

## **INQUIRY INTO TOURISM IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

**Organisation:** Bicycle NSW

**Date received:** 27/11/2013

---



D 27.11.2013

*Creating a better  
environment for cycling*

The Hon. Natasha MACLAREN-JONES MLC  
Chair, General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3  
Legislative Council, Parliament House  
Macquarie Street, SYDNEY NSW 2000  
Via email: [gpsc3@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:gpsc3@parliament.nsw.gov.au).

Dear Committee members,

### **RAIL TRAILS for NSW – Submission to Tourism in Local Communities Inquiry GPSC3**

Bicycle NSW is a community-based not-for-profit organisation with a growing membership of over 12,000 members. Our purpose is "Creating a better environment for Cycling", not only for our members but for all who ride a bike now and for those who have yet to discover the joys of pushing the pedals.

Bicycle NSW works collaboratively across the community and at all levels of government in both the parliamentary and agency spheres in pursuit of our purpose. Bicycle NSW is on the public record in endorsing the NSW Government's commitments in *NSW 2021* to increasing the share of trips taken by bicycle, to making NSW roads the safest in the country, and to keeping people healthy and out of hospital. The realisation of these goals is a natural fit with Bicycle NSW's purpose of 'Creating a Better Environment for Cycling'. Bicycle NSW has partnered the NSW Government in the development of policy in relation to cycling, reflected in the *NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan*.

Bicycle NSW, in partnership with the NSW Government, conducts major recreational cycling events including the Spring Cycle, Gear Up Girl Rides and Discovery Rides in Regional NSW in partnership with local government and regional tourism offices.

We take the view that the development of rail trails in New South Wales presents a good opportunity to help realise *NSW 2021* goals, not only in the relatively densely populated areas of greater Sydney, but also in regional and rural parts of the state. Their easy gradients, separation from motor vehicles, and scenic locations make them an ideal environment for people of all ages and ability to take up or return to cycling.

We enjoy a constructive relationship with Rail Trails Australia and this letter is to voice our support for the submission they have made to the Committee. We endorse their case that rail trails have a positive impact on the economic value of tourism to NSW communities and provide good returns on the investment of government funds in terms of *NSW 2021* goals. We ask the Committee to consider the recommendations contained in the submission.

If it will be at all helpful we would welcome the opportunity meet with the Committee as appropriate. Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely

Alex S. Unwin  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bicycle NSW

