

MEDIA RELEASE

Michael Daley MP

NSW Opposition Leader



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LABOR TO GET KIDS BACK ON BIKES

Michael Daley & Labor will devote \$7 million to make it easier for kids to walk and ride their bikes to school, by designating bike paths, building bike storage areas, and supporting road safety programs.

The number of children who are physically active every day has plummeted over the past 40 years. In the 1970s, eight out of ten kids rode or walked to school. That number has dropped to just two in ten today.

Labor's Ride to School policy will support programs like the Bicycle Network's Active Schools Program, which is already in thousands of locations, to support initiatives proven to encourage kids to bike or walk to school.

NSW Labor Leader Michael Daley made the announcement at South Coogee Public School, alongside Shadow Transport Minister Jodi McKay and Labor's candidate for the seat of Coogee Marjorie O'Neill.

Working with schools and local councils, funds can be used for dedicated cycle paths, bike racks, secure storage sheds, or education programs to give parents and students greater skills and confidence riding to school.

Mr Daley said students who ride or walk to school are more focused and ready to learn compared to those who drive.

"I used to ride my bike to school as a kid, and it would be great to see more kids feel confident to ride today," Mr Daley said.

"Labor is proud to support programs encouraging kids to get back on their bikes, and get themselves to school safely."

Ms McKay said the initiative will get more cars off the road, which will help everyone.

"This commitment will have a practical benefit for both kids and parents doing the school run," Ms McKay said. *"Working with communities to design dedicated bike routes to schools is a win for both school kids, commuters, and our communities at large".*

Ms O'Neill said: *"We live in one of the densest areas of Sydney and anything that we can do to take cars off the roads and make cycling and walking more attractive is a good thing."*

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