

# Active Travel: Transforming Australia's cities

## **Bike Futures Conference**

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**Australian Government**

## The Problem

- Cities dominated by cars since 1950s
- Cycling + walking marginalised
- **Change is very slow**
- **Need a major game change in our strategic thinking**



## The Challenge

How can active transport  
save **\$1 billion** for the state +  
federal budgets?



# AUSTRALIAN CYCLING

An economic overview

## CYCLE TOURISM

### \$254 million

Events and tourist trails generate \$254 million a year in Australia<sup>(4)</sup>.



## INFRASTRUCTURE

### \$40 million

\$40 million Commonwealth stimulus package generated \$60 million of local govt investment, and created 600km of bike paths and 1314 jobs<sup>(8)</sup>.



## CONGESTION

### \$13 billion

Congestion is projected to cost Australia \$13 billion in 2011<sup>(1)</sup>. 50% of car trips are less than 5 km.



## ENVIRONMENT

### \$9.6 billion

Car trips cost 5.9¢ a km in CO2, air, water and noise pollution<sup>(2a)</sup>. In 2010 we drove cars more than 163 million kms<sup>(2b)</sup>.



The National Cycling Strategy aims to double the numbers of Australians riding by 2016.

## INACTIVITY

### \$13.8 billion

Inactivity costs Australia \$13.8 billion a year<sup>(5)</sup>. Everyday cycling can provide recommended activity levels and reduce this cost.



## PARTICIPATION

### 4 million

18% of Australians cycle in a typical week, 1.6 million use their bikes for transport<sup>(7)</sup>.



## MARKET

### \$1 billion

Bike and accessories are worth \$1 billion a year, generating \$100 million gst revenue<sup>(3)</sup>.



## EMPLOYMENT

### 10,000

The Australian bicycle industry employs 10,000 people and generates \$139 million income tax revenue<sup>(3)</sup>.

## LOCAL BIKE SHOP



## WORK PERFORMANCE

### \$61.9 million

Regular bicycle riders take one less sick day than non-riders<sup>(6a)</sup>, saving businesses \$61.9 million a year<sup>(6b)</sup>.



## OWNERSHIP

### 4.2 million households

More than half of Australian households<sup>(7)</sup> have at least one bike.



## The Solution

1. Active travel is part of a whole system of land use and transport





## The Solution

# 2. Active travel is healthy



## The Solution

# 3. Design is imperative

- ✓ 1.5km walking + 5km cycling networks
- ✓ Comfortable for children + women
- ✓ Reduce conflicts between vehicles, bicycles + pedestrians





# Outline

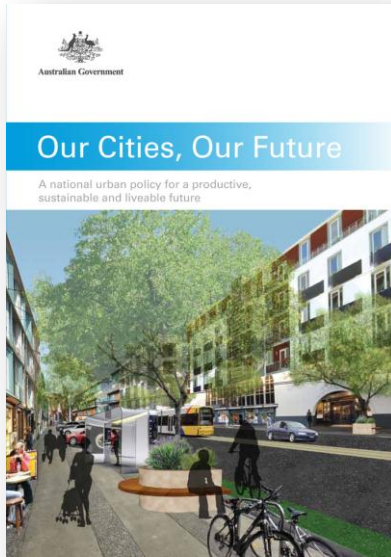
- National context
- Problems in our major cities
- Active travel as a solution
- Key priorities





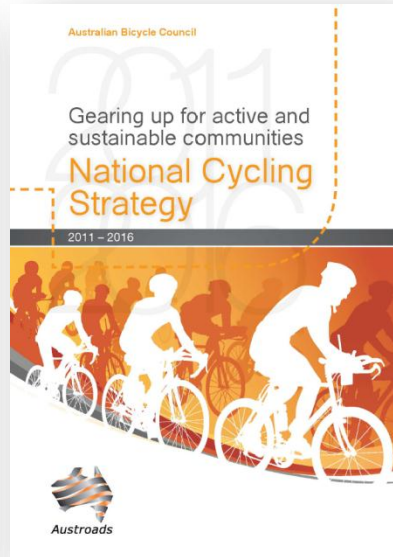
# National context

## Major Cities



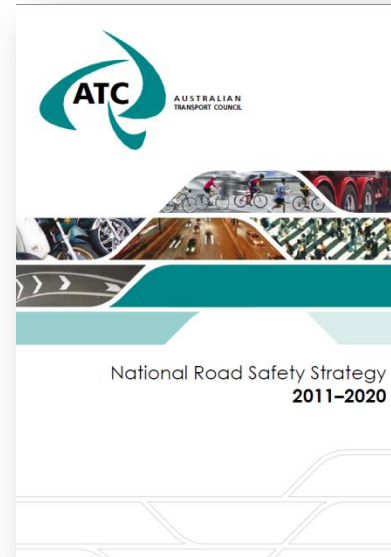
**Reduce dependence on cars + improve transport options**

