

ILLAWARRA ACTIVE TRANSPORT TASKFORCE DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (as at 13-3-06)

Introduction

Active transport is about creating cities and towns that encourage and support people travelling by active means. This could be cycling, walking, rollerblading etc. Active transport is a vital ingredient in creating healthy, sustainable and equitable cities.

Healthy Cities Illawarra believes that the Illawarra region needs a group committed to improving the opportunities for people to transport themselves actively in their suburbs and cities. This involves working with government, non-government, businesses and community groups to identify ways in which we can reduce our reliance on motor vehicle use and improve the urban environment so that more people are able to take active transport.

To this end Healthy Cities Illawarra has consulted with other health organizations, community groups and the bike industry and proposes establishing the 'Illawarra Active Transport Task Force'.

Purpose

To provide the region with improved health, transportation as well as to protect the physical environment, the Illawarra Active Transport Taskforce will help coordinate the efforts of committed organisations and groups in order to create urban environments which encourage and support active transport for all citizens.

Objectives

1. Draw on taskforce members' knowledge, experience and contacts to identify regional barriers which inhibit cycling and pedestrian trips.
2. Advocate and lobby relevant bodies and organisations to improve cycling and pedestrian environments and facilities in the region.
3. Present a unified voice for cyclists and pedestrians throughout the region.
4. Provide input into policy and planning processes to prioritise cycling and walking trips in local and regional urban development.
5. Establish and administer an email network of cycling and walking advocates.
6. Promote cycling and walking as healthier, inexpensive and more sustainable transport option.

Structure

The Taskforce will be comprised of a core 'Working Hub' (the Hub) which will be responsible for driving the strategies for the Taskforce. This Hub will meet bi-monthly and individuals may become responsible for coordinating specific activities eg. publicity, policy review.

The Taskforce will also support a wider network of members who are interested in the Taskforce but are unable to participate in the Hub due to time or other restraints. These members will receive newsletters, be asked for comments/advice and be invited to attend events/other meetings or participate in activities.

Meetings

The Hub will meet for 2 hours bi-monthly or as required. This is to be reviewed at the end of year one.

There will be regular communication with the network members and meetings to occur 3-4 times per year

Membership

Open to all interested persons. The following organisations will be encouraged to participate: local government, health service, relevant state government departments including Dept. of Environment and Conservation, Roads and Traffic Authority, Dept. Infrastructure and Planning, Dept. of Transport, Bicycle User Groups; cycle businesses; and other organisations with an interest in promoting cycling as an alternative to car use for transport, environmental or health-related reasons.

There is no membership fee, however members may consider joining Healthy Cities Illawarra (\$5 individual).

Venue

The meetings of the Hub will be held at Healthy Cities Illawarra, 63 Auburn St, Wollongong, NSW, 2500.

HCI Management and Responsibilities

Healthy Cities will provide administrative and professional support (up to 3 hrs/week).
HCI will:

- Be responsible for the overall coordination of the taskforce
- Be the contact for the taskforce
- Keep an up-to-date membership list
- Record and distribute information to all members

Commitment

It is important that there is a commitment from all members of the Hub to participate in meetings as regularly as possible. Although coordination of the Taskforce will be HCI's responsibility the success of the Taskforce will be dependent upon all members participating actively in the agreed tasks. The Hub will be task oriented.

Review

A review of the activities, effectiveness, and terms of reference objectives of the taskforce will occur at the end of the first 12 months of operation of the taskforce, and annual reviews will take place for the lifespan of the taskforce.