

Submission
No 16

INQUIRY INTO VULNERABLE ROAD USERS

Organisation: Private Citizen
Name: Cr Charles Matthews
Date Received: 22/07/2010

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Randwick City Council
30 Frances Street
Randwick NSW 2031

12th July 2010

Mr Geoff Corrigan MP
Chairman
Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety
Parliament of New South Wales
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000



Dear Minister,

Re: Inquiry Into Vulnerable Road Users


Reference is made to your recent advertised invitation to make a written submission to the abovementioned inquiry. It just so happens that I have been fighting a campaign as a Councillor on Randwick City Council to have the local government industry look into the setting up of a bicycle registration scheme statewide which will provide councils with much needed revenue to put back into safer cycleways, roadways and road safety education for our children.

Whilst my motion was defeated at the June Council Meeting, I am still very passionate about seeing a scheme such as this implemented across NSW as soon as possible. My proposal is simple, that bike owners pay a registration fee of only \$50 per year, or 90 cents per week, to register their bicycles. Pensioners and children would pay no fees. Car owners are currently paying for our cycleways and safer roadways, so why shouldn't cyclists who use the very same roads?

Safer cycleways and roadways would see a dramatic reduction in bicycle injuries and fatalities. By implementing new and improved cycleways into their respective Bicycle Plans, councils will encourage greater use of bicycles in a far safer manner.

I have attached a copy of my motion to council as well as background information I read to Council at the meeting in an attempt to get support for my motion. Should you require any further information please contact me on 0424 096 017 at any time to discuss. I look forward to hearing back from you on the findings of this Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety.

Yours faithfully,


Councillor Charles Matthews
No Parking Meters Party
Randwick City Council

Motion Pursuant to Notice No. NM24/10



Subject: **Motion Pursuant to Notice from Cr
Matthews - Proposed registration fee
for bicycles in all Local Government
areas**

Folder No: F2007/00564

Submitted by: Councillor Matthews, South Ward

That this Council submits a motion to the next Local Government Association Conference requesting all NSW Councils to adopt a state wide approach to introducing registration fees for bicycles in all Local Government areas, such motion to read as follows:

"That all NSW Councils, as part of their respective transport plans, look at ways of introducing a registration fee for pushbikes in their Council area. This fee would be payable to the Council and would ensure that cyclists pay their fair share towards the upkeep of roadways and cycle ways in the Council area."

**COUNCILOR MATTHEWS' ADDRESS TO COUNCIL 22ND JUNE 2010 ON
MOTION PURUANT TO NOTICE RE: BICYCLE REGISTRATION IN RANDWICK
CITY**

Back in the year 2000 I was appointed Chairman of the Bike Plan Committee on Randwick City Council. This committee lasted two years, with a meeting taking place every two months. We came up with some very good ideas. We decided to seek other councils' support in the eastern area to have a link up so bicycles have safer riding on our roads and this is what they have now.

I have been most impressed with this councils' efforts in recent years to provide as many safe cycleways as possible across our City, as well as our efforts to improve and widen roadways to provide for safer use by our thousands of cyclists. However, it has become clear to me just how much money we are spending to make this happen. Expenditure over five years on bicycle facilities is now over \$1 million dollars. Planned expenditure on cycling facilities for 2010-2011 is \$200,000.00. Bike riders are not being penalised with a proposed registration fee of only 90 cents per week. In addition pensioners and children would pay no fees.

Thanks to the efforts of our current management team, this council is in a better position than most to be able to finance these improvements. However it is still a difficult task for us to pay for such projects. But what about the vast majority of other councils across NSW who cannot afford to pay for cycleways and safer roadways for their cyclists? What all NSW councils need is a means of financing the provision of cycleways and safer roadways to encourage the use of bicycles as an alternative means of transportation.

What I am proposing tonight is that we make a submission to the next local government conference to have them look at the feasibility of introducing a statewide registration fee for bicycles, payable to local councils, in order to provide the financial means for all NSW councils to fund cycleways and safer roadways. Some of this money could be spent in schools teaching children the rules of our roads, this will also encourage more to ride bikes.

This is a very timely initiative as many NSW councils are currently going broke. I know this idea is in its early stages and needs further investigation. They are looking at this right now in Europe and the UK. They used to have it in Western Australia so we should be looking at it here in NSW.

I have read the local Southern Courier paper today. The Greens are turning red about a councillor's plan to charge cyclists \$50 to register their bikes, led by Councillor Matson. Let me remind Councillor Matson that if it was not for me as Chairman of the Randwick Bike Plan, that this council would not have had safe bicycle laneways in which to ride their bikes. The more money council can raise, the greater the number of safe bike lanes that can be built.

I want to see mums and dads with their children in a safe environment on safe bicycle roadways. It also appears to me that Councillor Matson and his greens don't want to fund this project, which will allow for repairs and linemarkings when required. They want everything for nothing. Again Councillor Matson has jumped on his bike without thinking about what is best for Randwick and the other councils across NSW.