

# 2024-25 WA BUDGET SUBMISSION BY WESTCYCLE

Enabling more Western Australians to ride a bike more often will deliver individual and community benefits. It is a low-cost and effective way for the WA Government to meet emissions reduction targets, reduce the burden on the WA health system through improved mental and physical health, and reduce the costs associated with traffic congestion. In 2022, the cycling economy in WA accounted for 6,847 jobs and \$1.985 billion in economic activity. There is a real opportunity to amplify the benefits and returns, with relatively modest investment.

With this in mind, WestCycle, the peak body for cycling in WA, makes the following recommendations for the 2024-25 Western Australian Budget.

## BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 1

### Increase the investment in active travel to \$80 million a year

Two thirds of all car trips in Perth less than 5km, meaning most of these trips could be done by walking or riding a bike if people had safe places to do so.

Increasing investment in active transport to \$80 million a year gives people more options for how they get around each day, and supports the development of a flexible, resilient and low carbon transport system.

The funding should exclude major projects to prioritise active travel infrastructure and projects that will:

- accelerate the delivery of the WA Bicycle Network, including connectivity to METRONET
- ensure adequate maintenance of existing cycling infrastructure
- encourage local government investment in cycling infrastructure by changing the funding split to match that for road projects
- implement of the Active Travel to School Roadmap

This relatively modest shift in the transport budget is supported by most Western Australians, and aligns with Infrastructure WA's recommendation to allocate a greater portion of funding to cycling projects.



**OUR VISION: MORE PEOPLE RIDING BIKES MORE OFTEN**

For more information, visit [westcycle.org.au](https://westcycle.org.au)



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## BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 2

### Provide \$2 million to trial an e-bike subsidy program



WA has one of the most generous subsidy schemes for zero emissions vehicles in Australia. As a significantly cheaper transport alternative to a new electric vehicle, e-bikes can be an accessible option for a wider range of people. The inclusion of e-bikes in subsidies for electric vehicles, or as a stand-alone program, will encourage wider uptake of e-bikes and enable a new cohort of commuters to help reduce emissions, traffic congestion and improve health and safety outcomes.

## BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 3

### Commit \$25 million to complete the Wadandi Track

The WA Mountain Biking Strategy 2022-2023 and relevant reference groups identified the completion of the Wadandi Track as a priority. The business case states, “the development of the Wadandi Track is a priority infrastructure development project that will enable further tourism, residential, visitor and business investment growth across the region.” The project funding should be secured in full to deliver this significant regional project by 2028.



## BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 4

### Allocate \$1 million a year to maintain trails



Off-road cycling and mountain biking trails are maintained through provision of an ad hoc mix of funding and resources, by community clubs and volunteers. Expanding the budget for trail maintenance by \$1 million will ensure trail managers have the resources and skills required to ensure trails meet best practice standards, use of these community assets continues to grow, trail users are kept safe, and the environment is protected.

## BUDGET RECOMMENDATION 5

### Help maintain mass participation cycling events

Increasing State Government investment in the Sport and Recreation Events Funding Program will ensure that events remain affordable for participants while reducing the risk to event organisers.

This additional funding would also contribute positively to the local community where events are held, growing the already significant \$1.985 billion a year contribution of cycling to WA's economy.