## Cycling



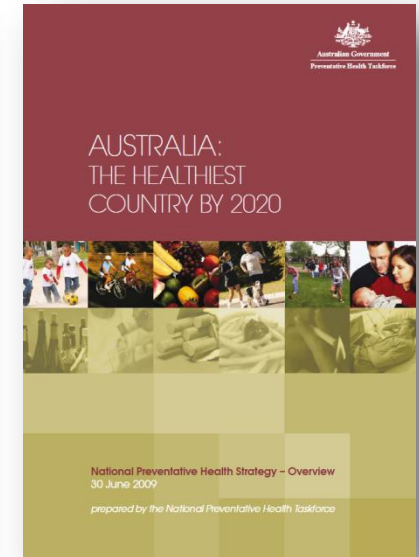
**Double rate of participation in cycling by 2016**

## Road Safety



**Reduce road deaths + serious injuries by 30% by 2020**

## Public Health



**Reverse overweight + obesity trends by 2020**  
**- through daily physical activity**

# Symptoms of unsustainable transport

## Productivity

- × Congestion
- × Healthcare costs
- × Loss of life + productivity

## Sustainability

- × Resource use (inc petrol)
- × Emissions

## Liveability

- × Inactivity + related illness
- × Safety
- × Loss of community
- × Mental health



