



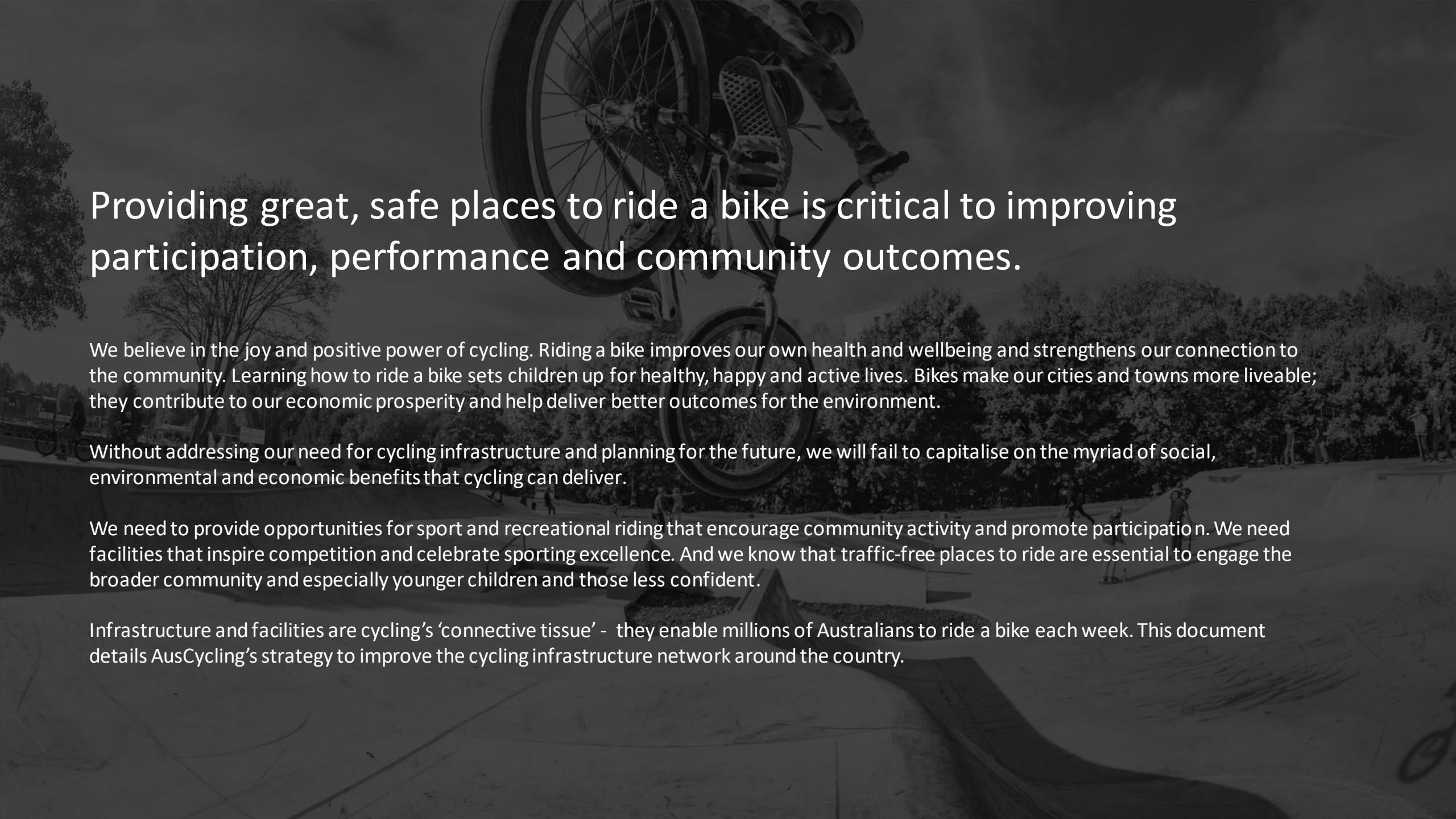
# INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

2022-2032

KINETICA

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AUSCYCLING

A grayscale photograph of a person performing a wheelie on a bicycle at a skatepark. The person is in the upper center of the frame, with the front wheel lifted high. The background shows a skatepark with ramps and other people in the distance. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# Providing great, safe places to ride a bike is critical to improving participation, performance and community outcomes.

