

Cycling Action Network 2023 AGM

25+ years of cycling advocacy



Chair's Report 2023

CAN is committed to making New Zealand better for people who ride bikes and we're proud of what we've achieved in support of this mission since 1997. Now, more than ever, more people cycling leads to huge benefits: convenient and affordable journeys, safer streets, cleaner air, climate mitigation, healthier people, lowers household costs, and importantly, loads of fun.

Cycling's public profile

CAN continues to provide a credible and persuasive public voice for cycling. Themes in news media this year have included road safety, the benefits of bike lanes, bike tourism, sustainability, and the e-bike boom. Our project manager and volunteers have presented at three Committees at Parliament, lifting CAN's profile and building relationships. With the new Prime Minister Chris Hipkins being a regular cyclist, we are hopeful for improved Government policy and glad for cycling's increased visibility. We look forward to the challenge that election year brings.

Fundraising

CAN depends on the generosity of our members and supporters to remain financially viable. Thank you to everyone who donated to make sure we can employ staff, run an office and website, and campaign for cycling. A special thank you to the Sustainability Trust for hosting our office in Wellington. Fundraising takes significant efforts, which has an impact on our ability to campaign and advocate. As in years before, our challenge moving forward is in diversifying our income to ensure financial sustainability.

Regional support

While our operational priority may be national level advocacy, an ever-important part of our day-to-day includes collaborating with and assisting our members in regional groups on issues such as submitting on local cycling projects and speed limit changes. A highlight includes CAN providing fundraising and logistical support for our members making submissions to the Environment Court about the Riverlink project in the Hutt Valley. As a result, we achieved some significant wins, such as higher quality cycling paths. In Wellington, local government elections

delivered a more bike-friendly Council and a city-wide plan for new bike lanes. This proves to us that advocacy works.

2023 and beyond

We have much work to do. The 2023 election offers us opportunities to present the case for cycling, in part through providing our members with campaigning tools. After three years of work, the Accessible Streets package is stalled in the Beehive. It includes a safe passing rule and changes to give way rules to make cycling safer. CAN's Give Us Room campaign puts pressure on the Government to get this done.

As supply chain pressures ease, e-bike sales continue to boom. The popularity of new trails such as the Lake Dunstan Trail demonstrate how bike tourism supports regional businesses and makes people happy. An e-bike subsidy is an effective and affordable boost to biking, and we're committed to seeing this introduced in New Zealand.

Much needed thanks

Thanks to Board members for their support, guidance, and making sure CAN is able to advocate for people on bikes. Particularly as I step away from my time on the Board, we welcome the talents and energy of new Board members. Thank you to the regional cycling advocacy groups who do so much of that vital local groundwork.

As always, the biggest thank you is reserved for Patrick, whose tireless passion and contagious optimism is such a big part of the cycling progress that's been made in Aotearoa to date.

I wish you happy cycling and plenty of tailwinds in the year ahead. Together, we can make cycling even better.

References

<https://can.org.nz/achievements>

<https://www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/walking-and-cycling/accessible-streets/>

<https://can.org.nz/giveusroom>