

Name	Jon Leighton OAM Elected December 2015 Member since 1990 (28 years)
Qualifications	6 years' experience on BNSW Board, currently serving as President Bachelor of Accounting, Law and Economics, ACA, MGSM
What I bring to the board... Past & future, in relation to BNSW	<p>Introduced to Bicycle NSW with the goal of having a voice for all bicycle riders in NSW. I had the vision of enabling Bicycle NSW to be recognised as an effective peak advocacy body for all bicycle riders in NSW. The organisation had a falling membership, no resources, no collective goal and poor or non-existent key stakeholder relations.</p> <p>Engaging the whole bicycle riding community, past, current and future membership of Bicycle NSW. I have patiently rebuilt the board to bring diversity of skills, contacts, ideas, backgrounds and gender. Whilst this is an ongoing process we have the most cohesive and effective board ever.</p> <p>We all agreed on the goal of “creating a better environment for all bicycle riders in nsw” and worked to understand that the ultimate decision maker for both infrastructure and law is the state government of NSW – both the civil servants and the politicians. The engagement with bicycle user groups and local councils also. We require the building of cycling infrastructure and change in law . Cycling is not top of their agenda so we needed effective advocacy requiring strong relationships to apply adequate pressure. This has been the job of the whole board, past and present. We needed to recruit and now have a viable, skilled executive team and each member of that team has a board mentor. We have stability, engagement and the best ever communication as one team.</p> <p>The major achievements has been the 12 month testing of minimum passing distance legislation in NSW and the confirmation in NSW law earlier this year. This is a significant and tangible change. We are working on the education of all road users to understand this.</p> <p>The advocacy takes many forms from asking the government to spend money on road user communication, funding Bicycle NSW communication, advocating with the police with a recent major step forward with a positive meetings with both the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of Police. The assistant commissioner promised to work with me to educate the “16,000 men in black and blue” to educate them to understand and support the bicycle riders rights and give them the respect and full protection of the law”</p> <p>We achieved confirmation by the government of the \$120m Sydney cycling network as well as a commitment to spend \$40m building a bicycle ramp onto the north end of the Sydney harbour bridge and \$30m improving the southern end . Whilst this has been publicly announced my personal mission is to ensure it actually gets built. Supporting the work in the regions for example the boards focus on the Newcastle cycleways movement and advocacy.</p> <p>Other important changes have been to create a partnership with Fairfax events to spend \$1million pa to promote the spring cycle as well as have their events team run the event. This will mean both greater awareness of this great event and therefore Bicycle NSW and therefore effective government advocacy but has allowed the organisation to get back to focussing the majority of its time and energy on advocacy for all members, past, current and future to continue to create a better environment for all bicycle riders in NSW. Financially this should also provide a revenue stream that will see Bicycle NSW become a financially safe and stable organisation that has more revenue available to invest in advocacy. This relationship is new and crucial I steward this to ensure Bicycle NSW receives</p>

the full benefits. I also worked on with current board members the first hall mark status of the Bicycle NSW spring cycle from 2019 and have achieved a 5 year commitment from the NSW government for the use of the SHB and Sydney road infrastructure for the spring cycle.

**What I stand for/
hope to achieve**

I am a commuter rider, riding to meetings on behalf of Bicycle NSW, ride people to and from school, organise new cycling groups and those new to bicycle riding onto a bike as well as continue to compete both as an elite and masters rider in participation events like the BNSW Spring Cycle, - every one for the past 10 years, Gran fondos and state, national masters and world championships.

Within Australia I have been part of the National Bicycle summits and have strong relationships with the different cycling bodies and decision makers. It is a broad church. However what I know is this. To improve the conditions and deal for all bicycle riders in NSW we need strong relationships and consistent advocacy by many hands but in a cohesive manner and that Bicycle NSW is the body to provide that.

The advocacy work of Bicycle NSW is critical to improve riding conditions through education, legislative changes and infrastructure developments. I believe that we need better cycling facilities to make it easier, more enjoyable and safer for people to participate regularly in cycling for health, fun and as part of their social network, and that the advocacy work is critical to achieving this. We have been bold in finding ways to meet decision makers at all levels of government and frankly forcing a change in law was bold, effective advocacy at the highest level also believe that Bicycle NSW can play a role in promoting a behavioural and mindset shift from motorists in how they perceive cyclists, their rights, and their knowledge of the road rules as they relate to cyclists and cyclist behaviour. This education process of motorists and cyclists is critical to our ability to co-exist safely.

Specifically we are working on:

Safety, Behaviour and Education

- Campaigns:
 - Minimum Passing Distance - achieved however need awareness campaign
 - Footpath Riding - achieved for up to 14 but more work to do
 - Vulnerable road users and education
- Increase liaison Police, TNSW, RMS, Planning, GSC and other stakeholder s

Infrastructure

- **Sydney Harbour Bridge** – replace steps and southern connection – publicly announced, design in progress, community consultation current. Aiming for 2019 start dates and completion 2020
 - **2018 Cycling Infrastructure** (\$80m), Metro Cycling Priorities (\$71.7m), Regional Priority Cycleways (\$21.3m) Total \$173m (or \$5 per capita)
 - **2019 Cycling Infrastructure** Target 2018 to double to \$350m (or \$10 per capita)
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2020 Priorities.

- **Local Cycle Network Plans** – Newcastle Cycle Safe Network, Bike East Safe Streets Neighborhood – (*Establish similar plans for other areas of Sydney, Wollongong and NSW regions*)
 - **Newcastle Cycle Network**
 - **Hornsby to SHB bike corridor**
- **Cycling (and pedestrians) investment/considered in all new Transport projects** (*Active Transport*)
- **Progress Review of key NSW plans** - Bike Plan 2010, Sydney's Cycling Future 2013.
- **Target Increase bicycle funding** to improve per capita levels (*Target: ACT \$40, London \$38*)
- **Support NSW Rail Trails.** Such as New England and North Coast

Organizing meetings with the head of transport of each of the major parties in the lead up to the state election. We have directly spoken to the minister of transport about establishing a Parliamentary Bike Riders Group.

We have reenergised the ***Bicycle NSW Environmental Trust*** that offers a tax-deductible vehicle to “create a better environment for cycling”. Specifically last year I organised a charity ride that resulted in donations into the trust that was vital the financial survival of the organisation.

The credit for this goes to the whole board and organisation and ultimately my skill and contribution has been to understand, engage with and attract ever more skilled board members.

I will continue to agitate for a better deal for all bicycle riders, to attract and work with a diverse skilled board. The approach to and appointment of our 2 lady board members Melinda and Deanne who have been re-elected last year, the skills of our audit and risk head David, our advocacy lead Peter and regional advocacy Peter, deputy president Royce we will enable BNSW in achieving its objectives.

I know there is so much to do I'm more passionate than ever about Creating a Better Environment for all bicycle riders in NSW.
