

Nomination to Board of Bicycle NSW – Candidate Statement

Name Deanne Methven
Board Member Bicycle NSW (August 2017 to date)

Occupation Senior Associate
Carroll & O’Dea, Lawyers

Qualifications Solicitor of Supreme Court of New South Wales (2006 to date)
Diploma in Law (LPAB) (2005)
Licensed Real Estate Agent (1996 – 2016)

What I bring to the board...
Past & future, in relation to BNSW

I have worked as an in house corporate lawyer and a senior lawyer in private practice for many years. My roles have included providing broad and varied legal advice to boards, senior executives, governing and regulatory bodies. I was appointed by the Board to the Board of Bicycles NSW in August 2017. I understand the complexities and legalities which boards face in achieving their goals, including regulatory compliance and the need for a cohesive, informed and supported environment. I am impressed with the depth, knowledge and commitment of various members of the Bicycle NSW Board. I am honoured to be part of the vision and keen to help expand the vision of this advocacy group, in creating better riding conditions, infrastructure and a cohesive riding environment between motorist, cyclists and the overall community.

I joined the Board of Bicycles NSW with the aim of assisting and driving the access, conditions and attitudes for and towards cyclist, including encouraging greater diversity in the cycling community. I commute to work regularly and ride socially on the weekends. As such, I understand the frustrations of cyclists, pedestrians and motorists on shared roads and pathways. As the mother of teenage boys, I understand the complexities and safety issues for inexperienced cyclists having accessible, safe and fun places to ride. I am enthusiastic and filled with fresh ideas to bring change, assist with the education and the mindset of the overall community, including its leaders which will allow for a safer, friendlier and more diverse environment for our cycling community. I aim keen to see change in the the Sydney metropolitan area and regional New South Wales, given the diverse lifestyle and tourism challenges each of these areas represent.

I have actively participated in Bicycle NSW events including Spring Cycle for several years. I regularly participate in other organised riding events, raising money for charities and awareness of the cycling community. I provide my personal time to support community and school events. I provide key contacts to the Board, along with diversity in skills and gender.

What I stand for/ hope to achieve Riding should be a fun, safe and an accessible sport for everyone. I hope to improve the image of cyclists and their relationship/interaction with the broader community, especially with motorist, resulting in a safer and even more enjoyable sport which kids, families and individuals will enjoy for a lifetime.

This will be achieved with greater education, legislation, improved infrastructure and awareness. Bicycle NSW can play a major role in promoting and facilitating this between the Board, the legislators, the government and the community. An educational and cultural shift is critical to our ability to co-exist safely and to ensure that we all return home at the end of each day to our family and friends.

As a woman, a lawyer and a mother, I have renewed energy, fresh ideas and new contacts, along with my commitment to work as an integral member of the Board in achieving and facilitating a safer, more diverse cycling community with better infrastructure, community cohesion, education and awareness.
