

Common sense solution to bikes on footpaths.

Amendments to the Road Traffic Act 1961 and Motor Vehicles Act 1959 to be introduced later today by Shadow Minister for Transport and Infrastructure, David Pisoni, are broadly supported by the RSB.

The key changes proposed by the amendments are:

- To set a maximum speed of 10kph for cyclists on footpaths unless otherwise signposted; and
- Allow pedestrians who are injured by a bicycle while on a footpath, to claim medical expenses through the existing compulsory third party insurance scheme, if the cyclist cannot be identified.

RSB Government Relations and Accessibility spokesperson, Tony Starkey, commends the proposed solutions; noting they are likely to reduce the number of accidents involving pedestrians – and most importantly – pedestrians who are vision impaired.

“A 10kph speed limit for bicycles will reassure the blind and vision impaired community reducing their fears of being hit by a cyclist when negotiating footpaths.

“There are already numerous obstacles on footpaths that our clients have to navigate, including motorised scooters; which are already restricted to 10kph. If cyclists are restricted to the same speed, it will be much easier for our clients to adjust.

“The ability to claim third party insurance is also a common sense solution if any accidents do occur. For the safety of all pedestrians who are vision impaired, these modest changes are the absolute minimum that need to be implemented and the RSB fully supports these initiatives”, Tony Starkey says.

Interviews and photo opportunities available.

ENDS:

Contact:
Rob Hart
Communications Officer
M 0439 844 051
E robert.hart@rsb.org.au