

Hon Tom Koutsantonis MP

Treasurer

Hon Leon Bignell MP

Minister for Recreation and Sport

Saturday 25 June 2016

STATE BUDGET 2016-17: \$2 million for UCI BMX track in Adelaide's South

The State Government will invest \$2 million to build a Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) standard BMX track in O'Halloran Hill, in a bid to support our international-level riders and attract major events to South Australia.

The Marion and Onkaparinga councils have agreed in principle to commit up to \$750,000 each towards the track, which would be built on Majors Rd, subject to development of the final project scope and budget.

Background

BMX participation in South Australia has doubled in the last five years with about half the riders from the southern suburbs.

The Cove BMX Club has 168 members and Happy Valley BMX Club has about 150 members.

Currently South Australia does not have any UCI standard BMX facilities and can't attract national-level BMX events. The UCI is the international body that governs competitive cycling for all disciplines.

Without having a UCI BMX track in SA, riders have had to move interstate in order to further develop their skills and progress towards elite pathways.

The land at Majors Road is currently owned by the State Government. The site was chosen because it provides a suitable noise buffer from the surrounding residential area.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

The development of a UCI standard track in the Southern Suburbs will further grow participation in the sport and give South Australia the ability to attract national-level events.

We want to do everything we can to encourage South Australia's young people to be fit, active and social, and investing in facilities at sporting clubs is one of the best ways we can do this.

Quotes attributable to Recreation and Sport Minister Leon Bignell

Media Contact: David Russell 0434 307 012 | Simonne Reid 0400 650 951

In a few weeks' time thousands of young South Australians will be cheering on Australia's BMX riders at the Rio Olympics. We want to give future generations a state of the art facility where they can train and compete on their way to future Olympic Games.

Not only will this investment help to ensure BMX participation continues to grow, it will ensure South Australia is considered for high level BMX events such as the national titles.

The State Government is dedicated to supporting sport at all levels, from grassroots through to elite. This infrastructure will be used by locals and those from interstate looking to train at a top level facility. We will also be bidding for national and international BMX titles to be held in SA.

I'd like to thank the Onkaparinga and Marion Councils for their very generous contribution into a project that will be of significant benefit to all South Australians.

Quotes attributable to City of Onkaparinga Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg

We welcome the State Government funding offer and look forward to working with the State Government, Marion council, BMX Australia and the Cove and Happy Valley BMX clubs to further explore this opportunity.

BMX is a rapidly growing sport and we could potentially see national and international events being held at O'Halloran Hill, attracting visitors and driving local and state-wide economic benefits.

A facility like this could be an ideal pathway for the elite riders of the future.

Quotes attributable to City of Marion Mayor Kris Hanna

BMX is a popular and growing sport across the southern suburbs and the new BMX track will add to the world-class sporting facilities we have in Marion.

The existing track at Cove Sports and Community Club doesn't meet national and international standards and, unfortunately, cannot expand due to being hemmed in by housing.

Council has been advocating for a new BMX track that will allow the sport to flourish and we look forward to working with the State Government to deliver this exciting project.

Quotes attributable to BMX Olympic silver medallist Sam Willoughby

Adelaide has had a knack for producing the world's best BMX racers in the past couple of decades and hopefully with a facility like this we can continue to do so.

I'm going to love having a world class facility in my hometown that I can return to from the US. It'll be great to prepare for world class events in my beloved Adelaide.