

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BETTER BIKE FACILITIES AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA

The need for better bike infrastructure and facilities remains on the top of the 'wish list' for WA bike riders according to a recent Bicycling Western Australia (BWA) survey.

In a recent online survey, people were asked to identify what they consider to be the priorities to make riding easier and safer throughout the State. Almost half of the respondents (44.8 per cent) indicated a desire to see more cycling infrastructure and safer riding routes.

"It was clear from the survey that our members are keen to see a connected cycling network developed with more bike lanes and off-road cycling paths," said Jeremy Murray, BWA CEO. "We know from previous surveys that being able to ride in an environment that offers some level of protection, whether that be on-road bike lanes or off-road cycle paths, is a key driver to getting more people on their bikes."

Road safety remains an important topic (28.6 per cent) with the desire to see more education of drivers and riders along with changes to legislation such as the introduction of Minimum Passing Distance rules and greater consideration for lower speed limited on local suburban streets.

A better understanding of how the roads, paths and facilities are funded was highlighted. "There is a lot of misunderstanding around how roads are funded and who actually pays for them. Is it vehicle registration, income tax, GST and the like? Or a combination of them all?" Mr Murray said.

The benefits of cycling are well documented and reasonably understood by policy and decision makers but there are a large number of barriers that are preventing more people for choosing to ride a bike for transport, pleasure or sport.

"We will continue to work closely with the different levels of government and key stakeholders to remove the barriers so more people can take up cycling in Western Australia," said Mr Murray. "Knowing what people want will help refocus our advocacy efforts so that together we can continue to make bike riding easier, safer and more accessible for all Western Australians."

Further details on the results of the survey can be downloaded from www.bwa.org.au/better-biking/761/

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About Bicycling Western Australia

Bicycling Western Australia believes that bike riding gives people the freedom to create a healthier future. We are working hard to make bike riding easier, safer and more accessible for all Western Australians.

BWA is an independent membership-based organisation that is focused on getting more Western Australians cycling more often. Our 4,500 members and 11,000 friends help us achieve our mission advocacy, education, community initiatives and cycling events.

Media enquiries:

Katie Presenza

Marketing Assistant

T: 08 6336 9696 **M:** 0405 431 108

E: katiep@bwa.org.au

Media statements & interviews:

Jeremy Murray

Chief Executive Officer

T: 08 6336 9696 **M:** 0419 867 837

E: jeremeym@bwa.org.au

more people cycling more often