## Underlying Causes

- Cities designed for cars
- Land use sets travel demand
- Attitude



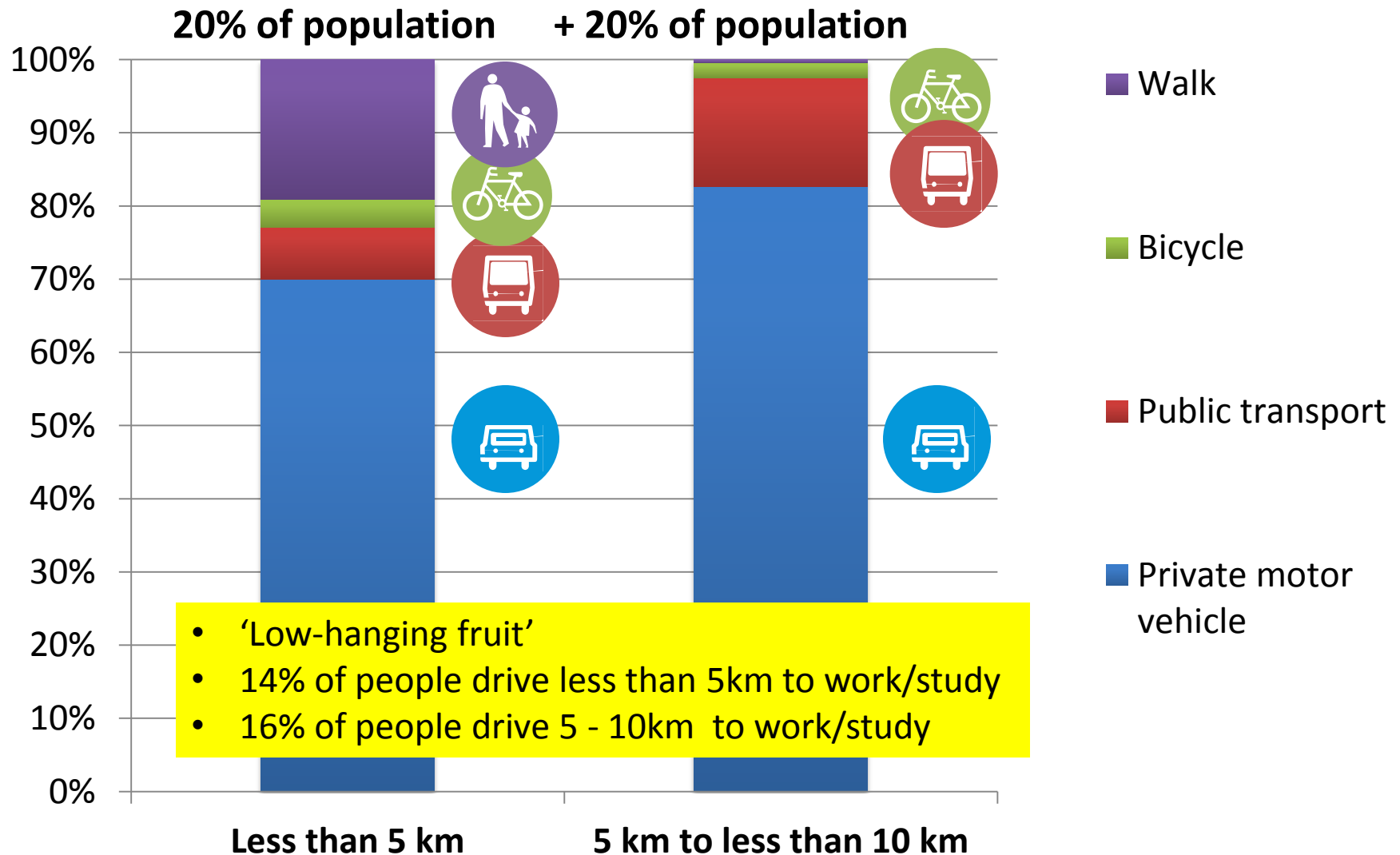


# Let's create a major turnaround for Australia





# Huge opportunities



## Proportion of commutes to work/study by distance and mode

# Priorities

1. Leadership
2. Understand the whole system
3. Concerted effort
4. Public health
5. Evidence



## Think strategically



### **Portfolio management**

Land use, whole of transport network + financing

