

CYCLE INSTEAD BIKEWEEK 2010

Statement by Minister for Transport

HON SIMON O'BRIEN (South Metropolitan — Minister for Transport) [4.05 pm]: I was pleased to be joined today by members of Parliament for the sixteenth annual Members and Mayors' Bike Ride. The ride, part of Cycle Instead Bikeweek 2010, departed from Parliament House and followed the principal shared path from West Perth to Claremont. Western Australia's bicycle network consists of many hundreds of kilometres of shared paths along our freeway system and beaches, rivers and public open spaces. We are fortunate to have a multitude of local bicycle routes and safe cycling streets that connect to major trip attractors such as schools, shopping centres and community facilities. The Liberal-National government is committed to Western Australia's bicycle network. This year alone the Department of Transport has provided more than \$2 million to local governments across the state to assist them to upgrade their cycling infrastructure. In the past financial year Main Roads WA has invested a staggering \$25 million in new bike paths, delivering over 40 kilometres in new cycling infrastructure. Projects of note include 32 kilometres of shared paths along the new Perth-Bunbury highway, at a cost of \$15 million, and 7.5 kilometres of shared paths, costing \$6.9 million, as part of the extension of Mitchell Freeway to Burns Beach Road. An additional \$1.5 million is currently being spent by Main Roads on cycling-related projects in Claremont, Ocean Reef and Bassendean. The decision to invest in the state's bicycle network over the years has been a good one, as we have seen significant growth in the number of people using our main shared path routes, with benefits all around. I thank the Bikewest team at the Department of Transport, WA Police, the Town of Claremont, Main Roads WA and the Public Transport Authority, and everyone else who helped make this year's event a success.

Consideration of the statement made an order of the day for the next sitting, on motion by **Hon Ed Dermer**.