



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Leanne Castley MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Jo Clay on 2 March 2022

Ref: Environment, Annual Report page number 43, Recommendation 16

In relation to: Increasing active travel

You've made recommendations about increasing active transport, cycling and public transport, but we're not very far advanced on these. What does Government need to do to make that happen?

Dr Sophie Lewis: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

Recommendation 16 of the 2019 State of the Environment Report (SoER) is as follows:

“explore incentives to increase the uptake of public transport, car and ride sharing options, and active travel, including cycling amongst women and girls.”

Recommendation 17 is as follows:

“consider implementing innovative community engagement programs which encourage active travel, including the establishment of car-free streets and car-free dates as a part of the ACT festival calendar.”

Public transport use has been increasing in recent years, growing from 17.6 million boardings annually (45 boardings per capita) in 2014–15 to 20.1 million (48 per capita) in 2018–19. Cycling is highly variable across the ACT with the Civic area having a significantly higher uptake of cycling, likely due to flatter terrain and shorter distances to work and study centres. The SoER notes that the uptake of active travel is not optimal and that more is required to encourage and facilitate the transition of travel away from private vehicles.

These Recommendations were assessed in the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) 2020-21 Annual Report. The following information on progress towards these Recommendations was provided by lead agency Transport and City Services:

- A new Transport Strategy was delivered in 2020 that supports the long-term shift of transport modes towards walking, cycling and public transport. The Strategy identifies a number of factors influencing transport choice including travel time, cost, convenience and reliability, safety, legibility/navigability, and comfort.
- A number of projects to encourage walking and cycling as a choice including in Tuggeranong Town Centre, Belconnen Bikeway and the Woden Cycle Loop, were completed in 2020-21. Minimum passing distance signage has been rolled out at specific sites where there is high cycling traffic, and in areas of lower compliance rates with passing distance laws.



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- The Active Travel Office continues to undertake community engagement activities to raise the profile of active travel such as Canberra Walk and Ride Week and Women's Health Week (with an emphasis on increasing cycling participation for women and girls) and attends community events to increase the reach of audiences (COVID permitting).

While such programs and activities work towards increasing active travel, further is required to substantially shift trips to active travel. Such measures may, for example, include:

- Further incentives for people to switch to public transport and/or active travel
- Pop-up separated cycle infrastructure
- Greater provision of end-of-trip facilities in workplaces
- Encourage and promote e-bike use, including through provision of public charging infrastructure.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity

Signature: 

Date: 7 March 2022

By the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, Dr Sophie Lewis