### **Asset management + coordination**

Sections of transport system  
(bus, train, car, cycling, walking)

### **Technical issues + maintenance**

Specific components in a section  
(eg. intersections + roundabouts)

## Think strategically

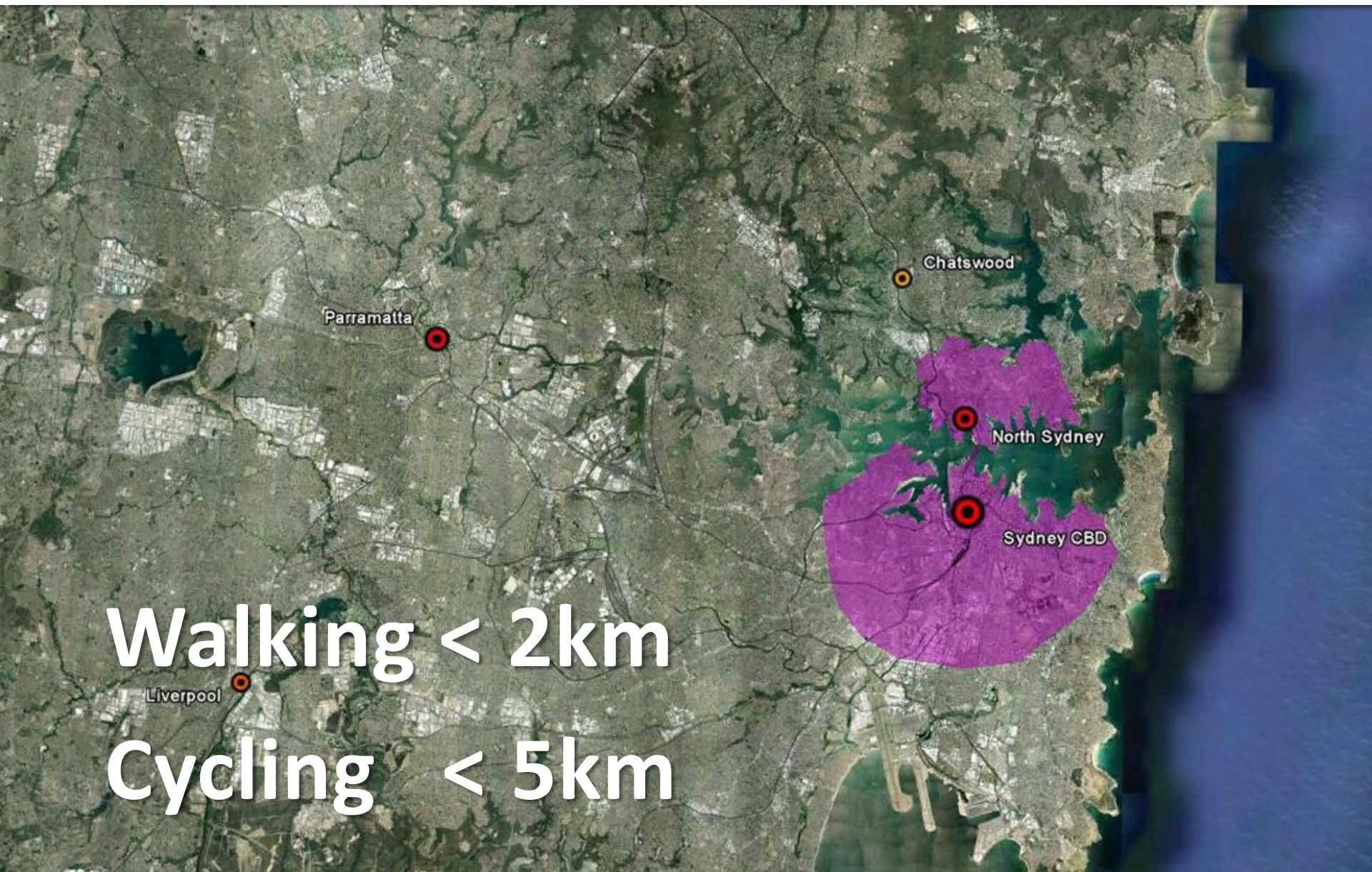
# Understand the whole system

- Land use
  - Transport
  - Public health
- + work within the strategic context**





