

## 2018 PNP AGM

### Advocacy report from Mark Coburn

<p><b>Cycling New Zealand's mission</b></p> <p>To ensure cyclists of every age and ability are given the opportunity to participate, develop, compete and perform at the level they aspire to.</p>	<p><b>Cycle Action Network's mission</b></p> <p>CAN is a national voice for cyclists, promoting cycling as an enjoyable, healthy, low-cost and environment-friendly activity, and a key part of an integrated, sustainable transport system.</p>
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#### **QUESTIONS:**

How many of you put in submissions during the past year?

How many submissions did you make?

#### **BACKGROUND**

At the 2016 AGM the club wanted to have an advocacy voice. It should be a real issue to riders that we are not strong in making submissions to Council etc on key matters that impact us.

So the club put out a call pre AGM, I explained I'm quite involved with Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW), offer a balanced view (road racer + advocacy + commuter) so offered to help where I could.

I'm not "on" the committee, don't receive an honorarium, don't want one and the role shouldn't attract one. I don't attend PNP

meetings as the role doesn't require attendance but would do if specifically required.

## **CURRENT**

Since 2016 the club has trusted me to put in submissions under our name and without inhouse consultation. I've tried to get feedback / rider views before but it's very limited (thanks to the handful, and I do mean handful, one handful).

## **THE PAST YEAR**

- I attend 80% of the Cycle Aware Wellington (CAW) monthly meetings. They are going to change their name to "Cycle Wellington". They would be open to having the "racing" community attend any meetings to see where we have middle ground and also respecting our differences, but I'm not sure of the turn-out (not interested or training hard on a Tuesday 6pm). Is there another way for dialogue? (see final point). Suggest having a quick scan over their website, they keep brief minutes, but a range of opinion pieces <https://cycwell.wordpress.com/>
- Sent several articles for the PNP Weekly News. Got a couple of standard paragraphs that remain each week.
- Went to Council drop-in centres on various routes e.g. Hutt inner suburbs plan held at the Dowse.
- Made submissions on:
  - Kilbirnie
  - Newtown / Wilson St
  - Constable Street and Crawford Road
  - Evans Bay
  - Miramar Ave
  - NZTA Petone-Melling

○ Shelly Bay (I didn't say we supported or objected to the overall housing plan, it's not our place to say plus to do that really needs strong input from the club, but I said *if* it was built then we suggest x,y,z...)

## **FUTURE**

All riders should be making personal submissions. Even ticking one box to say you support helps. The online submission forms are very easy, some take 60 seconds.

Anyone can get involved. You don't need to be on a committee to do this.

**I'm quite happy if anyone wants to take over from me** or start supporting me more actively. Key is you need to take a reasonable middle ground (like I did with Shelly Bay), to be careful what you put the PNP name to, and talk about the range of members we have, generally confident but also less confident and also concerned parents, we span MTB, Road and Track, cycling makes a positive impact to general healthy lifestyles, reduce congestion etc.

## **TO MULL OVER...**

- The future for cycling is really positive with a large pool of money and projects going to improving cycling and greater Wellington has got a piece of the action.
- The current Government is likely to progress in a number of pro-cycling areas.

- Lots of projects in Wgtn are about to kick off. They had to spend a lot of time to get funding and plans in place so now the build can start.
- Hutt road - work is streaming ahead. We don't expect large bunches to use it south bound but if you are coming that way in a small group single file or alone make sure you use it, it sends the right message. I use it both ways.
- There is a huge amount of advocacy work going on by volunteers across the country. That's 3 steps forward. Every time you go thru a red traffic light and in front of waiting cars it's one step back. Think carefully about the messages you send other road users. Respect works both ways.
- If you commute in places like the waterfront and Cobham Drive path (soon to be upgraded too!), consider turning your light to steady state as the flashing/blinking is highly annoying to pedestrians and cyclists coming the other way.
- Commute on the water front? Watch your speed, tone it down, keep distance from pedestrians as they don't like the "woosh" either.

### **To really mull over...**

- Thanks to Tristan Thomas for starting a conversation on Facebook on 20<sup>th</sup> April re protected cycle lanes. Advocacy and racing people commented. You can see the diverse range of views plus some middle ground. How can we progress so we all win?