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Media Release

National Light up!

Survey Reveals 35% of Bike Riders Without Proper Bike Lights

A roadside survey conducted in Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney has revealed that thousands of bike riders are riding at night without proper lights.

The study which logged 1,220 riders on roads after sunset in the four centres showed that 65% of riders had both lights, 17% had only one light and 19% had no lights.

The study revealed some differences between the centres.

- Brisbane had the most riders with lights. 76% had both lights. 11% had only one light and 13% had no lights.
- In Sydney 69% of riders had lights. Only 11% had no lights – the lowest number nationally.
- In Canberra 68% of riders observed had both lights and 80% had at least one light.
- Melbourne riders were least compliant. Only 59% had both lights and 22% had none.

“These results are very disappointing, giving us an indication of what is happening all around the country. The steady growth in bike riding across Australia is a positive thing, but now there are thousands of people who are putting themselves at risk by riding without lights at night,” said Harry Barber spokesperson for the National Light Up! campaign run by member based bike riding organisations across Australia.

“Bike lights prevent collisions. Everyone who rides on the roads at night must fit them to warn other road users and protect themselves,” Mr Barber added.

“We are asking for police bike patrols across Australia to help us encourage everyone who rides at night to have working lights,” he said.

“Bike lights today are relatively cheap and so much better than they used to be. There really is no excuse not to have them if you are riding at night,” said Mr Barber.

Our light test conducted with *Choice* magazine and representatives from the police, the RACV, road authority and bicycle retailers and riders showed that you can get a great set of lights for \$60.

National spokesperson

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Survey results

	Both lights	Front light only	Rear light only	No lights	Total
Melbourne	435	51	84	164	734
Canberra	21	2	2	6	31
Sydney	83	10	14	13	120
Brisbane	253	21	16	45	335
	792	84	116	228	1220
	65%	7%	10%	19%	
	Both lights	Front light only	Rear light only	No lights	Total
Melbourne	59%	7%	11%	22%	100%
Canberra	68%	6%	6%	19%	100%
Sydney	69%	8%	12%	11%	100%
Brisbane	76%	6%	5%	13%	100%

Growth in riding

The 2006 census showed that bike riding to work has increased in all the States of Australia.

Melbourne SD	42.57%
Adelaide SD	31.25%
Hobart SD	25.32%
Perth SD	16.44%
Canberra SD	15.89%
Brisbane SD	12.66%
Sydney SD	8.99%
Darwin SD	-7.08%

Riding in the dark

- As many as 25% of bicycle trips occur after 6pm.
- During winter most of the commuter trips and half of all trips will require working bike lights.
- Fatalities in night time or semi darkness often involve riders without lights or with inadequate lighting.
- A 2006 study suggests that fewer than a quarter of bicycle collisions occur during dusk, dawn and darkness, however the injuries sustained in these collisions are more severe than those in daylight.
- Traffic regulations require a flashing or steady white light (front) red light (rear) that is clearly visible for at least 200m from the bicycle.
- A red reflector is also required on the rear of the bike.

The penalty for riding at night without lights

Victoria	\$55 – half a penalty unit.	WA	\$100
Tasmania	\$40 per offence = \$80 for no front and rear light	NSW - ACT	\$53
Qld	\$30	NT	\$25
		SA	\$24