

Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
CBD and South East Light Rail Project – SSI 6042  
22-33 Bridge Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

### **Response to the *CBD and South East Light Rail Project Environmental Impact Statement***

Bicycle NSW is a not-for-profit, community-based organisation with a growing membership that currently stands at over 12,000 members. Our purpose is 'Creating a better environment for cycling', not only for our members but for all people who ride a bike, who would like to ride a bike, and who participate in the transport system to move from place to place.

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 related to cycling; that work is reflected in the *NSW Long Term Transport Master Plan*.

We are grateful for the opportunity to comment on the *CBD and South East Light Rail Environmental Impact Statement*.

Bicycle NSW understands that the extension of the light rail in the Sydney CBD and South East is expected to deliver journey reliability, congestion-easing and network capacity benefits for Sydney that position the city for the future. Bicycle NSW acknowledges that realising these benefits has the potential to improve amenity for all who use the transport networks in the Sydney CBD and south east, including those who choose to ride a bicycle.

Bicycle NSW recognises that the CBD and South East Light Rail is one of a number of major transport infrastructure projects planned for Sydney. We take the view that these projects are critical to providing a safe and efficient transport system for Sydney over the next 20 to 30 years, and something that is necessary to maintain the global economic competitiveness of Sydney and indeed Australia during this timeframe. Inevitably, such large projects will create a measure of fragility in our transport system and disruption for the community's travel in and around Sydney during construction and commissioning.

Bicycle NSW is keen to do everything we can to keep stakeholders who are affected by such impacts informed about changes to conditions, and of the alternatives and mitigations that may be utilised. We are keen to work with NSW Government over the life of the project to promote information sharing and safe practices around bike riding and sharing of the city's transport networks by all who have an interest in moving from place to place safely and efficiently.

## Particular considerations in the design, construction and commissioning of the CBD and South East Light Rail

Bicycle NSW is naturally concerned with safety and amenity for people who choose to ride a bike for transport and recreation, and in reducing the risks for all road and transport infrastructure users – motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

Bicycle NSW is keen to see infrastructure for cyclists included in designs for the CBD and South East Light Rail, to ensure that opportunities to increase the mode-share of cycling, and the safety and amenity of cyclists, is maximised. Such work would contribute to the Government's goals of reducing congestion on the roads, including by increasing the mode share of cycling trips (*NSW 2021 Goal 8*); and making NSW roads the safest in the country (*NSW 2021 Goal 10*).

In October 2013 Bicycle NSW submitted comments in support of the *Sydney City Centre Access Strategy for further consideration* and we look forward to the release of that strategy. In our submission we identified the area near Central Station that is bounded by Chalmers and Elizabeth Streets and Eddy Avenue as part of a complex, multi-mode intersection that would be made more complex by the construction and commissioning of the CBD and South East Light Rail extension. Bicycle NSW encourages the Government to investigate options to improve clarity and safety for cyclists in this area. Integrating clear cycle routes at this complex intersection can make an important contribution to broadening transport choices, improving amenity and improving safety for all road users.

Mixed use around light rail stops and transport interchanges has significant connotations for safety. Bicycle NSW encourages the Government to consider, particularly in relation to shared pedestrian/bicycle paths that pass the new light rail stops that will be constructed and commissioned as part of the CBD and South East Light Rail project (such as the stop at Wansey Road, Randwick), how people who are accessing light rail facilities interact with those who are using adjacent shared paths for unrelated journeys, to ensure efficiency and safety for all.

Bicycle NSW endorses the NSW Government's submission to Infrastructure Australia for funding for the Inner Sydney Regional Bicycle Network and we are encouraged by the project's inclusion on the National Infrastructure Priority List (June 2013). The program of works that will be undertaken for the CBD and South East Light Rail extension design and construction provides an opportunity to incorporate features of the Inner Sydney Regional Bicycle Network and realise cost efficiencies provided by implementing the projects concurrently. Bicycle NSW is keen to provide any support we can to the NSW Government to facilitate the progress of the application for funding with Infrastructure Australia.

Bicycle NSW is aware that BIKEast, the bicycle user group [BUG] based in the eastern suburbs of Sydney (from the western fringes of the Sydney CBD to South Head and La Perouse), has submitted comments on the *CBD and South East Light Rail Environmental Impact Statement*. Bicycle NSW encourages the NSW Government to consider the comments of BIKEast in relation to:

- Bicycle parking facilities at new light rail stops
- The possibility of a shared bicycle/pedestrian path adjacent to the light rail in the proposed 'cut-and-cover' tunnel in the Moore Park/Anzac Parade vicinity, which would provide a safe, effective crossing of Anzac Parade for cyclists
- The retention of the shared pedestrian/bicycle path along Wansey Road (Randwick)
- The retention of bicycle access along the length of Devonshire Street (Surry Hills)



Bicycle NSW is committed to continuing our engagement with the NSW Government to create a better environment for cycling. I would like to offer any support our organisation can provide to assist in realising the opportunities inherent in the CBD and South East Light Rail Extension program of works.

Yours sincerely



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Chief Executive Officer  
Bicycle NSW