



# Motorbikes on shared paths

WestCycle Community Survey Responses  
December 2023



13 December 2023

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## Introduction

This report summarises the responses from a survey conducted by WestCycle regarding perceptions of bike riders of illegal use of motorbikes on the Shared Path network in Western Australia in 2023.

The survey responded to ABC news article<sup>1</sup> and reports from community members and WestCycle staff of motorbikes (usually unlicensed trail bikes) being ridden on the network of shared paths around Perth.

This summary report will be published on the WestCycle website, with a link to the report shared on WestCycle's social media.

The summary report and spreadsheet with de-identified raw data will be forwarded to WA Police, Main Roads WA, Department of Transport, Road Safety Commission, Western Australian Local Government Association, and other relevant authorities and stakeholders.

## WestCycle

WestCycle is the not-for-profit peak body for bike riding in Western Australia. The organisation is committed to enhancing bike riding opportunities in Western Australia, represents the interests of everyone who does or wants to ride a bike, through engagement, collaboration, and evidence-based advocacy.

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<sup>1</sup> ABC Perth, "Cyclists call on Police Commissioner to control unregistered motorbike hoons on bike paths", 29 November 2023: <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/perth-mornings/cycle-paths-motorbikes/103166088>, Accessed 13 December 2023

## **WestCycle Community Survey: motorbikes on shared paths 2023**

WestCycle created a survey to gather feedback and personal stories from bike riders on the presence of motorbike riders on shared paths, whether in the Perth Metropolitan Area or in other parts of Western Australia.

The data collected is intended to give WestCycle, community members, the media and government stakeholders a sense of how widespread the issue is, as well as the level and type of concerns held by path users.

The survey, conducted using Google Forms and shared on the WestCycle Facebook page, was available from 11am Wednesday 6 December to 5pm 13 December 2023, and only promoted via the WestCycle Facebook page.

- No incentives were provided for completing the survey.
- Respondents could choose to provide a phone number or email address for WestCycle to contact them for more information if required.
- Respondents could also provide an email address to receive updates on WestCycle's advocacy but could otherwise complete the survey anonymously.
- 272 people completed the survey.

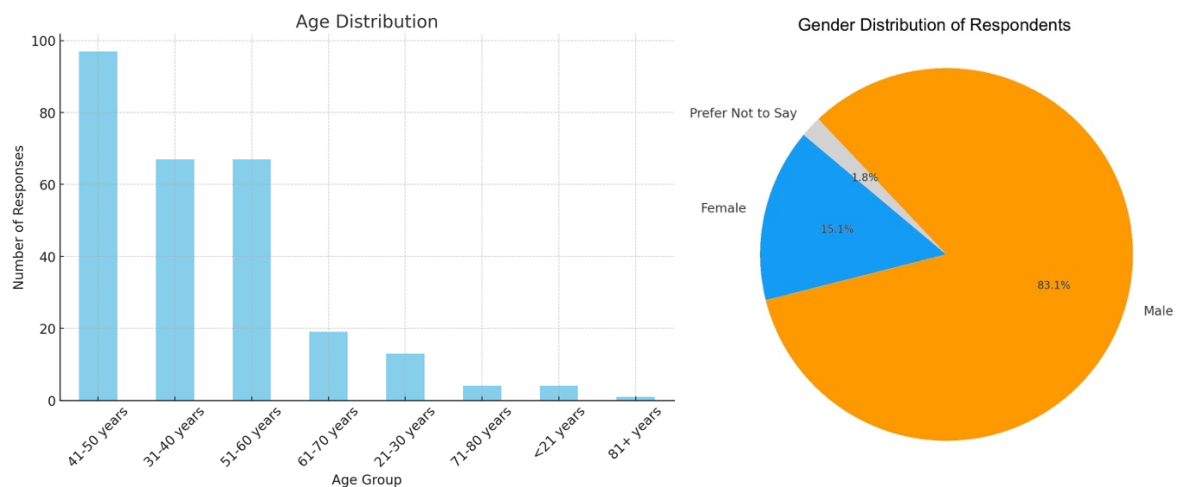
The survey was comprised of the following questions:

1. In the past year (2023) while riding a bike on the shared path network, have you encountered anyone riding a motorbike?
2. If yes, can you tell us where? (if possible, please name the path(s) and or suburb / town)
3. If you have encountered someone riding a motorbike on a shared path, can you tell us a bit about your experience? (skip if no)
4. Regarding your own safety, how concerned are you about the presence of motorbikes on shared paths?
  - 4a. Any comments? (skip if none)
5. Regarding the safety of others, how concerned are you about the presence of motorbikes on shared paths?
  - 5a. Any comments? (skip if none)
6. Has the possibility of encountering people using motorbikes affected the likelihood you will ride on shared paths or which paths you ride on?

