

Paul Oosting - candidate statement, Bicycle NSW 2020 nomination.

My wife Heidi and our two sons are a bike only family. We get around Sydney on our bikes and electric cargo bike, with a bit of walking and public transport thrown in. We ride because it's often faster and easier than driving and to lower our carbon emissions plus the other stuff you know about - it's great for our health, it's a great way for our family to connect with each other and the places around us.

I'm the National Director of GetUp, a one million strong member-driven organisation that has campaigned for progressive policy in Australia for over a decade. Paul is passionate about creating a more fair, flourishing and just Australia by giving people the opportunity to engage in politics and change-making themselves. I've overseen a range of successful campaigns and the sustained growth of the organisation.

I grew up in North-west Tassie where I loved the outdoors particularly mountain biking with mates across the spectacular landscape and jumping off rocks into stormy seas. Whilst based in Tasmania I worked for The Wilderness Society and led the successful campaign to stop Gunns' proposed pulp mill which threatened the irreplaceable landscapes that present so a unique future for the State. The campaign also resulted in the protection of over 160,000 hectares of Tasmania's ancient forests.

I'm passionate about joining the Bicycle NSW Board. We've seen an unprecedented increase in the number of people buying bikes or dusting off the old one because of Covid. But, as a bike shop owner said to me recently, if the infrastructure doesn't keep up with the people then those bikes will end up back in the shed. For many, including at times my family, it's often dangerous and difficult to ride safely, given the lack of adequate infrastructure. The people who are moving into cycling are right though - cycling, now more than ever is the safest way to get around for our health, from protecting us from Covid to building up our own fitness and good health. I'd love to be able to help Bicycle NSW in ensuring those people's needs are met by all levels of government.

Bicycle NSW also has a massive opportunity over the next 7 years or so to be a leader in the conversation over what our new, cleaner and smarter transport system should be. That's the time period we have left to burn through our remaining 'carbon budget' and still ensure our planet is a safe place for everyone¹. This presents a real opportunity to look at the role of bikes, electric and pedal-powered, in solving our carbon emissions problem.

I also have experience in working with Boards, I've completed Directorship training including Applied Risk Management with the Australian Institute of Company Directors and believe I could play a useful role given my experience in these areas in governance, risk management and setting strategy for Bicycle NSW.

¹ IPCC, 2018: Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty [V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, H. O. Pörtner, D. Roberts, J. Skea, P.R. Shukla, A. Pirani, W. Moufouma-Okia, C. Péan, R. Pidcock, S. Connors, J. B. R. Matthews, Y. Chen, X. Zhou, M. I. Gomis, E. Lonnoy, T. Maycock, M. Tignor, T. Waterfield (eds.)]. In Press.