

VELO-CITY: PERTH — CYCLING IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Statement by Member for Gosnells

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Gosnells) [12.50 pm]: On Thursday, 18 November, I attended the launch of the book *Velo-City: Perth — Cycling in Western Australia* by Debra Mayrhofer. The book presents a huge range of Western Australian cycling stories presenting the diversity of Western Australia's cycling styles and practices. From people who cycle for sport, for fitness, for touring and for exploring our great state, or for exploring other countries, or just as a simple, healthy family recreational activity, this book documents cycling today in Western Australia. Most striking are the stories from people who seek to normalise cycling in Perth as a means of commuting, while enriching their quality of life. Examples are given of people riding in close proximity to their homes, of those combining cycling and public transport, and of those who, like some members of this place, manage to cycle to work a couple of times a week.

Just today we have seen the release of another report into the cost of traffic congestion in Perth. This time, the RAC has surveyed its business members and found that, consistent with federal government estimates, the cost to the Perth economy of traffic congestion is around \$1.1 billion a year. Cycling is not the whole solution to our traffic congestion problems, but it can make a significant difference. Stickers produced by the Bicycle Transport Alliance, seen on a growing number of bikes around Perth, state "One Less Car". Setting targets for decreasing the number of car journeys taken by people on Perth's roads should be a government priority. One of the contributors to *Velo-City*, Professor Billie Giles-Corti, director of the University of Western Australia's Centre for the Built Environment and Health, is calling for an extension of our bike path network, with two-way European-style protected bike tracks. This call follows new research undertaken by the Monash University Accident Research Centre and the Amy Gillet Foundation that found motorists are to blame for the majority of accidents involving cars and bikes. I recommend *Velo-City* to all Western Australians so that we can be inspired to choose travel options that are better than the car.