The current Bicycle Strategy was adopted by Council in 2004, and partially amended in 2007. A Bicycle Strategy Steering Committee was formed in 2008 to assist Council in developing a new Bicycle Strategy that is due for completion in early 2011. The Action plan in the Strategy Plan will ensure new residential development proposals will increase the number of cycling and pedestrian routes within and around Armidale.

**Popular Bike Routes in and around Armidale**

- **Dumaresq Dam Road** (via Boorolong Road): A diversion from the Rockvale Rd Shared Path to the Apple Tree Hill Rd and Cookes Rd walking and bike route, of approx. 5-6km and returning to Armidale via Erskine St; gravel and sealed road sections, limited sight distance - care is required; scenic, undulating countryside, and passing by many small farms.
- **Long Swamp Rd**, **Fosters Rd**, and **Castledoyle Rd Loop**: A scenic bike route through mostly sealed roadways to the southeast of Armidale. Round trip of approx. 25km, with Fosters Rd being gravel. Popular route for the competitive bike riding scene including Armidale Cycle Club – see their website for further details.
- **Blue Hole**, via Castledoyle Road: A scenic bike route (75/25 sealed/gravel) to the east of Armidale. Popular picnic and walking tracks within Oxley Rivers National Park; round trip of approx. 30km, with some traffic, undulating terrain, sections of limited sight distance and loose gravel in parts.
- **Dangars Falls**, via Dangarsleigh and Dangars Falls Roads: A scenic bike route (50/50 sealed/gravel) to the southeast of Armidale. Round trip of approx. 25km, with some traffic; see their website for further details.
- **Enmore Road** via Dangarsleigh Rd: A sealed route to the north of Armidale. Round trip of approx. 40km; small traffic volumes; undulating to steeper terrain; sections of limited sight distance (caution warranted); scenic route along farmland.

**CAUTION – FOR ROADS RUNNING EAST-WEST, EARLY IN THE MORNING AND LATE IN THE AFTERNOON CAN BE UNSAFE FOR CYCLING DUE TO LOW SUN ON THE HORIZON.**

**ARMIDALE DUMARESQ COUNCIL BICYCLE STRATEGY PLAN**

The current Bicycle Strategy was adopted by Council in 2004 and partially amended in 2007. A Bicycle Strategy Steering Committee was formed in 2008 to assist Council in developing a new Bicycle Strategy that is due for completion in early 2011. The Action plan in the Strategy Plan will ensure new residential development proposals will increase the number of cycling and pedestrian routes within and around Armidale.

**ARMIDALE DUMARESQ CYCLEWAYS**

Popular bike rides nominated by the New England Bicycle User Group. For more information contact them by:

- **Phone**: 6771 2360

- **Dumaresq Dam Road** (via Boorolong Road): A great ride, particularly after recent road reconstruction and sealing works. It is about a 25km return trip from the centre of Armidale, undulating terrain, takes about 1 ½ hours for average riders to complete. Watch for traffic where sight distance is restricted.
- **Pineforest & Armidale Northern Loop Walking tracks** (via Rockvale Road). Access to walking tracks is via off road shared path adjacent to Rockvale Rd, in Northern Armidale. Path starts at Erskine St and continues to Trelawney Rd. (approx. 4km in length). This is the start of the Southern Loop Walk, or walk/ride along Blue Wren Rd (unsealed) to the Northern Loop Walk. Continue along Rockvale Rd, for approx. 15km to the Chandler Rd intersection for a more challenging ride.
- **Apple Tree Hill Rd and Cookes Rd Bike Route** (via Rockvale Road): A diversion from the Rockvale Rd Shared Path to the Apple Tree Hill Rd and Cookes Rd walking and bike route, of approx. 5-6km and returning to Armidale via Erskine St; gravel and sealed road sections, limited sight distance - care is required; scenic, undulating countryside, and passing by many small farms.
- **Long Swamp Rd**, **Fosters Rd**, and **Castledoyle Rd Loop**: A scenic bike route through mostly sealed roadways to the southeast of Armidale. Round trip of approx. 25km, with Fosters Rd being gravel. Popular route for the competitive bike riding scene including Armidale Cycle Club and Triathlon Club – see their website for further details.
- **Blue Hole**, via Castledoyle Road: A scenic bike route (75/25 sealed/gravel) to the east of Armidale. Popular picnic and walking tracks within Oxley Rivers National Park; round trip of approx. 30km, with some traffic, undulating terrain, sections of limited sight distance and loose gravel in parts.
Getting Started

- Practise riding off-road until you are competent and confident, can ride steadily with one hand while signalling and can check behind for following traffic without wobbling.
- Practise on-road on a quiet weekend day, checking out possible routes for your expected journeys.
- In some cases a less than direct route may be quicker if it avoids hills.
- A return journey may follow a different route.
- Set an achievable goal, i.e. ride to work one day a week.

Benefits of cycling

- Individual health benefits.
- Reductions in fossil fuel consumption and pollution.
- Reduction in transport costs.
- Less congestion in urban area and CBD carparks.
- Less parking problems – go straight to your destination.

What you need to know about cycling in the streets of Armidale

Bikes are legal vehicles on all roads and streets, hence you must obey the same road rules as all other road users. All legal vehicles on the road are obliged to SHARE THE ROAD. Drivers and cyclists must take joint responsibility and share the road. Just like motorists, cyclists are permitted to ride on the road. In doing so, however, cyclists are expected to obey the road rules, just as motorists are. Cyclists are legitimate road users who have an equal right to be on the road and motorists have a major role in making cycling enjoyable for recreation and commuting”. Source – Motorists and Cyclists Share The Road Campaign, Port Macquarie Hastings Council, March 2006.

As a cyclist, you must:
- Obey all road rules and traffic signs.
- Signal your intentions when turning.
- Ride with traffic on the left hand side of the road.
- Be mindful of all other road users by responding to road and traffic conditions.
- Wear high visibility clothing and correctly fitted approved helmet.
- Install a suitably mounted white light (steady or flashing) on the front of your bike, and a red light (steady or flashing) on the rear of your bike for use when visibility is poor. These lights must be visible for at least 200m. Your bike must also have a red reflector visible for at least 50m to the rear.
- When using a footpath or shared pedestrian/cycle path, keep to the left and give way to pedestrians.

As a vehicle driver, be aware that:
- Cyclists may be encountered at all places on the road network, and bikes are legal vehicles.
- Cyclists need to be at least one metre wide of parked cars to avoid injury from the opening of car doors.
- When turning left at an intersection, look for bikes, and don’t cut in front of them.
- When approaching roundabouts, cyclists will position themselves in the middle of the traffic lane, in order to be visible to both following and approaching traffic.
- ALL road users should slow down at give-way intersections and roundabouts, and should look out for pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and all other motor vehicles, AND BE PREPARED TO STOP COMPLETELY.

It is against the law for bicyclists to ride on footpaths, unless they are:
- Under 12 years of age.
- An adult 18 years or older supervising a child under 12 years old.
- Under 18 years old and riding with an adult who is supervising for a child under 12 years old.
- On a footpath that is for shared use by pedestrians and bicycle riders.
- On a designated bicycle path.

CYCLE CLUBS

Armidale Cycling Club - Phone: 6772 3718 Website: http://www.armidalecyclingclub.org/
Armidale Triathlon Club - Website: www.armidaletriathlon.org
University of New England Mountain Biking Club - www.une.edu.au/unemc/biking/
New England Mountain Bike Club - Phone: 0429 792 473 Website: http://www.nemtb.com.au/