

## TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 7 July 2016 (released Saturday, 25 June 2016)

### **\$2 million for UCI BMX track in Adelaide's South**

The State Government is investing \$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 track will be built on Majors Road in partnership with the Marion and Onkaparinga councils, which have also put \$750,000 each towards the project, bringing the total investment to \$3.5 million.

#### **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 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 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**

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.

We all know how important keeping active is and that's why the State Government is also helping parents to get more children into sport with our \$50 Sports Voucher program.

The program – which was a 2014 Labor election commitment – has been a huge success with more than 68,000 vouchers redeemed in South Australia totalling \$3.4 million.

### **Quotes attributable to City of Onkaparinga Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg**

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

BMX is a huge 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 to build a new BMX track that will allow the sport to flourish and host major competitions.

### **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.

**Media Contact:** David Russell 0434 307 012