We believe in the joy and positive power of cycling. Riding a bike improves our own health and wellbeing and strengthens our connection to the community. Learning how to ride a bike sets children up for healthy, happy and active lives. Bikes make our cities and towns more liveable; they contribute to our economic prosperity and help deliver better outcomes for the environment.

Without addressing our need for cycling infrastructure and planning for the future, we will fail to capitalise on the myriad of social, environmental and economic benefits that cycling can deliver.

We need to provide opportunities for sport and recreational riding that encourage community activity and promote participation. We need facilities that inspire competition and celebrate sporting excellence. And we know that traffic-free places to ride are essential to engage the broader community and especially younger children and those less confident.

Infrastructure and facilities are cycling's 'connective tissue' - they enable millions of Australians to ride a bike each week. This document details AusCycling's strategy to improve the cycling infrastructure network around the country.

## INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY

Create a network of safe places to ride that enables every body to unleash their potential on a bike.

Bike riders

Connected  
communities

Thriving sport

Inspiring events

Bike economy

Our aim is to have access to infrastructure that:

Supports  
more Australians  
riding bikes more  
often

Builds united,  
inclusive and  
empowered  
communities  
and supports cycling  
clubs

Enables athletes  
to maximise their  
potential through  
leading  
edge performance  
and competition  
environments,  
and pathways

Stages high  
quality events at all  
levels that inspire the  
next generation of  
athletes and the  
nation

Allows communities  
and businesses to  
benefit from bike  
riding

# BIKE RIDERS

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Infrastructure that supports more Australians riding bikes more often

Learning to ride a bike should be an experience universally available to Australian children. Learning to ride and having safe places to ride sets children up for an active, healthy and happy life.

Riding a bike brings myriad benefits to our health and wellbeing, the liveability of our cities and towns, and the environment.

Most Australians prefer not to ride in proximity to motor vehicle traffic. Providing traffic-free places to ride is necessary for people to be safe and feel safe while riding.

Providing high-quality cycling facilities is important to ensure people have a good experience when riding and want to ride more often.

## OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

**Every Australian school has access to an appropriate space to conduct bicycle programs**

**Every Australian community is within 15 minutes of a traffic-free place to ride**

**Newly created or refurbished cycling infrastructure is attracting more riders, more often**



# CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Infrastructure that builds united, inclusive and empowered communities and supports cycling clubs

Riding a bike is for everyone, regardless of who you are, where you come from, or what sort of bike you like to ride. Cycling infrastructure should support participation by everyone.

