



# **OUR BIKE PATH**

**2022 - 2026**

A guiding framework  
for bike riding in  
Western Australia



**Produced and Published by  
WestCycle Incorporated.**

WestCycle is supported by the State Government through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and the Department of Transport.

**Contact:**

WestCycle Incorporated  
Info@westcycle.org.au  
www.westcycle.org.au

**About:**

WestCycle is the peak body for cycling in WA. WestCycle, on behalf of the bike riding community, helped to coordinate the development of Our Bike Path 2022 - 2026. WestCycle's own strategic plan identifies the relevant initiatives of Our Bike Path that will be pursued by WestCycle.

**Acknowledgments:**

WestCycle would like to acknowledge the contributions of Peter Minchin, WestCycle Advisory Group Members, (MTB Advisory Group; Safety, Infrastructure and Advocacy Advisory Group; Road and Recreational Advisory Group) Road Safety Commission, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, Department of Transport, Tourism WA, and WALGA in the development of this document.

**Photography:**

PB Photography, Daniela Tommasi Photography



## **Bike riding is increasingly recognised around the world for the positive impact and benefits it provides to communities.**

Riding a bike can play a powerful role in delivering a range of community, social, environmental, health and economic benefits.

To realise these benefits for Western Australia, no single body, government agency or community group can achieve these outcomes on their own, and a coordinated approach from all stakeholders is required if we are going to capitalise on the opportunities that riding a bike can provide. By working together, government and non-government organisations can deliver significant improvements to our communities by reducing congestion, improving mental and physical health outcomes, reducing environmental stress, making our neighbourhoods more liveable and helping to grow our economy. Now more than ever, bike riding has the power to support and connect our communities while enhancing the Western Australian way of life.



## About our Bike Path

Our Bike Path 2022 – 2026 builds on the inaugural Our Bike Path – 2014 - 2020 which guided WestCycle, Government and the WA bike riding community on creating a more bike friendly state. The document was the catalyst for significant progress across many of the priority areas and it is envisaged that Our Bike Path 2022 – 2026 will provide the same guiding framework moving forward.

Importantly, Our Bike Path has been developed for the bike riding community, by the bike riding community with key stakeholders having had the opportunity to provide input into its development and the future direction of riding in WA for the next 5 years. Our Bike Path isn't a plan for any one particular organisation, rather it sets out an agenda of strategic priorities for all organisations and individuals and provides a broad consistent vision for the bike riding community in Western Australia.

### Our Bike Path 2022-2026 has the following four key objectives:

1. Define at a high level, the contribution of the bike riding community and the positive outcomes it delivers for the broader West Australian community.
2. Identify the strategic priorities and opportunities for the bike riding community while addressing current challenges.
3. Provide a consistent platform that elevates the bike riding community in wider WA planning and investment decisions across government and non-government sectors.
4. Promotes growth in bike riding participation at all levels within the community for the improved health and wellbeing of the West Australian community.





**Bike riding is embraced by the WA community as a way of life.**



When people ride more often it contributes to making our transport system more sustainable, helps us to maintain a healthy environment and adopt a more active lifestyle. High rates of bike riding participation contribute to the vitality of cities and towns and helps to encourage a sense of community and connectedness. This has benefits for all West Australians.

Getting more people to experience the joy of bike riding benefits the whole community—every person who rides a bike to work, school, socialise or the shops means less traffic and less pollution. Choosing a bike over a car can also improve wellbeing, support healthy and happy communities and contribute to the economy.

This framework sets the direction for bike riding in Western Australia over the next 5 years. It identifies what we need to focus on to make sure that riding a bike is enjoyable, comfortable, healthy and safe for people.

Through consultation with the WA bike riding community, government and other key stakeholders and partners, the following eight priorities have been identified for Western Australia's vision for bike riding to be achieved:

- 1 Increase participation levels of the community who ride a bike.
- 2 Improve the safe, convenient and connected cycling network.
- 3 Create an environment that promotes cycling for transport.
- 4 Improve support and enable opportunities for athletes, clubs, events, coaches and officials.
- 5 Continue to improve bike rider safety.
- 6 Support and grow the bike riding economy and cycle tourism.
- 7 Increase the provision and access to bike riding facilities.
- 8 Ensure a strong and unified voice continues to advocate on behalf of the WA bike riding community.



## Why is riding important to Western Australia?

It is well established that riding a bike provides significant health, economic and community benefits and that riding makes a significant contribution to Western Australia.

Our Bike Path aims to build a common understanding amongst all key stakeholders as to why riding a bike is important and to further realise the potential bike riding can provide to the WA community.



