

# Producing bicycle network maps and cycling transport access guides

## Purpose

This note provides advice to government agencies, councils, the private sector and community organisations on the making of maps and transport access guides for cyclists. It recommends techniques and procedures which are designed to improve wayfinding and route navigation for the community to help them to easily and efficiently use their bicycles for transport, tourism, recreation, fitness and fun.

## Introduction

Cyclists were among the first mass-users of specialist road mapping which developed into the modern road maps and city street directories. Cycle maps are concentrated packages of information which can greatly help cyclists to find their way around an area, plan specific trips and navigate complex urban environments.

Unlike cycle route direction signage, which is limited to showing the way for a specific route, a well designed cycle map can show many things: alternative route possibilities; difficult riding conditions (such as steep hills); potential short cuts or detours; local services and facilities; tourist attractions; business centres; road traffic conditions; and, hazards such as difficult turnings and squeeze points. The widest possible use of the cycle network is promoted by the production and distribution of bicycle network maps. Sections of the maps can be used on static information display columns erected at key network junctions.

## Aim

This series of notes aims to assist government agencies, local government and private/community organisations to provide for cycling in their local area.

## Contents

- Introduction
- What is a map and why do cyclists need them?
- Principles of good map design
- The map-making process
- Delivery and distribution

Two examples of early road maps designed primarily for cyclists. Below left Figure 1: The cover panel of Joseph Pearson's Road Map of NSW published by HEC Robinson (c 1911). Below right Figure 2: Detail of a 1898 cyclists' map of the Macedon District, Victoria. Note the markings indicating the road condition.

