

# Help our city - go for a bike lifestyle

Last week I decided to support a good cause and replace four wheels for two as part of Sustainable Illawarra's Ride to Work Week.

I joined a number of council staff and community members who also jumped on their bikes to promote the environmental and health benefits of cycling to work.

Cycling is a low impact activity that has proved to significantly improve health and fitness levels. Taking your bike to work instead of the car also saves on petrol and reduces carbon emissions.

With the number of people working in the city centre set to increase by 10,000 over the next 20 years, cycling is one of the healthy alternatives we're urging residents to adopt as part of the Inner City Parking Strategy.

As part of the strategy, next week the council will award a tender for parking meters in the CBD to encourage all day parkers to consider alternatives such as cycling, walking, public transport or carpooling.

Any revenue from the meters will be spent on inner-city transport solutions including cycle and pedestrian improvements to make it easier to leave the car at home, public transport infrastructure and additional parking.

Beyond the city centre, the council will spend around \$150,000 in the next



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12 months to maintain Wollongong's shared pathway network, which provides a continuous pedestrian and cycle link from Thirroul to Windang, Warrawong to Berkeley and Wollongong to the University.

We have also allocated \$273,000 to renew large sections of the cycleway network adjacent to the Fairy Meadow Leisure Resort, at Wollamia Point Berkeley and at the northern end of the Bellambi Lagoon.

This will help encourage more cycling in the community and provide an incentive to combine a bike ride with public transport for those residents who don't live close enough to walk or cycle straight to work.

**- David Farmer,  
General Manager,  
Wollongong City Council**