### VISION

**Bike riding is embraced by the Western Australian community as a way of life.**

## WHY BIKE RIDING IS IMPORTANT TO WA

**Benefits our mental & physical health**

**Supports our economy**

**Benefits the environment**

**Creates liveable cities**

**Connects our communities**



# KEY STATS

**\$1.43**



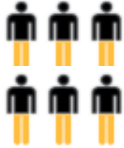
the amount the economy benefits for every km ridden<sup>1</sup>



**1500 KG**

of greenhouse gas emissions: the amount saved per person per year that cycles 10km each way to work

## CYCLING PARTICIPATION SURVEY<sup>2</sup>



Over **400,000 people** ride a bike in Western Australia each week and over **1 million** at least in a typical year<sup>2</sup>



WA has the highest proportion of households with an **electrically assisted bike** (both states and territories) at 4.1%<sup>2</sup>



**693,000**

**more bike trips** were counted on the PSP network during the COVID restriction period representing a **45% net growth**.<sup>3</sup>



Over half of Perth children currently **travel to school by car** despite living less than 1 km away.



**17 direct jobs** created per million dollars spent on bike riding infrastructure.<sup>4</sup>



**40%** of all private car trips made in Australia are less than 3km<sup>6,7,8</sup>



**6 BIKE PARKING SPACES**

can replace **one car parking space** and this would produce approx **\$70/hr in additional retail turnover** in urban activity centres and high streets.<sup>5</sup>



Economic modelling found that the **return on WA investment** in bike riding infrastructure produced community benefits of 3.4 to 5.4 times the costs incurred<sup>9</sup>



A cycle tourist's **daily spend** is nearly **5 times higher** than an average tourist<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Australian Government. Department of Infrastructure and Transport (2013). Walking, Riding and Access to Public Transport. Supporting Active Travel in Australian Communities. Ministerial Statement

<sup>2</sup> Austroads, 2019 Western Australian Cycling Participation

<sup>3</sup> Department of Transport - 3 month data snapshot of COVID-19 impacts on Active Transport in Perth, WA

<sup>4</sup> American Association of State highway and Transportation Officials (2012)

<sup>5</sup> Heart Foundation (2011) Good for Business Discussion Paper

<sup>6</sup> Transport Data Centre: 2008/09 Household Travel Survey Summary Report, NSW Government, 2010

<sup>7</sup> Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel & Activity: 2018

<sup>8</sup> Vichealth (1999) Moving to Healthier People and Healthier Places

<sup>9</sup> RAC WA (2012). The Economic Cycle: A Business Case for Investment in Cycling in Western Australia.

<sup>10</sup> Western Australian Cycle Tourism Strategy



## Success will be achieved by the WA bike riding community adopting the following core principles:

### SAFETY

We believe in putting people first. We are committed to the safety of all in every aspect of what we do.

### RESPECT

We strive to operate in an environment of mutual trust and respect between bike riders, motorists, advocates and volunteers no matter their connection with bike riding.

### COLLABORATION

No single entity can realise the potential for bike riding in all its forms and a collaborative approach across all key stakeholders is required.

### SUSTAINABILITY

We want the whole Western Australian community to understand the range of community, economic, environment, health and social benefits that bike riding delivers.

### INNOVATION

We will be creative, work differently and remain open to new ideas and opportunities in order to realise the potential that bike riding can have on the community.

### INCLUSIVE

Bike riding is for all ages and abilities and an inclusive approach will drive our thinking to ensure that the whole community has the opportunity to ride a bike.

Eight strategic priorities have been identified for Western Australia's vision for bike riding to be achieved. Under each of the priorities are the key outcomes we want to see achieved.

## **1** Increase participation levels of the community who ride a bike

Increased participation levels of people riding a bike will deliver health, social, environmental and economic benefits to the Western Australian community.

### **Outcomes:**

1. The health, social, environmental and economic benefits of bike riding are widely recognised through promotion and advocacy activities.
2. A diverse range of promotional events such as the annual bike festival, ride to work breakfasts, car free days, bike path and trail openings, family rides, ride to school promotions and mass participation events which encourage bike riding participation are supported.
3. There is an increase in the number of people who ride a bike across all ages, demographics and community groups.
4. Local government and local community groups support and promote increased bike riding participation within their communities.
5. Workplaces are more bike friendly and support the adoption of new technologies which increase bike riding participation.



## 2 Improve the safe, convenient and connected cycling network

Cycling infrastructure should help bike riders feel safe and confident.

### Outcomes:

1. State and Local Governments adopt good urban design and planning policies that ensure bike riding is well incorporated into an integrated multi-modal transport network.
2. Western Australia's cycling network is safe (mix of separated infrastructure and dedicated routes along low speed roads), convenient (takes bike riders to their destinations via the shortest and quickest routes) and connected (routes that link seamlessly into a city-wide and/or region-wide network).
3. All levels of Government collaborate to ensure Western Australia's cycling network is cohesive from primary routes through to local routes.
4. Existing bike riding infrastructure is upgraded to current standards through appropriate levels of investment.
5. All levels of government increase the proportion of spending on cycling infrastructure.





## 3 Create an environment that promotes cycling for transport

Creating an environment that promotes riding a bike as a safe, convenient and enjoyable way to travel and to connect to their community will create healthier and more vibrant cities and neighbourhoods.

