

For immediate release

## **Veteran expert's draft book on New Zealand planning for walking and cycling**

Roger Boulter is an international authority on planning for walking and cycling. He has led national strategy development in this area in New Zealand, before that in the UK, and has represented New Zealand in Trans-Tasman discussions.

With nearly four decades in this field, Boulter has now collated its New Zealand history in a detail and breadth never attempted before.

After contributing to UK national policy documents before his 1995 migration to New Zealand, Boulter authored the ground-breaking 2000 *'Into The Mainstream'* report – which the NZ Government then used as a key foundation for its 2005 Walking and Cycling Strategy *'Getting There – on Foot, by Cycle'*.

Boulter went on to co-authored the 2004 NZ Cycle Network and Route Planning Guide (which won two national awards) and advised government through other channels, winning further awards.

In the early 2000s, as a board member Boulter played a key role in the formation of BikeNZ (now Cycling NZ) the peak sport and recreation cycling body.

As an urban planner, Boulter looks at transport planning' underlying values – and the reaction.

Community-led movements – most influentially in 1950s/60s New York and 1960s/70s Netherlands – turned urban and transport planning around and based it on dialogue with the community (notably in 1950s/60s New York) and away from car-centred transport in the wake of public fury at children killed on the roads (notably in 1960s/70s Netherlands).

The latter blows the myth that the Dutch have always had a 'cycling culture' as the reason for the well-known phenomenally high Dutch cycling levels.

New Zealand's approach derived from late 1970s Australian road safety initiatives. Results were far less impressive in terms of cycling's uptake and crash record. The 1996 conclusion: it's reducing motor traffic volumes and speeds, not building cycleways, which makes the real difference.

'Integrated transport planning' is therefore key – but from 1980s early studies, right through to those covering New Zealand's main centres today, contradictions remain un-addressed. Outcomes including continuing traffic congestion, poor public transport, and unsafe walking and cycling.

Walking is particularly neglected, and struggles to gain traction, in a transport planning culture based around 'getting from A to B' rather than 'lingering' (always a key to prosperous cities).

Attitudes, however, have changed massively over the last 20 years. Car ownership, once seen as key to a better future, is now a regretful necessity. Cycling is now 'the new golf'. Some public transport has moved up-market. More city and town centre street space is now given over to people on foot.

*"Walking and cycling at the centre of transport planning is on the right side of history"* says Roger Boulter. The 120-page draft is available (free) as a PDF from Roger at [roger@boulter.co.nz](mailto:roger@boulter.co.nz).

**ENDS**

## **About Roger Boulter . . . .**

- Bachelor of Arts degree (with Honours) in Urban and Regional Planning 1977
- From the early 1980s, a full member at various times of (UK) Royal Town Planning Institute (carrying the designation 'Chartered Town Planner'), NZ Planning Institute, Chartered Institute of Transport, Institution of Highways and Transportation, IPENZ Transportation Group. Currently a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, and Full Member of the Engineering New Zealand Transportation Group.
- During 1970s and 1980s worked in areas of development control, District Plans, informal inter-disciplinary/ community development 'Area Studies', and heritage planning/ urban design for Birmingham City Council, UK.
- Full-time 'Cycling Officer' for Birmingham City Council, UK, 1990-1995.
- Represented the Association of Metropolitan Authorities on the UK 'Local Government and Cycling' Working Party, and as such played a lead part in authoring their 'Taking Cycling Seriously' policy document. Briefly chaired this Working Party in 1995.
- Migrated to New Zealand for family reasons 1995.
- Represented New Zealand, via Transit NZ, on the Australian Bicycle Council 1998-2003.
- Led the 1999-2000 NZ Cycling Strategy Foundation Project (2000 'Into The Mainstream' report).
- On organising committees of NZ Cycling Conferences 1997, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007 and NZ Walking Conferences 2004, 2006 (including vetting paper abstracts).
- In the early 2000s addressed (at their request) Parliamentary Select Committees on Transport/ Industrial Relations and Local Government/ Environment.
- 2003 Transfund NZ peer reviewer of the 'Fundamentals of Planning and Design for Cycling' professional training course (which is still running in modified form).
- In the early 2000s, member of working parties convened by Transfund NZ and the NZ Land Transport Safety Authority, advising on such matters as funding for walking and cycling, and road signs and markings as affecting cycling.
- In the early 2000s, at different times, on the Executives of both the Cycling Advocates' Network and Living Streets Aotearoa (walking advocacy body); withdrew from both for professional ethical reasons after becoming a consultant in 2003.
- Foundation Signatory of the 2004 government-supported NZ Urban Design Protocol.
- Inaugural Board member 2001-03, representing Cycling Advocates' Network, of Bike NZ, a body bringing together road and track, mountain biking, BMX, utility (day-to-day transport) cycling, and the Bicycle Industries Association (BIANZ), including playing a key role in protocol formulation.
- Co-author of 2004 NZ Cycle Network and Route Planning Guide, which won awards from the NZ Planning Institute and Cycling Advocates' Network.
- From 2003 started Roger Boulter Consulting (later Boulter Consulting) working in areas including integrated transport planning, university/ academic lecturing, advice to government on funding processes and criteria, passenger rail planning (at national and regional levels), walking and cycling strategies, road safety and advice on cycle network planning and road designs as affecting walking and cycling.
- Winner of several awards for writing and public speaking, including one international award (Velo-Australis Conference, 1996).