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Media Release | Embargoed until Monday 14th February 2022, 1am (AEDT)

***Three Transport Priorities* for the federal election: for happy, safe and healthy kids – and to also save our economy billions**

As schools go back across the country and in the approach to a federal Election, we urgently need to do more to keep our kids safe on the roads and to get them and their families moving more.

To drive this change, an alliance of 13 health, transport, education and climate organisations will present *Three Transport Priorities* to the federal member for Wentworth, Dave Sharma MP, the Shadow Asst Minister for Treasury, the Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh MP and the Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines MP at a presentation in Parliament on Monday 14th February.

All three are Co-Chairs of the Parliamentary Friends of Cycling, a group that unites MPs and Senators with an interest in active travel and cycling in Parliament.

The *Three Transport Priorities* are:

1. **Lower Default Urban Speed Limits** in residential areas, shopping streets and school zones.
2. **1500m Safe Routes to School** including footpaths, pedestrian priority crossings, and 'no drop off' zones.
3. **E-Bike Purchase Subsidy** of up to \$1000 off for customers purchasing an e-bike.

Why these priorities?

- The *Three Transport Priorities* are evidence-based solutions to reduce crashes, reduce congestion, and increase physical activity.
- We know that business as usual will continue to lead to [crashes](#) (\$22bn), [congestion](#) (\$19bn), and [physical inactivity](#) (\$16bn), costing Australia a whopping \$57,000,000,000 (57 billion dollars) every year.

- Walking and cycling are COVID-safe forms of transport and the additional physical activity has benefits for our immune system.
- We need to make our streets safer, as tragically, drivers of motor vehicles remain the number one [killer](#) of children in Australia.
- We need to make our streets safer, as [half](#) of Australian parents have concerns about letting their children walk or cycle to school.
- Our local roads were once playful streets, where [3 in 4 children walked or rode to school](#) – and parents felt safe to let them.
- Nowadays, [just 1 in 4 children walk or cycle to school](#), despite more than [half](#) of children living [within 1km of school](#) in urban areas.

But do Australians want the *Three Transport Priorities*?

Yes. National data shows that:

- [Two-thirds](#) (67%) of Australians back a diversion of some government road funding for local walking and cycling infrastructure and public transport.
- [Two-thirds](#) (64%) also support lower speed limits in local streets to make them safer for people

Tepi McLaughlin, Spokesperson for the Australasian Society for Physical Activity said: “The Three Transport Priorities are **tangible, evidence-based and popular solutions** to reduce traffic crashes, reduce congestion and increase physical activity.”

McLaughlin added: “They’re also cost-efficient. We know that **we could build a new pedestrian priority crossing outside every school in the country for the same cost as the Sydney NorthConnex tunnel.**”

Stephen Hodge, Spokesperson for WeRide Australia, who partnered on the development of the *Three Transport Priorities* said: “There is great support for initiatives that promote walking and cycling in Australia.”

“We have previously shown that the cycling economy contributed \$6.3 billion in direct economic value in 2020. Yet the *Three Transport Priorities* highlight the additional economic benefits of cycling and walking, especially for transport, including reduced crashes, congestion and physical inactivity” said Hodge.

Hodge added “We know that 40% of city car journeys are under 3km, which is about a 10 minute bike ride. The *Three Transport Priorities* would encourage people to leave the car at home for these short journeys. That would be good for everyone – fuel savings, reduced pollution, less congestion and it gets us moving more.”

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Media pack: The “*Three Transport Priorities*” document is strictly embargoed for release until 1am (AEDT) Monday 14th February 2022. The embargoed document is available for download within the media pack, along with other on-demand materials (pre-recorded radio snippets, graphics and photos).

Once available, photos from Parliament (Canberra) with Dave Sharma MP, Hon. Dr Andrew Leigh MP and Dr Helen Haines MP accepting the document will also be made available within the media pack.

[Click Here to Download Media Pack](#)

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Authors: Australasian Society for Physical Activity, in partnership with WeRide Australia and an alliance of 13 health, transport, education and climate organisations.



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Boilerplate: The Australasian Society for Physical Activity (ASPA) is a professional society to advance the science and practice of physical activity in the Asia-Pacific region. www.aspactivity.org

Boilerplate: WeRide Australia is the leading independent voice for cycling in Australia, advocating for policies and investment in cycling. www.weride.org.au/