



MEDIA RELEASE

The Hon Peter Garrett MP

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts

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MINISTER URGES NATION TO REGISTER AND RIDE

Launching National Ride to Work Day on the banks of the Yarra River in Melbourne, Environment Minister, Peter Garrett today called upon commuters across Australia to do something for their own health and the health of the environment by registering to take part in National Ride to Work Day on October 15.

“There is no doubting the physical benefits that can be achieved by riding a bike but the environmental benefits can also be significant with around 300 grams of greenhouse gas emissions saved, per kilometre, for every vehicle that is taken off our roads.

“Many of us are looking for ways to reduce our environmental footprint as we tackle the challenges of climate change and adopting two wheeled transportation over four, as often as possible, is a great option.”

Mr Garrett said the Australian Government was pleased to support Ride to Work Day as part the *TravelSmart program*, which encourages people to reduce their reliance on cars and when possible make smart travel choices to use public transport, cycling, walking and car pooling.

“There are already increasing numbers of people cycling to work and with a target of 50,000 participants this year I would encourage as many individuals as well as employers to get involved this year.

“This is a great opportunity for novice cyclists to try riding to work with the support of other more experienced riders and potentially making cycling the habit of a lifetime.”

Organised by Bicycle Victoria, Ride to Work Day became a national event for the first time last year after running primarily in Victoria for a number of years.

People can register for this year’s National Ride to Work Day at: www.ride2work.com.au .