

Transport

Key Aim:

Promote improved, environmentally sensitive public and private transport within and between towns and villages.

1. What impacts the environment?

- Infrastructure (e.g. roads) & Modes/Methods of Transport

Roads: Do we need more roads in the Highlands? No; we need better designed roads to suit a mixture of transport modes – power, cycling, walking. We also need more connectivity (for vehicles and cycles) between outlying roads (at present many roads go out like the spoke of a wheel leading to no-where) and to allow walking between cul-de-sacs in new developments.

Modes of Transport: Cheaper and more environmentally friendly modes and methods of transport need to be encouraged. There are two issues – the type of transport we use (modes) and how these are used (methods). Mode includes electric/hybrid cars, electric bikes, electric buses (even tuk-tuks) and cycles. Methods means reducing the use of fossil powered transport (of all types); increasing the availability of electric powered vehicles and encouraging their use; and encouraging more cycling and walking.

2. Encourage more economic and environmentally friendly modes and methods of transport

- Hybrid cars (electric/petrol) are becoming more common. In Sydney for instance many taxis are now hybrid which saves owners/drivers on average \$5,475pa (not to mention the resultant reduction in pollution). Within 3 years, most of Sydney taxis will be hybrid and within 5 years potentially they could be all electric.
- Can we move people away from their cars? In the short term, no. However, there's an interesting trend occurring – younger people are far less likely to have their licence now than a decade ago. In fact, statistics show that only 55% of people aged 20 – 24 have their licence (or are in the process of getting it). If this trend continues, there will be a greater reliance on public transport and other methods of travel both in the near and long-term future.

3. What's needed in the Highlands?

Within the region:

- A strategy for encouraging people to use more economic and environmentally friendly modes and methods of transport – to change their “mind-set”.
- Improved infrastructure and support facilities to cater for more modes and methods of transport.

Between the region and the Sydney CBD: More people are now commuting. We need a better train service. In 2014 the State Government increased the daily number of trains between Moss Vale and Campbelltown (stopping at all stations). What's needed now is a similar number of trains (eight) that run directly from Moss Vale/Bowral/Mittagong to Central.

What's needed now?

Council: We urge the Wingecarribee Shire Council to:

1. Ensure all major new developments include a planned and interconnected series of shared walk/cycleways. This includes walking paths to link cul-de-sacs.
2. Investigate and progress the linking of various "dead-end" roads to connect with others to encourage more flow within the region.
3. Increase the rate of progress of the Cycleway Strategy by seeking various funding grants. This will result in less vehicular traffic and encourage more cycling/walking for both locals and tourists with resultant economic and health benefits.
4. As local roads are upgraded, increase shoulder-width to provide marked cycle lanes.

The State Government: We urge the NSW State Government to:

1. Improve the direct trains (i.e. Moss Vale/Bowral/Mittagong to Central) by rescheduling time tables to better suit workday times and increase the number of direct trains.
2. Construct at least one (and preferably two) rail sidings between Campbelltown and Mittagong to enable passenger trains to pass goods trains travelling in the same direction and to allow passing in the event of breakdowns.

Entrepreneurs: We're looking for entrepreneurs to:

1. Develop a system of electric bike-hiring/tuk-tuks within the region.
2. Develop a system of local self-drive hire cars similar to the Swiss Mobility System and possibly based on GoGet Hire Cars in Sydney.

The Southern Highlands Community: We're asking you to show your support:

1. Join this Committee or a Working Party on one of the areas mentioned above to push Council, State Government and Private Investors to progress these initiatives.

OR

2. Provide your expertise or advice to assist with any or all of the above initiatives (no need to join a group, just give us your brains!)

Yes, I'd love to help. My name is:

**I may be contacted by email at:
and phone:**

I have an interest in or know something about:

EMAIL THIS FORM TO: bob@nationallearning.com.au or phone 04 111 9 444 1 a.s.a.!