## Sydney – 5km from CBD



Walking < 2km

Cycling < 5km

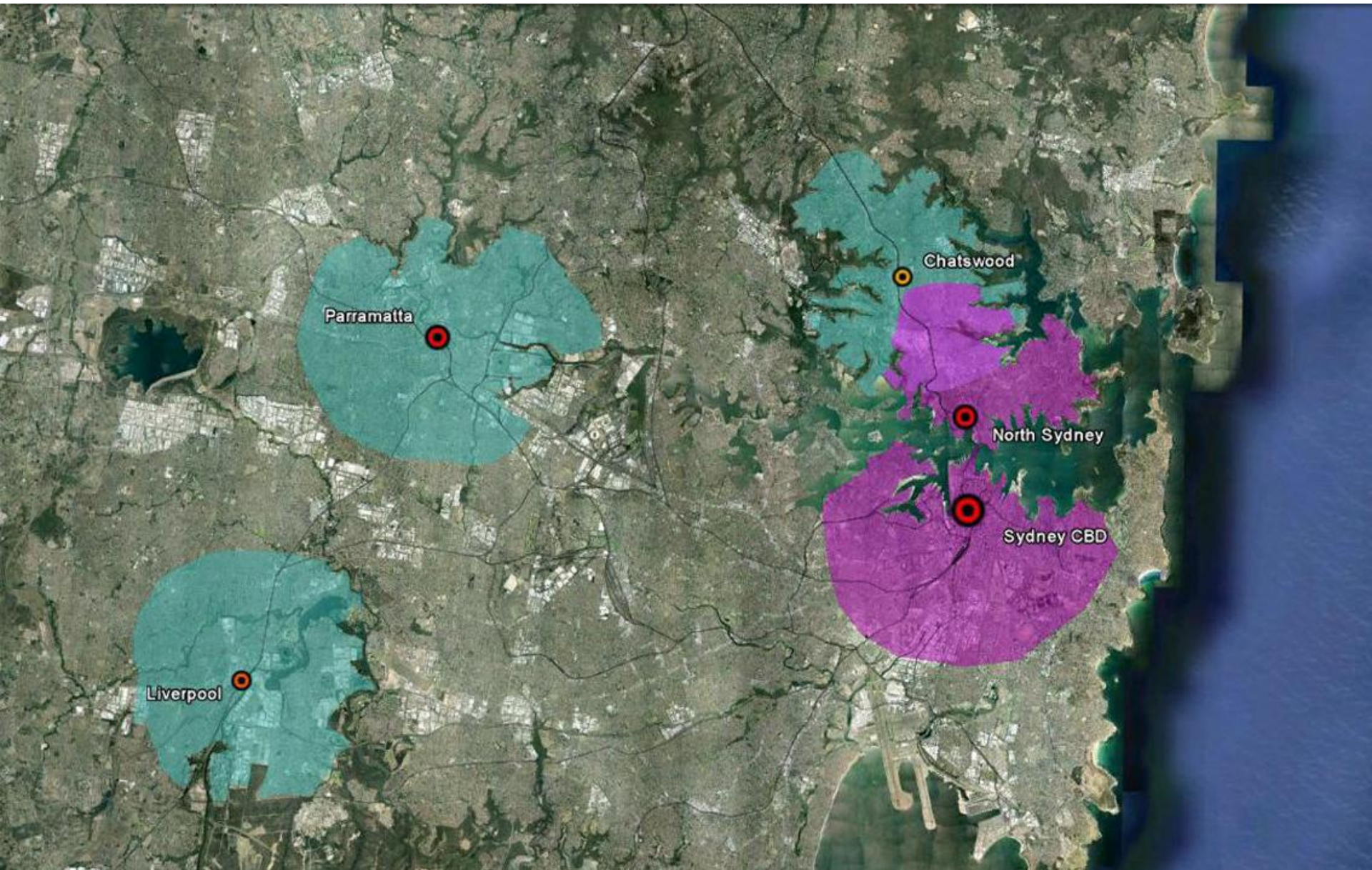


## Sydney – 5km from CBD and North Sydney



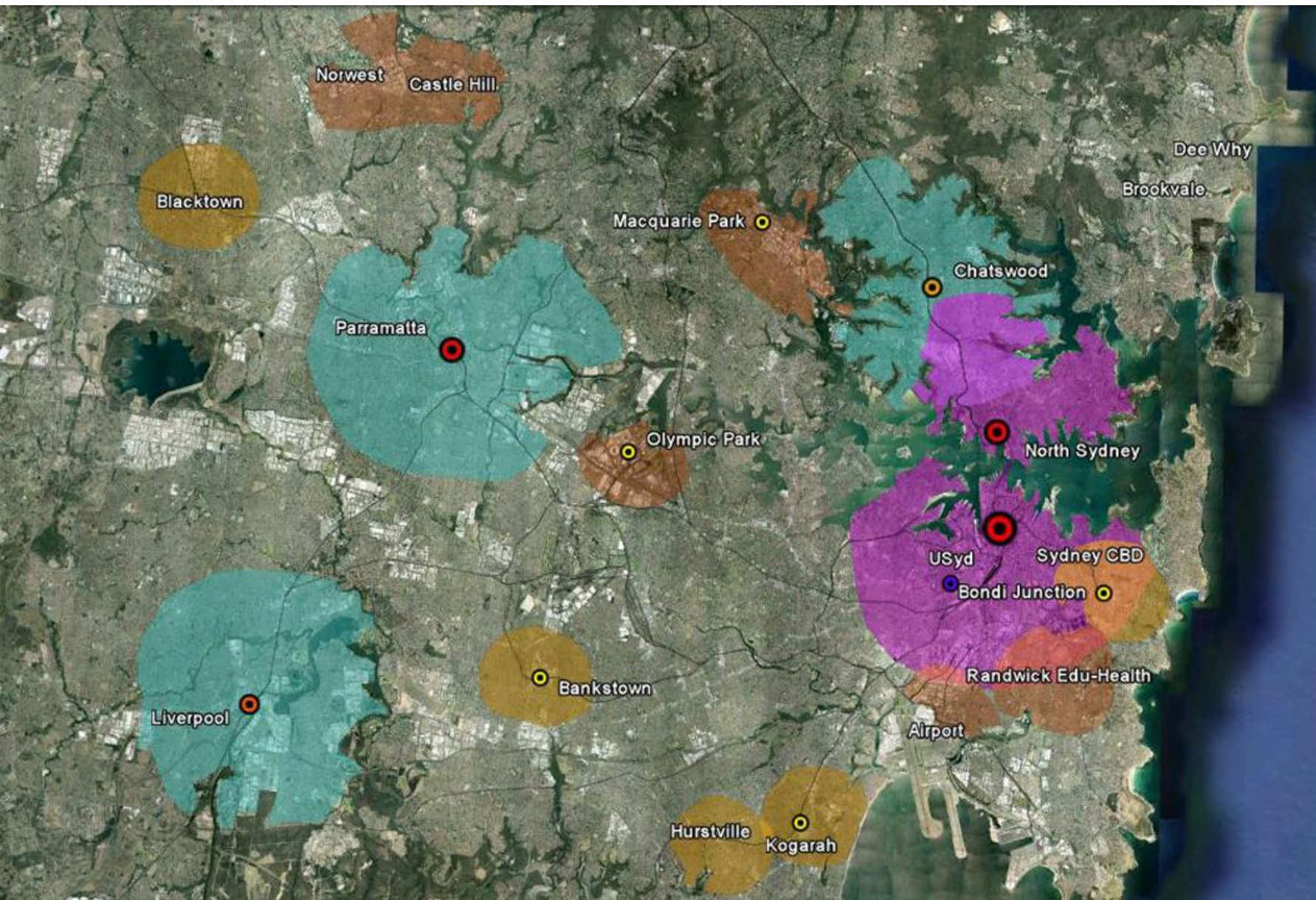


## Sydney – 5km around ‘Regional Cities’



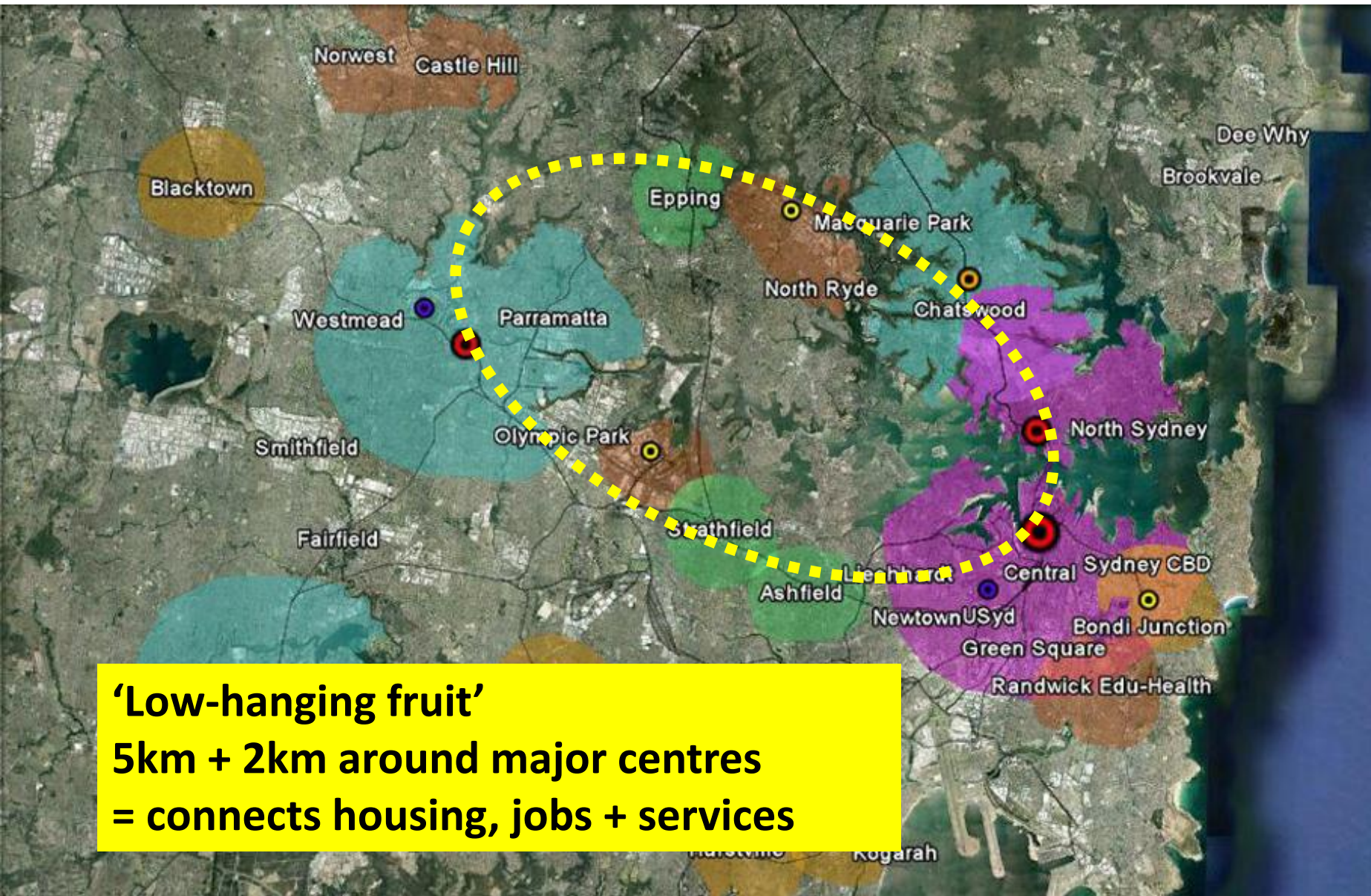


