

Connecting NZ by Bike: enabling safer rural cycling through a national network

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The last two years NZ has seen an unprecedented amount of funding (\$333m plus) allocated to make urban cycling safer and attractive through the Urban Cycleways Programme. Linked with the positive impact and benefits the NZ Cycle Trail 'Great Rides' is having, New Zealand is in a strong position to develop a national cycling network and provide a safer, connected network linking our towns and Great Rides.

This session will explore the concept of a national cycling network and the different types of rides and experiences and initial high priorities and focus. It will also discuss the key factors and criteria for a route to become part of the national network.

There a wide range of measures and initiatives that RCA's can implement to improve the safety of people cycling in our semi-urban rural environment. Determining the right solution requires network managers to think a little differently in terms of better understanding the cycling customer, the type of ride and local context to reach a fit for purpose solution. Treatments can range from low cost, to innovative, to simple higher cost measures like shoulder widening and bridge clip-ons.