

Progress in Rail Reform
Productivity Commission
LB2 Collins St
Melbourne VIC 8003

Tuesday, 20 October 1998

Re: Productivity commission inquiry into Progress in Rail Reform

I would like to bring to the attention of the inquiry the great potential for an increase in rail travel, mainly for metropolitan commuters, if users are actively encouraged to cycle to stations and terminals.

Many cities around the world have successful rail systems that utilise bicycle travel as a significant mode of transport for their customers.

The reasons for encouraging cycling to rail stations and terminals are many, the major benefits being:

- A passenger can comfortably cycle up to 5 kms to a station. (Much further than people are prepared to walk).
- Car parking is limited at many stations and may also required a long walk from the car.
- Station car parks are hot spots for crime, vandalism and car theft.
- Car parking is expensive to provide (\$15,000 per space is one estimate).
- A passenger can reduce their commute time and cost by avoiding a feeder bus or driving.

I believe any funds spent on provisions for cyclists would be soon recouped.

These provisions could include:

- Bicycle rails on or near platforms. Approximate cost \$100 each.
- Secure bicycle storage (lockers) on or near platforms. Approximate cost \$1000 each.
- Video surveillance of the above facilities.
- Provision of bicycle lanes on feeder roads. (With local council assistance).
- Advertising campaign to encourage walking and cycling to stations. (The Health and Environmental benefits could be highlighted).
- More provision to carry bicycles to the destination at a suitable cost.
- Free travel for a short period (3 months) to encourage people to commute via rail.

I enjoy both rail travel and cycling and I hope both forms of transport enjoy a timely resurgence. Passenger Rail in this country needs bicycles to succeed. If bicycles continue to be ignored then potential passengers will continue to drive to their destinations and more rail lines will be paved over for bike paths.

Rod Munro
25 Malcolm Ave
Holden Hill SA 5088
(08)8369 1642
Munro.Rod@etsa.com.au

For the interest of the commission I have enclosed a collection of clippings related to bicycles and rail travel.

I hope you will find the time to peruse the articles.

The Clippings have been taken from Australian Cyclist and Network News.

Australian Cyclist is Australia's biggest circulating cycling magazine. It is produced by the Bicycle Federation of Australia and has many articles relating to bicycles and public transport. Many of the articles are by Alan Parker, who has made a substantial submission to the Rail reform inquiry and will be appearing in Melbourne. Some of these articles may also be covered by Alan.

Network News is a global clipping service located in the USA. Items from newspapers around the world are included.

All of these clippings indicate that access to public transport is important to cyclists. Many of these clippings show what has been done for cyclists overseas.

It is no coincidence that the most impressive facilities for cyclists are in the cities with successful public transport systems.

I have read the submission by Alan Parker and agree totally with all he has said.

I would like to stress to the commission that as long as private motor vehicle use in this country is encouraged by the outdated policies of all governments, the future of more efficient and environmentally friendly modes of transport looks grim.