## 2km around Major + Specialised Centres





## Sydney – Complete network

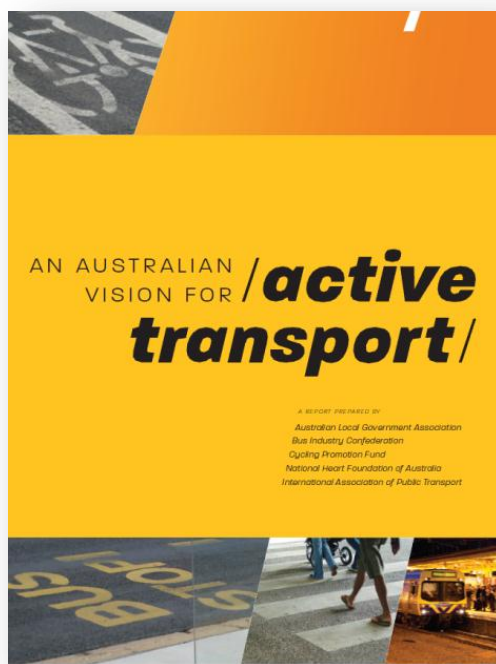


**‘Low-hanging fruit’**

**5km + 2km around major centres  
= connects housing, jobs + services**

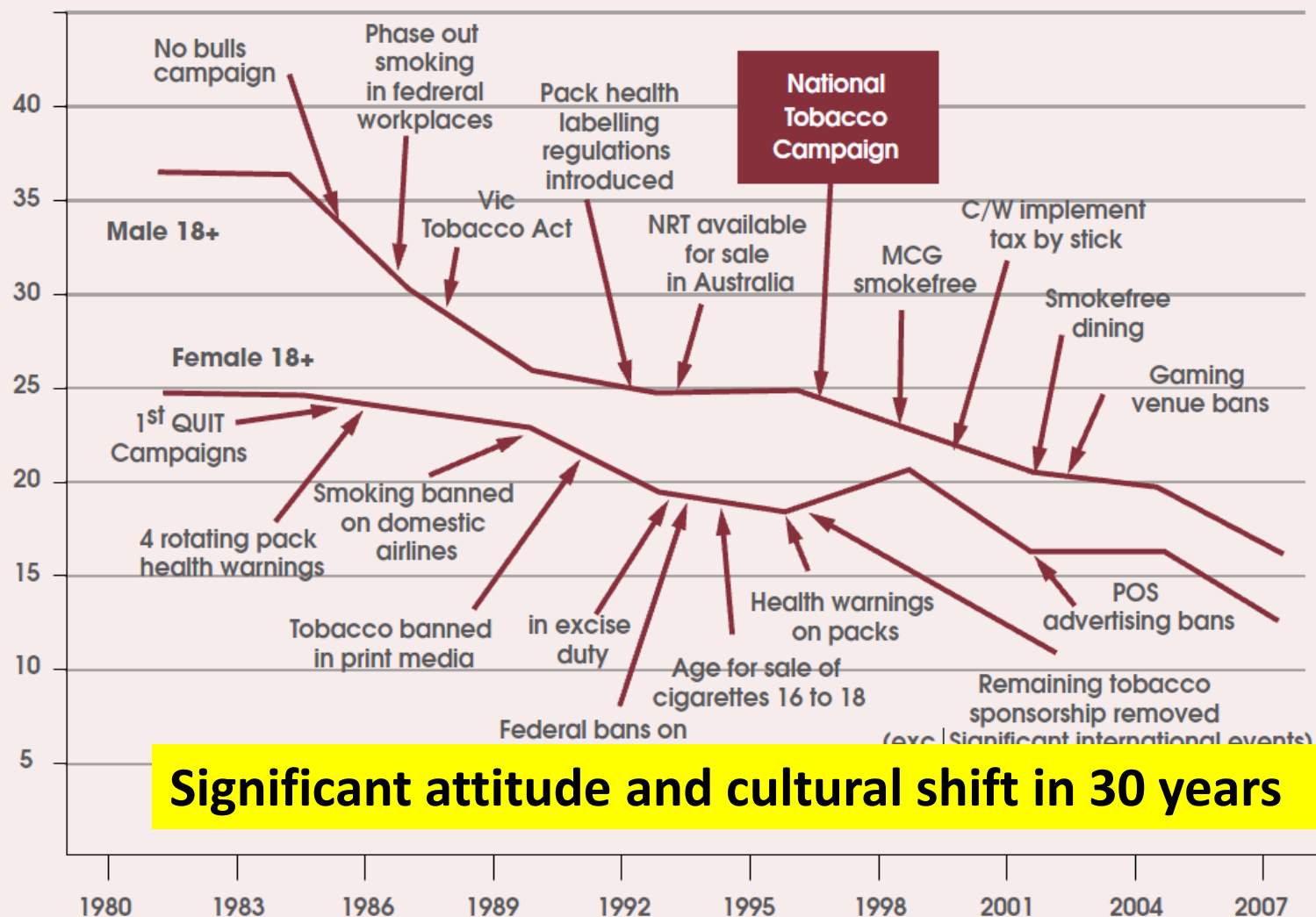
## Clear message and coordinated approach

- Coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach
- Clear, focused message
- Evidence base
- Understand + communicate the co-benefits



