



THE HON PETER GARRETT AM MP

MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND THE ARTS

TRANSCRIPT

**E&OE TRANSCRIPT
DOORSTOP INTERVIEW
LAUNCH OF NATIONAL RIDE TO WORK DAY
FEDERATION SQUARE, MELBOURNE**

26 JULY 2008

SUBJECTS: National Ride to Work Day; Film archives; Coalition position on Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme

GARRETT: Thanks for coming down to this launch of National Ride to Work Day – something which I think will increase in popularity over time as Australians embrace riding to work as a way of getting fitter, having some fun, reducing traffic congestion and also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We watch tele at night at the moment and we're seeing Australian cyclists, particularly one, doing incredibly well. We can all get on our bikes during the day and ride to work or ride to the shops and back again, make a contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, make a contribution to our own health. So National Ride to Work Day, October 15, we reckon all Aussies ought to get on their bikes and get healthy and look after the planet.

One of the things that's really important in this particular campaign is the fact that it works at the community level and at the employer level. I want to encourage employers to consider putting bike racks in the workplace or in the factory or the office and maybe providing some additional showering facilities, so that if their employees actually want to get on their bikes and take some exercise and ride to work occasionally, then when they get there they can freshen up and put themselves in for a good days work as well.

Fantastic to see the city of Melbourne – a place where a bit of time and effort has been put into making life a little bit easier for cyclists. Riding a bike is good for you and we hope that we'll see a lot of Australians out there on National Ride to Work Day on October 15.

JOURNALIST: Would you like to see a few of your colleagues maybe riding to work?

GARRETT: Well, you know there are a few Members that ride around the Parliament occasionally and I know in state parliaments as well there are people who enjoy riding. What I reckon here is that we really are now seeing that riding a bike is very good for you. It is not something which is confined to people that are necessarily in their 20's and super fit. Anyone can do it, anyone can enjoy it, including politicians – we can all have a go.

JOURNALIST: The State Government is trying to engage local councils in the development of public transport but there is no mention of developing bike paths. Are they being left out of the equation?

GARRETT: Well look I don't know the exact details of local government organisations here in terms of the provision of bike paths but I would encourage all governments, right around the country, at State levels to consider really looking at the provisions of bike paths. It is really clear that for us to have more Australians riding their bikes their needs to be a better provision of bike paths, especially designated bike ways on some of our roads and in this way people can get on a bike and feel that there is some safety in getting to and from work and they know that they're making a contribution to the environment and improving their health as well.

JOURNALIST: What about a scheme like in Europe where you can jump off the train and hire a bike for a couple of bucks to get to your destination and drop it off?

GARRETT: Look I think there is merit in us considering those type of scheme and I know there is some local governments who have given some thought to that already. We're on the cusp of a bike culture just as we're on the cusp of a different way of looking at the activities that we undertake in relation to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. I mean think about this, a bike is a simple and fantastic way of getting yourself from A to B. When you put your feet down on those pedals you're improving your capacity for physical health. When you get out of a motor car and onto a bike you're reducing your impact on the environment. So the provision by authorities of better access, better bike ways and things like bike racks at railway stations – all these things are worth considering.

JOURNALIST: What about the increasing incidence of 'bike rage'. Is that a concern?

GARRETT: Well look Michael Roberts spoke about that earlier and I was really very pleased to hear him say that it was something which is being addressed here in Victoria. Clearly, we want to have cyclists and motorists occupy the roads in a way where there is respect for each other and that is something which is obviously going to be evolving over time but it is great to see he and other prominent Victorians getting involved in that.

JOURNALIST: Should there be some sort of advertising campaign to or something like that to...

GARRETT: Oh well, I think...National Ride to Work Day is a great opportunity for Australians to take that step onto a bike and out of a motor car and when they do that they'll recognise what great fun it is but also how important it is that there is respect on the roads and they'll communicate that to their fellow Australians I'm sure.

JOURNALIST: You were at the arts festival last night and I understand that Eric Bana wanted to run *Mad Max I* as his favourite film but there was no copy around good enough to show so they had to show snippets of it. Is enough being done in terms of archiving of our cultural heritage? Would you like to see inroads made there?

GARRETT: Look we've separated out the Screen Australia agency and we've made sure that there is a separate National Film and Sound Archive so that we can have an adequate and comprehensive collection of those important pieces of cultural medium, including things like film prints, for all Australians and to have them conserved properly and safely so we can have access to them over time.

So I have got to say that I am surprised that there isn't an original print copy but the Government is particularly committed to making sure that we have special places where things like *Mad Max* films, first generation movies etc can be stored and kept. That's what the National Film and Sound Archive is all about and frankly, that's why we separated it out from the screen agency as to what the former government was going to do which was have them involved in one organisation.

JOURNALIST: Were you aware of this last night? It sounds quite rare that we wouldn't have something like that still of a good enough quality to show.

GARRETT: Well look I'm surprised that there isn't an original copy. I'm not sure what the reasons for that are and I wasn't aware of it. What I do know is that there is the opportunity there for film makers, for music makers and for creators of original works to have that material properly conserved and stored in the National Film and Sound Archive and certainly something as important as a *Mad Max* print should be there.

JOURNALIST: So how far back is, things that are protected, how far back does that go? Are you aware of that?

GARRETT: Well, there is a process of collection which is undertaken over time. I mean there is some fantastic heritage items that are stored in the National Film and Sound Archive in Canberra. Australians should be aware of this great national treasure frankly, because it is a wonderful place to go and get access to early prints, early sound recordings, early prints of films. I think the Ned Kelly film early prints are there as well. So we do have from the Commonwealth Government a particular commitment to conserve and to store these really important cultural icons and works of the past and hopefully they can track down that *Mad Max* print and that can go in there as well.

JOURNALIST: What do you make of Dr Nelson's latest criticism of the Government's carbon trading scheme?

GARRETT: I can't keep up with Dr Nelson's criticisms and positions on carbon trading because the Coalition is in such a totally haphazard and confused state that it beggars belief.

I mean we have had at least five different positions on carbon trading and the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme from Dr Nelson and his senior ministers over the last two weeks. And bear in mind, we have just released a Green Paper from the Government, so they are now speculating and changing their position on a scheme to which Australians and stakeholders yet haven't had an opportunity to input.

This is a farcical situation and it shows that Dr Nelson and his senior colleagues have no comprehension, whatever, of the scale and significance of climate change and that challenge, nor of the actions that the Australian community recognise that responsible Government should take and that is what the Rudd Labor Government is doing – taking responsible action on climate change.

The Opposition is all over the place like a wet weekend. Haphazard, changing their position on a daily basis and frankly I think it is difficult for anybody to keep up.

JOURNALIST: What would you like to say to Dr Nelson on his flip-flopping?

GARRETT: Well, we need conservative leaders like leader Cameron, like leader Schwarzenegger to provide a little bit of a sign-post for our conservatives here. And that is we need to build a bi-partisan consensus on the most significant economic reform agenda that this country will face.

Australia as a continent and the Australian economy is more at risk from the impacts of climate change from most countries and most economies. We have a primary responsibility in Government to put forward a clear and comprehensive approach to climate change. That's what we've done.

It is time for the Opposition to stop playing micro politics on this issue. Stop changing their position on a daily basis and recognise that it is the national interest for us to form a common position to deal with what will be our most significant challenge in the coming years.

Thanks everybody