

John Hawkins first became involved in cycling advocacy a few short years after taking up cycle commuting and mountain biking in 2006, when he took a leading role in coordinating the successful campaign to reverse the closure of the Manly Dam trail to mountain bikers in 2010.

He is a Certified Practising Accountant of over 30 years' experience in financial reporting and managing related systems, covering transport and logistics, civil engineering and construction, banking and mining industries for ASX Top 100 companies.

He was a founding member of Trail Care, which provided policy advice informing the revision of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's Cycling Policy. This directly led to the construction of the Gahnia and Serrata mountain bike trails in Garrigal NP at Bantry Bay, and ongoing expansion of singletrack trail networks in regional areas to improve national park visitation through quality rider experience.

His focus on safe conditions for bicycle riders on New South Wales roads was turbocharged after an incident in 2009, where he was deliberately side-swiped off his bike by a driver while cycling to work at a time of hostile media coverage of cycling infrastructure projects in the populist media.

He was one of the first if not the first to successfully obtain the prosecution of a driver from privately submitted video for contravening the minimum safe passing distance laws after their introduction in 2016, and has provided BNSW with written detailed guidance to help others to negotiate the often-difficult police system for these incidents.

More recently, for the last several years he has represented Bicycle NSW on Northern Beaches Council's Transport and Travel Strategic Reference Group, focusing on generating rapport with Council staff and advocating for adoption of world's best practice in the provision of active travel infrastructure.

He has successfully supported the efforts of Council's road safety and active transport officers to make substantial improvements to the most recent edition of the Bike Plan, a significant feature of which is its acknowledgement of the diversity of bicycle users and their needs, splitting the network into Safe Cycling and Road Cycling components suitable for 8 to 80 year-olds. An outcome of this has been a successful pitch using video evidence to reconfigure dangerous door zone bike lanes on a suburban through road during an upcoming road resurfacing project.

He also represents Bicycle NSW on the community consultation panel for the University of Sydney's Pedal for Change research project, which is examining how to navigate the political and structural roadblocks to redesigning Australian towns and cities to be less car centric and more people- and cyclist-friendly.

John is keen to see Bicycle NSW build on the strengths it has found in advocating to government on the basis of the bicycle's enormous power to solve significant community health and mobility challenges during these difficult times.

John commutes to work by bicycle several days a week. On the weekends he can be found on the roads around the hills of Sydney's Northern Beaches with Forest Rollers, or training on his cross-country mountain bike on the trails of Manly Dam and the nearby National Parks.