## Case Study: Smoking

Milestones in reducing smoking in Australia 1980–2007

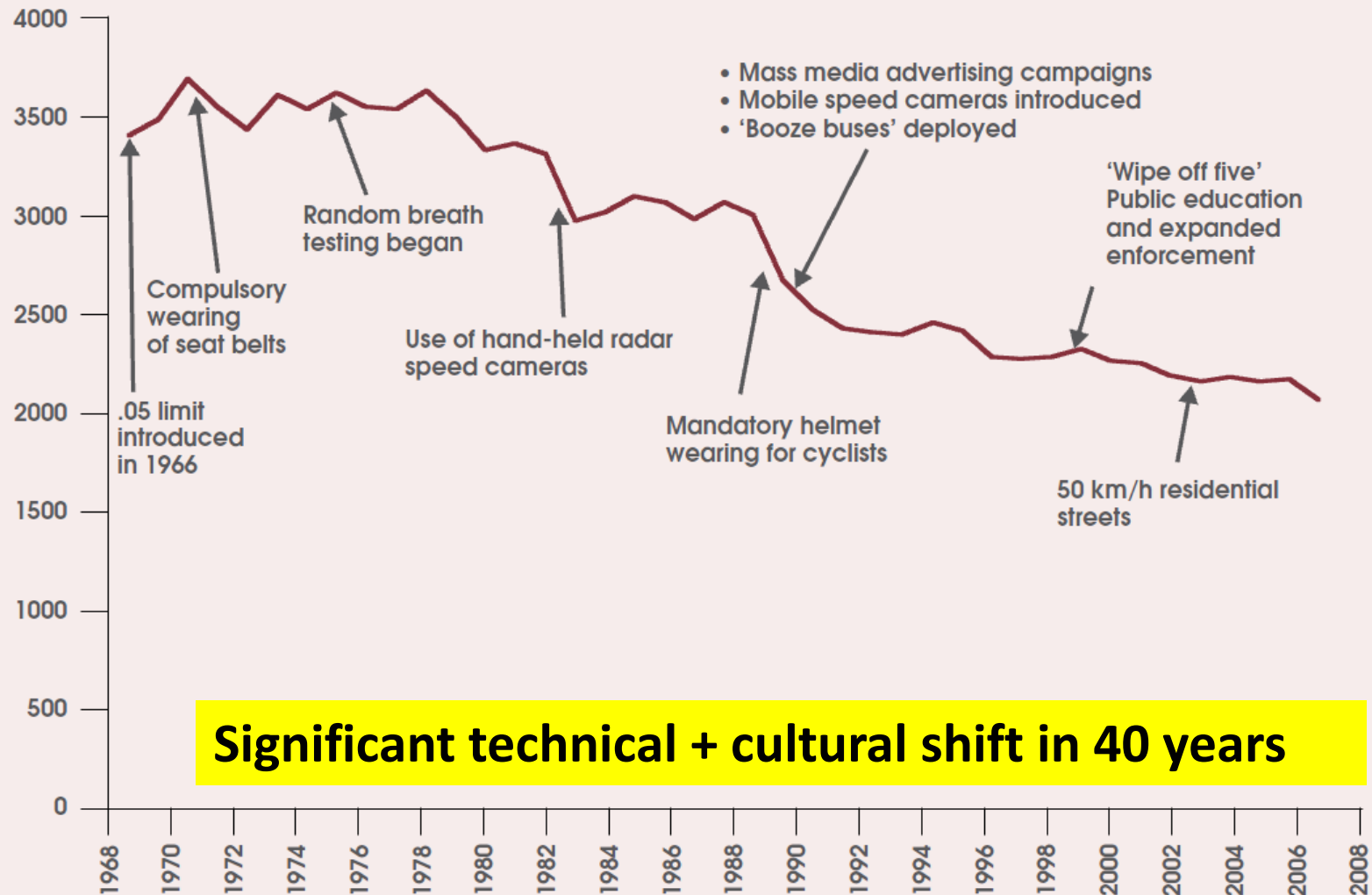


**Significant attitude and cultural shift in 30 years**



## Case Study: Road fatalities

Road fatalities in Australia 1968–2008



**Significant technical + cultural shift in 40 years**



## Clear message and coordinated approach

### **CO-BENEFITS:**

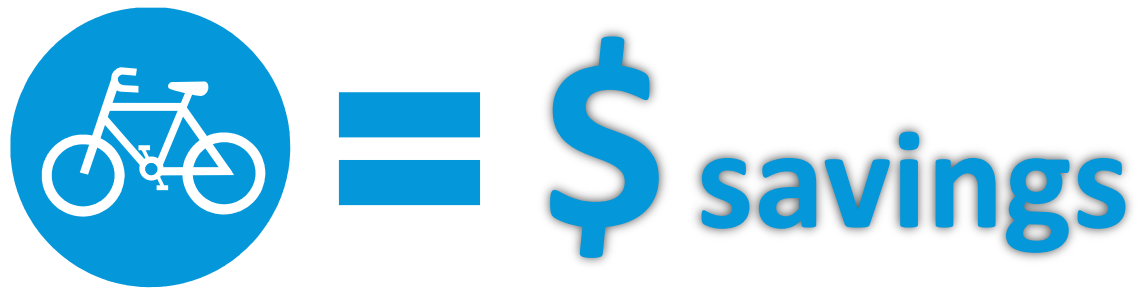
- ✓ 1. Transport solution
- ✓ 2. Public Health solution
- ✓ 3. Environment

### **ACTIONS:**

- ✓ 2-5km comprehensive networks
- ✓ Design for children and women
- ✓ Reduce conflicts between vehicles, bicycles + pedestrians

## The Challenge

How does active travel save  
**\$1 billion** for state + federal  
budgets?



- ↓ Healthcare costs
- ↓ Spend on road infrastructure
- ↓ Environmental damage
- ↑ Productivity