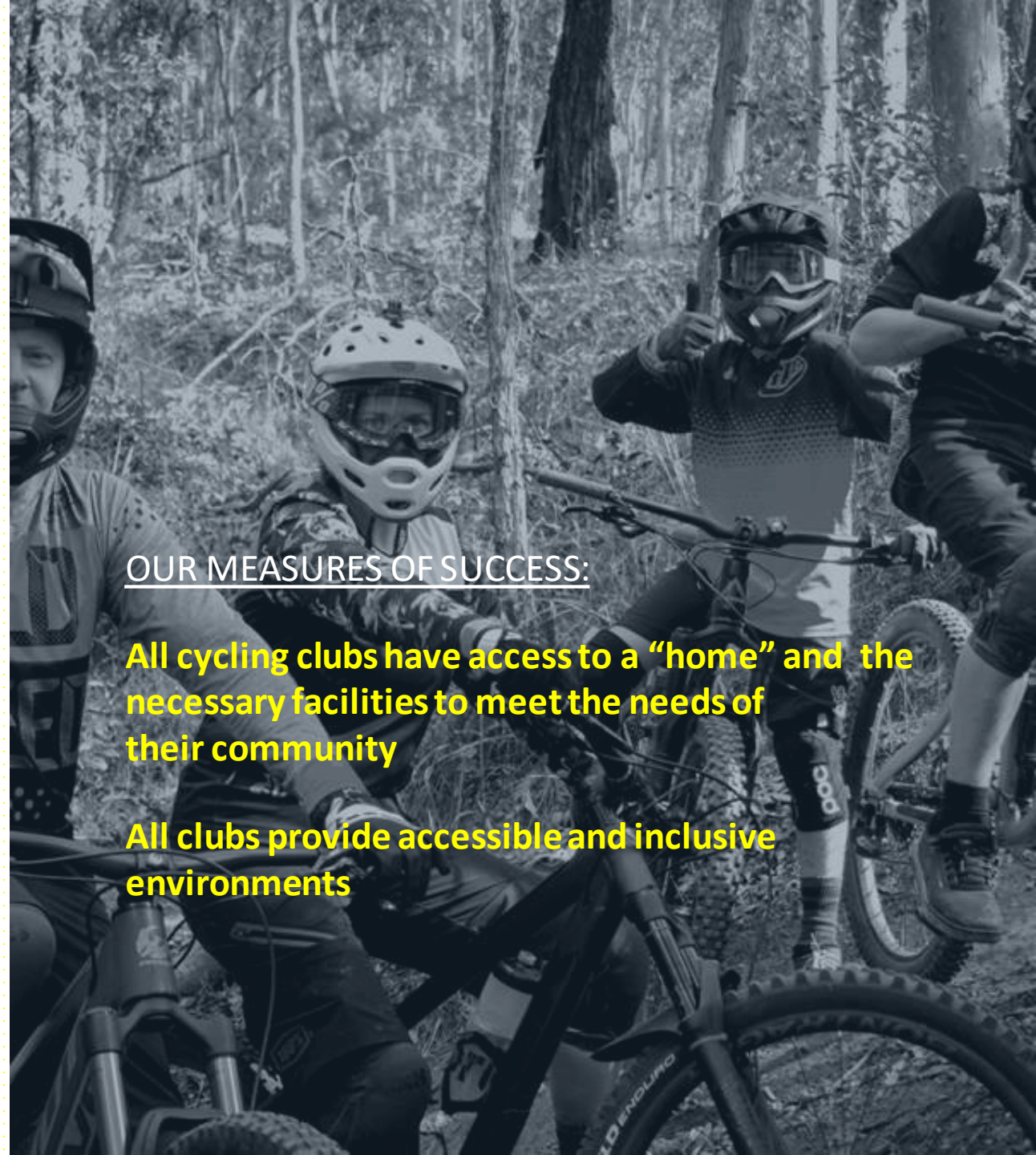
Riding a bike provides a connection with our community and the ability to ride with friends, family or an organised cycling club is often cited when people explain why they ride.

As well as a social forum, our cycling clubs foster competition for all ages and abilities, training, coaching and skills development, and “come and try” and beginner programs. They are an essential part of the cycling world.

## OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

**All cycling clubs have access to a “home” and the necessary facilities to meet the needs of their community**

**All clubs provide accessible and inclusive environments**



# THRIVING SPORT

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Infrastructure that enables athletes to maximise their potential through world-leading performance and competition environments and pathways

Australia has a proud history of competitive cycling stretching back to the earliest bicycles and bike races. Whether on the track, road or trail, Australians have raced and won some of the biggest bike races in the world and inspired generations to get on a bike.

Local racing and competition is the bedrock of our sport. It gives every rider the opportunity to test themselves and enjoy the comradery of competition.

A system of talent identification, development and performance gives our elite riders an opportunity to reach their potential and represent us on the world stage.



## OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

**Australian athletes have access to at least one international standard training and competition environment for their discipline**

**Major regions have access to quality facilities that support athlete development pathways for all major cycling disciplines**

# INSPIRING EVENTS

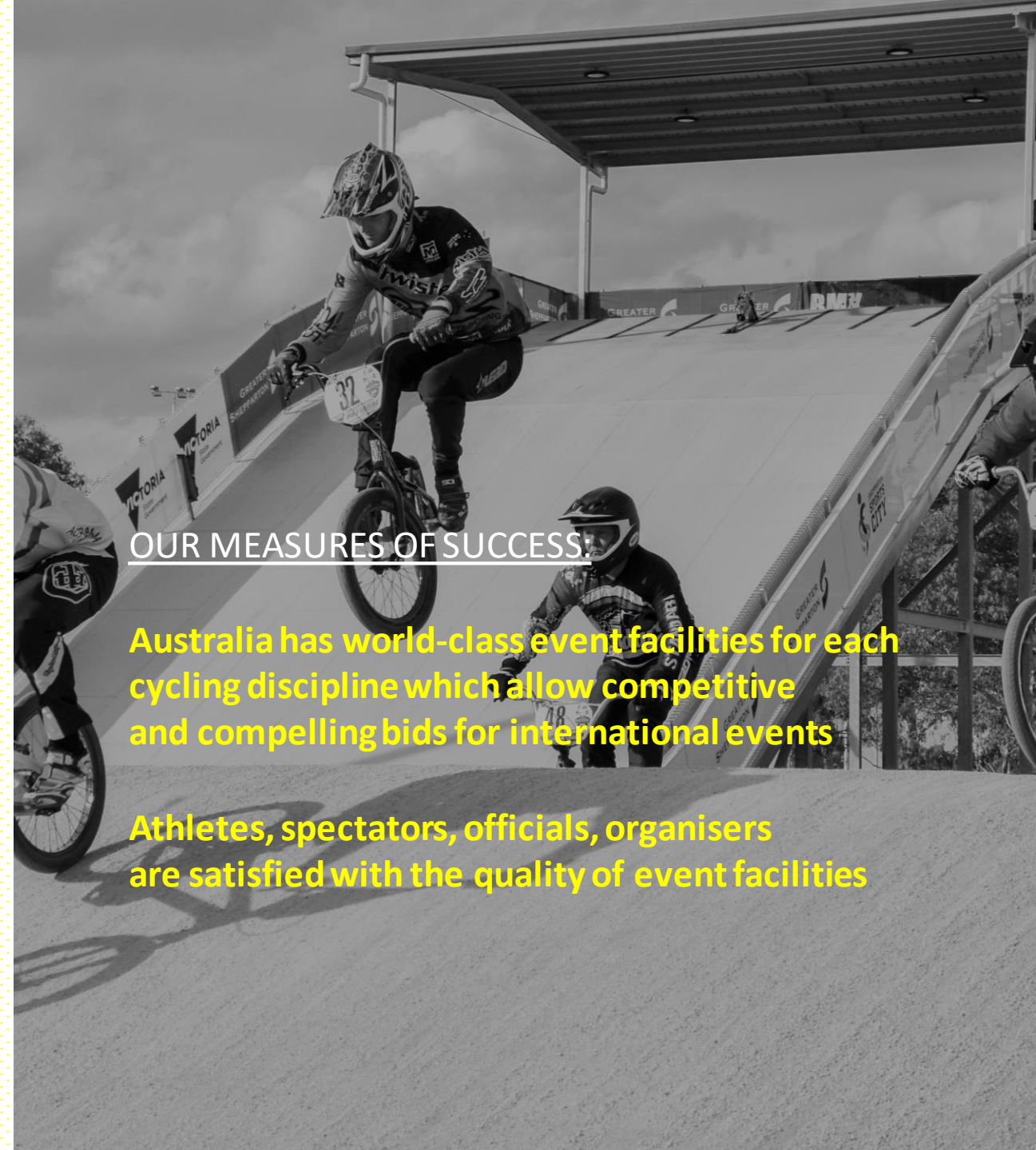
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Infrastructure that stages high quality events at all levels that bring communities together and inspire the next generation of athletes and the nation

At their heart, bike events are a celebration of cycling. Whether they comprise elite-level racing or are open to all comers, events inspire participation, expose the community to new experiences and are an opportunity for us to recognise sporting excellence.

Cycling events are an important part of the bike economy. They are a major factor driving bike tourism – whether participants or spectators - and attracting investment to our regions.

High quality events require quality venues that meet the needs of athletes, spectators, officials and organisers.



## OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

**Australia has world-class event facilities for each cycling discipline which allow competitive and compelling bids for international events**

**Athletes, spectators, officials, organisers are satisfied with the quality of event facilities**

# BIKE ECONOMY

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Infrastructure that allows communities and businesses to benefit from bike riding

Cycling makes a significant contribution to the Australian economy, sustaining more than 34,000 direct jobs and contributing \$6.3 billion in direct economic activity. Bikes contribute significantly to manufacturing, retail, services and the flourishing sector of bike tourism.

Cycling also plays an important role in the efficient operation of our transport network by reducing congestion, managing demand on our transport infrastructure, and improving the amenity of our public spaces.

The continued growth of the bike economy relies on Australians having great safe places to ride which encourages them to ride more often.



OUR MEASURES OF SUCCESS:

**The Australian bike economy continues to grow on the back of investment in the bicycle infrastructure network**

**Australian communities grow their investment in sustainable bike tourism attractions**

# OUR ACTIONS



## AUDIT

Complete a national facilities audit to determine gaps in provision and areas of emerging demand



## GUIDELINES

Release guidelines to assist in the planning and design of new and upgraded facilities

**ADVOCACY**  
Promote multi-purpose places to ride that meet community needs and promote riding as a daily activity



**DATA**  
Establish a facility data collection strategy to inform planning, utilisation and investment



## HERITAGE

Identify and plan for heritage facilities that are part of Australian cycling history



## CERTIFICATION

Create a facilities approval service to ensure new facilities provide a safe, high-quality and welcoming environment for recreation and sport



## TOOLKIT

Build a project toolkit to assist clubs and facility owners to develop, deliver and manage new and upgraded facilities



## PRIORITIES

Create state and territory infrastructure investment priorities and a pipeline of projects



## PARTNERSHIPS

Partner with like-minded organisations to champion safe and efficient active transport infrastructure



## FEEDBACK & REVIEW

Collect feedback and review facility usage, network gaps and developments in best practice.



# ALL FACILITIES

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**We will focus on enhancing the utilisation of the cycling infrastructure network.**

This goal will require a combination of physical infrastructure improvements, initiatives to activate venues, and improved marketing and communications to 'rebrand' cycling venues as hubs for the broader community.

Across each of the major infrastructure types there is potential to increase utilisation.

The existing cycling infrastructure network is reasonably old, with almost half the infrastructure built more than 20 years ago. There is an opportunity to invest in facilities with medium and high utilisation that are either old or require immediate investment.

There are many venues without simple supporting infrastructure that would improve the user experience and allow the venue to broaden its appeal.

New sport and recreation developments should consider the inclusion of some form of cycling infrastructure to leverage investment and take advantage of shared supporting infrastructure.

## CHALLENGES

Governments are demanding greater scrutiny over their investment in infrastructure and investment decisions are increasingly relying on sophisticated cost-benefit analysis.

Proposals to invest in sporting and recreational facilities must closely follow the needs of communities and be optimised to increase engagement, participation and provide broader social outcomes.

Commercial sustainability is increasingly a factor in the infrastructure that attracts investment and how it is managed.

## OPPORTUNITIES

The existing cycling infrastructure network is substantial and some individual venues occupy prominent positions in some communities.

Cycling has strong appeal for many governments due to its alignment with sport and recreation, health and wellbeing, environmental and urban strategies.

Participation has grown strongly in recent years and recreational cycling remains one of Australia's most popular pastimes.

# MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

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**We will focus on improving access to riding opportunities for urban communities and growing the existing network through improved governance, encouraging investment in maintenance and supporting amenities.**

While the existing network of mountain bike trails is substantial, many trails have a lack of amenities which limits participation growth, particularly among underrepresented groups.

A substantial number of mountain bike trails have developed informally and do not have adequate land tenure, governance and management arrangements in place.

It is difficult to provide mountain bike riding opportunities in urban areas and there is an opportunity to explore novel approaches to urban infrastructure that provide local riding options.

Substantial parts of the trail network require immediate investment to address maintenance issues which will affect utilisation if left unresolved.

Promotion of the mountain bike trail network should be improved, especially for all-abilities and beginner-level facilities.

