

SUBMISSION TO THE PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO PROGRESS IN RAIL REFORM

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As a cycle advocate, rail has the potential to play an important role in my transport needs. As it happens my needs lead to direct benefits to rail.

Some of the critical issues for cycling are;

- Less congestion on the road
Safety on the road
- Access to multi mode transport

Shared benefits of cycling and increased/better rail utilisation are; more effective use of resources, reduced pollution, efficient use of infrastructure. Issues that have become very prominent with the public and governments at all levels are health, urban planning improvements, avoiding traffic sewers, environment and ecologically sustainable development and transportation and social cost

Where am I heading?

At Velo Australis International Cydin9 Conference in Fremantle October 1996 I attended a session presented by representatives from **New South** Wales Department of Transport It was demonstrated how providing facilities for cyclists had exposed each suburban railway station to a population 9 times as large as before encouraging cyclists. This type of multi modal organisation has the benefits noted previously with the addition of large financial gains for rail with limited outlay

This type of arrangement can be extended to benefit the ever increasing cycle tourism market which could utilise the non metropolitan networks to great effect.

Rail freight improvements not only are logical again for the reasons above but have the added bonus of removing trucks from the road. Many cyclists approach me regarding the impact of B-doubles which suck cyclists under their path and furthermore trucks use more road width and regularly squeeze cyclists off the road. The damage caused to the road by large vehicles has caused many cycling accidents having a significant impact on participation rates

Cycling and rail have the ability to assist each other with clearly identifiable benefits to each and to society at large. Any strategic plan for rail should include references to and involvement of cycling.

I also put my full support behind the Bicycle Federation of Australia and their submission.