

Message sent September 23, 2021 for King, Catherine (MP)
<Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au>

Dear Nicholas,

Thank you for your email.

Labor has a proud record when it comes to cycling and active transport.

The last Labor Government oversaw record investment in cycling and bike paths, as well as funding the Australian Bicycle Council to develop the 2011-2016 National Cycling Strategy, in consultation with Australia's Transport Ministers and other interest groups.

As you may be aware, this strategy saw a number of improvements nationwide, which included the introduction of pedal-assist bicycles, consistency in design guidance for bicycle infrastructure, the publication of national metrics and reporting on cycling participation, safety, integrated planning and government investment in cycling.

An Albanese Labor Government will look to build on that record with new investments and measures to improve the safety and uptake of modes of active transport around Australia.

While we will not be earmarking a certain percentage of the Commonwealth Budget for active transport, we will look to fund active transport and cycling upgrades in tune with other infrastructure projects. This would include cycling paths alongside road upgrades, train lines or any other major projects. At the same time, Labor will fund specific cycling projects on a case-by-case basis.

Labor will make these investments because we understand the one of the major limiting factor for Australians to hop on a bike is risk – both real and perceived.

According to research by the National Heart Foundation and the Cycling Promotion Fund, a key reason Australians cite for not cycling is concern for their safety when they ride on roads.

Further research by the Bureau of Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Economics has found that 80 per cent of cyclists would ride more frequently if there were more bike paths.

As well as cutting congestions and improving the health of Australians, cycling can be a money spinner for towns and regions across Australia.

Victoria's High Country, Derby in Tasmania, Wollongong and even my own home of Ballarat are all towns and regions which are increasingly reaping the benefits of cycling investment and tourism.

Between now and the election, Labor will have more announcements to make about certain cycling investments.

Thank you again for your email and the opportunity to respond.

Yours sincerely,

Catherine King
Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development