

2022-23 Pre Budget Submission From the Amy Gillett Foundation

The Amy Gillett Foundation (AGF) is Australia's leading cycling safety charity, working towards our goal of **zero cyclist fatalities and serious injuries.**

We have a proven track record in:

- Delivering programs that make bike riding in Australia safer.
- Initiating research and analysis to improve knowledge within the Australian road safety sector.
- Supporting and collaborating with victims of road trauma to develop a deeper understanding of existing risks, and how to prevent them.

AGF is committed to playing a constructive role in improving road safety outcomes in Australia.

Our current focus

Create safe streets that enable more people to ride a bike more often.

This focus is essential for;

- *Driving progress towards Zero.* The number of bicycle riders being killed in Australia each year is not reducing. **On average, 39 people are killed while riding a bike each year.** A shift in thinking is needed to reduce this trauma.
- *Sustaining the boom in cycling.* An estimated **10.1 million Australians rode a bike in 2020.** Growing this number in coming years can deliver significant economic, transport, health and environmental benefits.
- *Building on the cycling economy.* **The cycling industry had a direct economic output of \$6.3bn in 2020,** with a total contribution of \$16.8bn. Investing in cycling safety will build on this solid foundation.

The 2022-23 Budget opportunity

AGF are well placed to deliver programs and initiatives that effectively '**move the needle**' on **road safety**. We can help embed safety into the processes currently being used to build Australian roads, and in doing this, ensure we get closer to zero cyclist fatalities and serious injuries.

Rather than seeking funding to deliver specific cycling or road projects within the 2022-23 Budget, **we are seeking support to improve the system.** Safe streets for people on bikes can be a natural outcome of Federal transport spending, if the people and tools that are involved in road project delivery are improved.

The 2022-23 Budget will undoubtedly include billions of dollars in transport spending. AGF can help ensure that this investment delivers a 'safety dividend' that also complements Government transport, health and environment policy.

Outcomes

This \$12m package will deliver a wholesale structural change to achieve a vastly improved return on the Federal Government's annual investment in the transport system; promising to **achieve more for less.** Benefits include:

- Cost savings through reduced road trauma and improved wellbeing.
- Productivity benefits from more people being active and staying healthy.
- Transport system efficiencies (congestion mitigation, travel time reduction).
- Emissions reduction through more people cycling, especially for short trips.
- Significant, tangible progress towards Australia's VisionZero road safety goal.

Summary of Recommendations

<p>Recommendation 1: SKILLS</p> <p>Upskill practitioners and local decision makers in how to deliver best practice, safe cycling infrastructure.</p>	<p>Delivery of a skills package that trains engineers, planners, designers and decision makers on the specifics of bike safety, and how to leverage opportunities to build safe roads in their communities. AGF to lead, in collaboration with Local Government Authorities.</p> <p>Impact: 8,000 - 10,000 people upskilled by 2025. Investment: \$6.1m</p>
<p>Recommendation 2: STANDARDS</p> <p>Update the national road design guidelines ('standards') with best practice for cycling safety.</p>	<p>Review and update the national Guide to Road Design, ensuring that cycling safety is central to any new street or existing street improvement project. AGF to manage review in collaboration with Government agencies.</p> <p>Impact: Revised standards implemented by 2024, enabling practitioners across Australia to implement designs to keep people riding bikes safe. Investment: \$1.2m</p>
<p>Recommendation 3: MAPPING</p> <p>Improve the mapping of roads for bike rider safety by gathering the data that can improve infrastructure decision making and investment.</p>	<p>Map risk factors relevant to cycling safety to inform investment in cycling infrastructure. By compiling spatial data, this initiative will bring an evidence-based approach to cycling project design and selection. AGF to implement in collaboration with partner tech specialists.</p> <p>Impact: Data gathering and analytics complete by 2024, establishing a 'baseline' from which future improvements can be measured. Investment: \$2.5m</p>
<p>Recommendation 4: COLLABORATION</p> <p>Improve collaboration and knowledge sharing between Local and State/Territory Governments so that communities across Australia benefit from safe cycling improvements.</p>	<p>Coordinate an online 'centre of excellence' for cycling infrastructure design information, policies and tools, accessible for all transport and built environment professionals. AGF to implement.</p> <p>Impact: Digital 'centre of excellence' established in 2023. Investment: \$2.2m</p>

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