptions and issues for consideration when developing these routes. An accompanying map was also drafted.

These resources will be used as tools for prioritising advocacy work (and seeking Fed/State Govt funding in particular) and as the basis for developing a series of online maps-route descriptions to promote BIKEast's vision for a network of high quality bike routes for residents and visitors traversing the eastern suburbs.

In 2005 the five local council's committed to considering the preparation of a *Regional Bike Plan* for Sydney's east, under the aegis of the Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils.

## Regional bicycle coordinator

BIKEast wants to see a position of a Cycleway Coordinator established for the Sydney's Eastern Suburbs. This coordinator's main role will be to coordinate the provision of bicycle facilities across administrations. The position tasks are to ensure bicycle network, cyclists' safety and facilities issues are resolved, priorities are made to coincide across administrations and to identify constraints to completing the network during this decade. Two key roles would be to facilitate clearance of key bicycle initiatives through local or regional Traffic Committees and to facilitate the obtaining of any necessary State level support and approvals.

BIKEast developed this proposal and took it up with local councils, and State Ministers in December 2004 to seek funds for a person to be appointed. Meetings were held with Mayors and the Managing Director, Pedestrian & Bicycle Branch, RTA (Matt Faber). The Councils of the City of Sydney, Randwick City and Waverley, supported this approach and agreed to funding of \$30,000 per annum subject to matching funds from the State level and the Councils of the City of Botany Bay and Woollahra Municipality. Unfortunately, as only the Department of Health also agreed to provide funding, this project will not presently proceed, with the coordinated approach relying on work arising from the above mentioned SSROC guided regional bike planning action.

## BIKEast website

BIKEast maintains a website at [www.bikeast.org.au](http://www.bikeast.org.au). The site's domain name is registered with Explorer.net.au and the site is hosted by Blinddog Hosting. The aim of the website is to provide up-to-date information on current advocacy issues, upcoming events, and general BIKEast business for members and the local community.

## Advocacy - Federal & State Government

Submissions were made to Peter Garrett MP and Malcolm Turnbull MP, to gain federal level support for the preparation of a Bike Plan for the Sydney Airport and for linking the eastern and western parts of the Botany Bay Trail past the airport. A meeting was held with the latter as a follow-up. This has led to the Sydney Airport Corporation including the need to prepare a Bike Plan in its overall Environmental Plan. BIKEast members also made individual submissions to National Strategy.

Representations were made to local media, local MPs and relevant Govt Ministers to protest against the decision to cut the RTA's funding for bicycle facilities in the 2005 NSW State Budget from \$15m to \$5.6m and noted the impact this will have on implementing local Bike Plans.

## The year ahead

**City of Sydney Council** is well under way with its bicycle strategy review. It will soon mount 186 bike parking rings to 'Smart-poles', at a cost of over \$100,000. This was recommended for consideration by BIKEast and agreed to by the then Lord Mayor (Lucy Turnbull) and the Council in January 2004. Under its Corporate Plan, the Council has a budget of \$7.6 million for bicycling initiatives over the next four years and is preparing a comprehensive bicycle strategy for exhibition early 2006.

The major bike projects expected to be completed during 2005-06, are: Redfern Street (Redfern) and Kent, King and William Streets and the 'Gateways' project for Oxford Street (in the CBD). The approach and program reasonable match with BIKEast recommendations made in submissions to the Central Sydney Bike Plan in 2004.

**Randwick City Council** has received confirmation of 50:50 funding from the RTA, which will enable \$180,000 for works to be undertaken in the year ahead. With the development of new housing in the Little Bay area, BIKEast also intends to seek that residents receive a sustainable transport package (with their house-keys) that includes advice on bicycle riding and safe route maps to local shops, schools and sports facilities. This initiative was originally intended for 2005, but will now be taken forward with RCC in 2006.

**Waverley Municipal Council** is considering a 'Bike Ride to Work' program for its employees, and the running of a Bike Week event in 2006. BIKEast is to discuss and hopefully agree a program and priorities at a meeting to be held in the 3rd quarter. WMC have also recently agreed, in principle, to producing a map of bike and pedestrian routes in the LGA. BIKEast will continue to support this project and aim for publication prior to the Bike Week event.

**Woollahra Municipal Council** is allocating \$50,000 (with an equivalent amount planned to be spent under traffic calming measures) for bike lanes along Hopetoun Ave (Vaucluse), and Victoria and Bellevue Hill Roads (Bellevue Hill). Woollahra has also received \$58,000 under the State Government's *Sharing Sydney Harbour* program towards the off-road bicycle path proposed along the foreshore of Rose Bay. The project has not yet received final approvals and a 'Forum' with the public is proposed.

## Thanks to sponsors

BIKEast relies on the voluntary effort of members to carry on as a non-profit organisation, charging no membership fees (membership of Bicycle NSW is the only prerequisite for BIKEast membership). While our running costs are moderate the generous sponsorship of companies such as Woollys Wheels, **Jamieson Foley & Associates**, **Martin Hanley Trading** and **Sustainable Transportation Consultants**, ensures that BIKEast will continue operating as effective advocates for another year.

## Thanks to outgoing committee

Bicycle advocacy is often a frustrating cause. The obstacles to improving the facilities for bicycles are many and yet, ultimately, each step forward is a reward for the efforts of BIKEast - just as each setback is cause for renewing our focus and striving harder to achieve our aims. It is with this in mind that I would like to acknowledge and thank the 2004-05 BIKEast committee members for their ongoing voluntary work and dedication to our shared cause.

|                |                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Adrian Boss    | Vice President              |
| Jim Hope       | Vice President              |
| Grant Roberts  | Secretary                   |
| Derek Nelson   | Treasurer                   |
| John O'Niell   | Public Officer              |
| Warren Salomon | Committee Member            |
| Michael Kachka | Committee Member            |
| Sally Campbell | Committee Member (resigned) |
| Siobhan Turney | Committee Member (resigned) |

## RESOLUTION to adopt this Annual Report

Mark Worthington  
**President, BIKEast Incorporated**  
Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2005.