### Outcomes:

1. Program and campaigns actively support and encourage people of all ages and abilities to ride a bike for transport including promotions that target the greater participation of women and children.
2. End of trip facilities (bicycle parking, showers, lockers etc) are provided at all key destinations.
3. A greater proportion of trips under 20 minutes are made by bike.
4. Transport behaviours of the community are better understood through data collection and analysis.
5. Riding a bike to school is seen as common practice and is supported by a State-Wide bicycle education program, infrastructure improvements and behaviour change programs.
6. Riding a bike is portrayed as a viable mode of transport by the media and community.





## 4 Improve support and enable opportunities for athletes, clubs, events, coaches and officials

Improving opportunities for riding a bike as a form of recreation and sport will help West Australians maintain an active lifestyle, improve social connections and achieve their potential.

### Outcomes:

1. The importance of volunteers is recognised and measures to support, acknowledge and reward their efforts are enhanced.
2. Clubs and groups are cohesive and collaborate to improve outcomes for all bike riders.
3. Deliver a diverse range of quality activities across all bike riding disciplines, which cater to the needs of riders from participation to high performance.
4. Talented athletes, coaches, commissaires and officials are supported so that they can achieve their potential.
5. The performance of Western Australian high performance athletes is optimised and supported through an integrated pathway and high performance plan for all bike riding disciplines.
6. Western Australia's bike riding organisations and clubs are effectively governed.



## 5 Continue to improve bike rider safety

Encouraging all people to better share our public spaces—whether on the road, shared paths, footpaths, trails or other places—will help make getting around safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

### Outcomes:

1. Road rules are effective, contemporary and recognise vulnerable road users to improve the safety of bike riders.
2. The community is well educated around safely sharing roads, shared paths, trails and other public spaces for the benefit and safety for all users.
3. Bike education programs for children and adults are available to all.
4. Bike riding data collection and analysis helps us better understand riding safety issues.
5. Safer speeds are adopted in areas where people ride bikes.







## 6 Support and grow the bike riding economy and cycle tourism

Promoting the benefits of cycling tourism and events and supporting the ecosystem of bike riding businesses and organisations will benefit our state and local economies.

### Outcomes:

1. The Western Australian Cycle Tourism Strategy is further developed and continues to be implemented.
2. Western Australia is recognised as a world class on and off road cycling destination which supports the development of cycle tourism opportunities throughout the state.
3. A trails sustainability framework supports and promotes a state-wide system of environmentally sustainable mountain bike trails.
4. A major events strategy supports Investment into future major cycling events
5. An ecosystem of bike riding businesses and organisations exist which foster a sustainable and successful sector.



## 7 Improving the provision and access to bike riding facilities

Increasing access to suitable bike riding facilities in both metropolitan and regional areas will provide improved opportunities to participate in cycling.

### Outcomes:

1. Key stakeholders and decision makers recognise the benefits and value that sport and recreation bike riding facilities provide to our communities.
2. State and local government strategies, plans and policies support the development of sport and recreation bike riding facilities.
3. Master planning identifies and prioritises locations for all disciplines including a central bike riding hub.
4. Venue owners and managers minimise barriers and facilitate access to bike riding facilities.







## Ensure a strong and unified voice continues to advocate on behalf of the WA bike riding community

A unified, aligned and constructive voice is essential to deliver improved outcomes for the WA bike riding community.

### Outcomes:

1. WestCycle, as the recognised peak body for bike riding in Western Australia continues to lead the strategic direction and advocacy for the WA bike riding community.
2. All levels of government and key stakeholders engage with WestCycle in the development of policy and major decisions.
3. Data is used to better understand bike riding participation and behaviour to better inform future decisions.
4. Riding a bike is portrayed positively in the media.
5. Strategic partnerships which enhance the delivery of bike riding initiatives and programs are formed.





# Measures of Success

These measures of success across each of our priority areas will drive us towards our vision of bike riding being embraced by the WA community as a way of life.

**1 Participation**

Increase the number of people who ride a bike each week by 20% to 675,000

**2 Cycling Infrastructure**

Complete the primary routes identified within the long term cycle network

**3 Behaviour Change**

Increase the number of bike riding trips taken for transport each month by 10% to 362,000

**4 Athletes, Clubs, Coaches and Officials**

Roles and responsibilities to deliver support and enhance the sustainability of all cycling stakeholders are clearly defined and agreed

**5 Safety**

Reduce the number of cyclists killed or seriously injured by 50%

**6 Tourism**

Increase the number of cycle visitors to 700,000 per year

**7 Facilities**

Detailed cycle sport facility plans are developed which address identified gaps in cycling infrastructure based on principles agreed in conjunction with state and local governments

**8 Advocacy**

WestCycle broadens its recognition in the community as the Peak Body leading the strategic direction and advocacy for the bike riding community in Western Australia



Street Address:  
105 Cambridge  
Street  
West Leederville  
WA 6007

Telephone: 08 6336 9688  
Email: [info@westcycle.org.au](mailto:info@westcycle.org.au)  
Web: [westcycle.org.au](http://westcycle.org.au)

ABN: 36 563 134 343



GOVERNMENT OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of  
**Sport and Recreation**