

7th November 2004 - Lisa Glastonbury

One Sunday early in November, I joined around 6,000 other cyclists for the annual RTA Sydney to Wollongong Ride.

Riding as part of the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Team I, and thousands of others, were farewelled by friends and supporters at around 7.30am from Sydney Park, St Peters.

The first part of the route wound its way south through the beachside suburbs of Brighton le Sands and San Souci before turning inland along the Princes Highway. With one lane of the highway closed to traffic it was a quick ride to Lawrence Hargreaves Drive where the route turned southwest through the Royal National Park.

This section was the highlight of the ride. Dramatic bushland scenery and some wonderful uphill and downhill made this a unique experience on a bike.

All too soon the riders left the bushland behind as they hit the coast at Stanwell Tops. The coastal views south to Wollongong from the headlands here were simply magnificent. A fruit stop at the top was well patronised with many taking time to simply admire the view.



The view over, many riders were reduced to walking the long uphill section back to the Royal National Park. Most of the last 30km were through bushland that was considerably damaged by the recent bushfires.

Riders emerged from the bush into heavy weekend traffic on the Princes Highway and headed north to the finish at Waratah Park, Sutherland.

Although it was disappointing not being able to ride all the way to Wollongong, the Sydney to the Gong Ride for 2004 was a great event and this rider will be back for more!