

Colin Meade

## Candidate Statement

Life's better on a bike. I grew up in Ireland riding to school and uni, continued as a commuter in the UK and now 20 years in Australia, and have seen cycling infrastructure be adopted far quicker, and with less resistance, in more congested European cities than here. Why doesn't Australia have a tax rebate scheme on bikes for commuting? Why do so few kids ride to school? Why do some offices only improve end-of-trip facilities if tenants demand it? How can we improve motorists' education about passing bicycles to improve safety? Bicycle Network runs great events (I return to ATB this year and will have my third attempt at cracking sub-10 at Peaks in April) but the national advocacy role Bicycle Network performs is critical to cycling development in this country. I'd like to see BN deepen its member base and achieve the same influence nationally as it does in its heartland of Victoria and Tasmania.

I'm a roadie that has personally raised over \$30,000 for children's charities over the last 5 years. I have a gravel bike that's mainly used for commuting but does get to traverse dirt, even trying too hard to be an MTB at times. Panniers are often worn, including for occasional bikepacking trips. I'm father to an avid e-biker and seeing first-hand how this technology is bringing two wheels to broader sections of the community, young and old, all of which builds awareness for the challenges cyclists face. I'm on the committee of my cycling club and have personally enjoyed the physical health benefits, mental wellbeing, and weight control that our choice of active transport affords us. I'd like to contribute what I can to making cycling easier for all.

I have been regularly presenting to Board committees and participating in Board discussions for over 16 years in my professionally qualified capacity as a corporate treasurer. My finance job is mainly about risk management but I'm also a bush lawyer with legal documentation and compliance obligations absorbing half my time. I'm a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and will be doing the flagship Company Directors Course training this December. I have a Masters degree in Finance and, with your vote, am looking to plug the acknowledged gap in finance skills at Board level at Bicycle Network.