## CHALLENGES

The majority of the trail network is located outside of large population centres, limiting access and utilisation.

The expansive nature of mountain bike trails results in heightened land use and environmental management issues compared with other facilities.

Mountain bike trails typically require a significant amount of regular maintenance, which is exacerbated by high usage and wet weather.

Traditional mountain bike trails require a large area of land, which is difficult to access in urban areas. Where urban trails do exist, they often share space with other land uses, leading to potential conflicts.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Mountain biking is a popular recreational activity, with substantial recent increases in participation and potential for future growth.

Mountain bike trails are a valuable tourism offering for regional communities and can attract high-value visitation.

There is significant unmet demand in urban areas for places to ride mountain bikes and compact alternatives to mountain bike trails, like pump tracks and skills parks, are seeing significant growth.

# VELODROMES

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**We will focus on reinvigorating velodromes to broaden their appeal and form cycling hubs for their communities.**

Velodromes have a reputation as being a specialist facility that is not suitable for broad community use. Re-thinking velodrome utilisation will help realise the value of these facilities, optimise investment that will be needed in the future and defend against a potential loss of footprint in crowded urban locations.

Many velodromes would benefit from upgrades to make them more accessible and appealing to a broader range of users.

Co-locating cycling and other facilities should be considered to leverage investment in supporting infrastructure, expand the cycling offering, and create genuine multi-use community hubs.

## CHALLENGES

Many velodromes are aging and require investment to improve accessibility, performance and appeal to users.

Velodrome utilisation is constrained due to the skill required to use them safely and the perception that they are not suitable for use by the broader community.

New velodromes involve a significant capital investment which requires a compelling business case. The commissioning of a new velodrome is unlikely to be a regular occurrence.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Velodromes are a bespoke, traffic-free cycling environment that offer unique competition and training opportunities.

Significant historical investment in velodromes has resulted in a substantial network in some states, which is valued by a dedicated network of track cycling clubs and participants and has the potential to be used by a much larger proportion of the population.

# BMX TRACKS

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**We will focus on building on the role of BMX tracks as safe community hubs with supporting amenities that can be used to engage families and grow youth participation.**

There are opportunities to grow BMX in high-population urban and peri-urban areas, particularly those with a high proportion of families and children.

The high-level of supporting infrastructure and amenity often found at BMX tracks make them ideal as part of a community hub.

Improving venue activation will be vital to increase utilisation and community connection with local BMX tracks. Building links between BMX tracks and school participation will also grow the value of new and existing BMX tracks.

## CHALLENGES

The space needed to build new BMX tracks is increasingly at a premium in urban areas.

BMX tracks can be susceptible to weather damage and require regular maintenance to ensure they remain in good condition.

## OPPORTUNITIES

BMX racing is popular among families and children and has potential to drive significant growth in participation among these groups.

The existing network of BMX tracks is substantial, with many being of good quality and with a high level of supporting amenities.

BMX tracks have a reputation as being safe and fun places for children to play and learn.

# CRITERIUM CIRCUITS

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**We will focus on promoting criterium circuits as multi-purpose facilities that provide a traffic-free environment for a wide range of users.**

Criterium circuits are among the most flexible pieces of cycling infrastructure and provide opportunities for competition and training in a variety of sports, and recreational riding and skating.

Improving supporting infrastructure will be critical to getting the most value out of criterium circuits and improving their utilisation. Improving universal access issues will also increase their value.

Criterium circuits are excellent options for learn-to-ride and other participation programs.

## CHALLENGES

Criterium circuits typically requires a significant tranche of land which makes it challenging to build new circuits in urban areas and maintain the footprint of existing circuits.

Criterium circuits are often co-located with other sporting facilities, which can lead to conflicts between different user groups and present unique safety issues.

## OPPORTUNITIES

Criterium circuits are highly flexible, multi-purpose and traffic-free environments which provide many options for use.

Circuits are often highly sought after by cycling clubs for racing and training and riders are often willing to travel to access a circuit.

The flexible design of criterium circuits makes them easier to co-locate with other sporting facilities if design is considered at an early stage.