

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Banyule Mayor leads Mayors on Bikes**

Mayor of Banyule, Councillor Tom Melican will lead a pack of riders on the 2009 Mayors on Bikes event on October 14.

Mayors on Bikes will see Mayors and representatives from Metropolitan Councils and State Government authorities taking part in an eight kilometre ride to demonstrate their passion to develop cycling as a safe, appealing and viable transport mode for all Victorians. Dr Kate Auty, Commissioner for Environmental Sustainability and Colin Brooks, MP, State Member for Bundoora will also participate.

The cyclists will depart from Federation Square at 9 am and head towards the MCG, via the William Barak Bridge. From the bridge, the bike ride will wind its way through East Melbourne and Abbotsford, picking up the Capital City Trail at Gipps Street in Abbotsford and then join the Main Yarra Trail at Fairfield Park.

Mayor of Banyule, Councillor Tom Melican said the ride will demonstrate the local government sector's collective interest in sustainable transport while also highlighting the barriers that many cyclists face.

"I am really excited about this event and happy to see so many Council's getting involved. Cycling as a mode of transport is not only great for personal health, it is also great for the health of our environment and reducing congestion on the roads and parking issues. Some of the major barriers on the Main Yarra Trail include 70 steps at the Chandler Highway, 40 steps at Gipps Street Collingwood and a 100 metre bridge in Fairfield that cyclists are not allowed to ride on. Council has worked hard to address barriers within Banyule, however other authorities need to address other obstacles in the cycling infrastructure," Councillor Melican said.

"Where access to the city has been improved from other areas there has been a massive increase in the number of cyclists, it's about time that a safe route into the city was developed from the North," Councillor Melican said.

On completion of the ride participants will congregate at the Fairfield Park Boathouse and Tea Gardens to discuss what challenges were presented on the ride and how the collective group can work together to improve the cycling link.

The 2009 Mayor's on Bikes event is a joint project between the Victorian Local Governance Association, the Metropolitan Transport Forum and Banyule City Council.

**Photo opportunities will be at 9 am at Federation Square and at 10.30 am at the Fairfield Boathouse and Tea Gardens.**

For more information please contact Pauline Murtagh, media and publications officer on 94904256.