- 6a. Any comments? (skip if none).
- 7. How confident do you feel that the presence of motorbikes on shared paths is being addressed by the relevant authorities (e.g., the police, state and local governments)
  - 7a. Any comments? (skip if none)
- 8. Is there anything else you think we should know about motorbikes on shared paths that could help our advocacy? (skip if not)
- 9. Age
- 10. Gender
- 11. Postcode

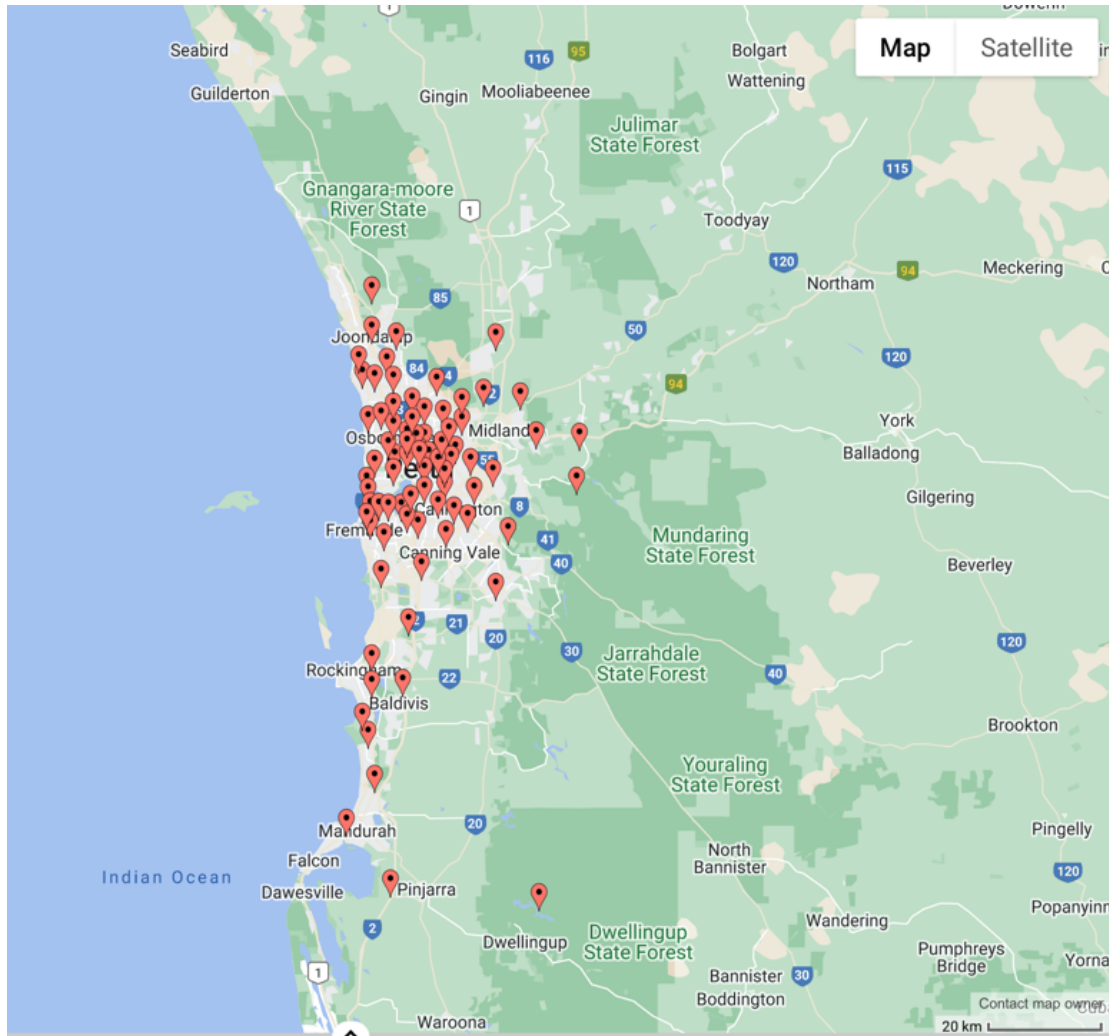
The responses to the above questions are summarised in the following sections.

## Demographics of respondents



*Age and Gender Distribution of Respondents*

The survey received a total of 272 responses. The age of participants varied, with the majority falling within the 41-50 years age group, followed by the 31-40 and 51-60 years groups. Regarding gender distribution, a significant proportion of respondents identified as male (226), followed by female (41), and a smaller segment preferring not to disclose their gender (5).



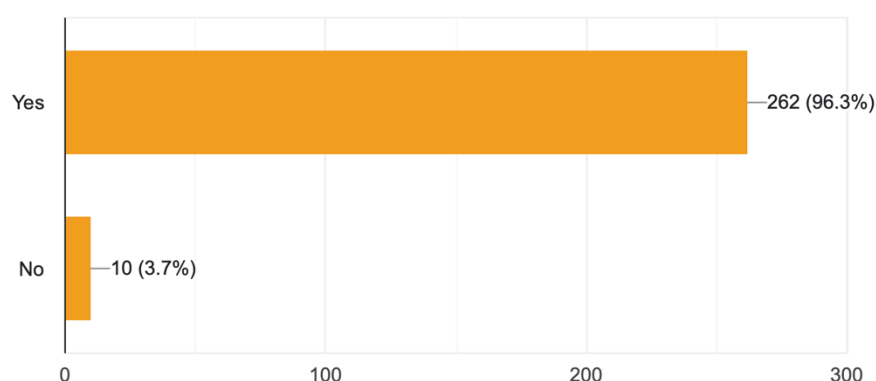
*Postcodes provided by survey respondents*

The postcodes provided by respondents suggest representation from across the Perth Metropolitan Area, with a higher concentration of inner and inner-north suburbs.

## Number of respondents who have encountered someone riding a motorbike on the shared path network in the past year (2023)

In the past year (2023) while riding a bike on the shared path network, have you encountered anyone riding a motorbike?

272 responses



### Sample of experiences

*Scary as hell, in all the instances the motorbike was being ridden at reasonably high speed, perhaps 60kmh or more. When you hear the sound of a motorbike, all you can do for safety is to get out of the way.*

Male, 71-80 years

*Riding bike northbound on shared path alongside Mitchell Freeway in Clarkson. 3 unlicensed trail bikes passed from behind dangerously close at very high speed. 3 occupants, none wearing helmets.*

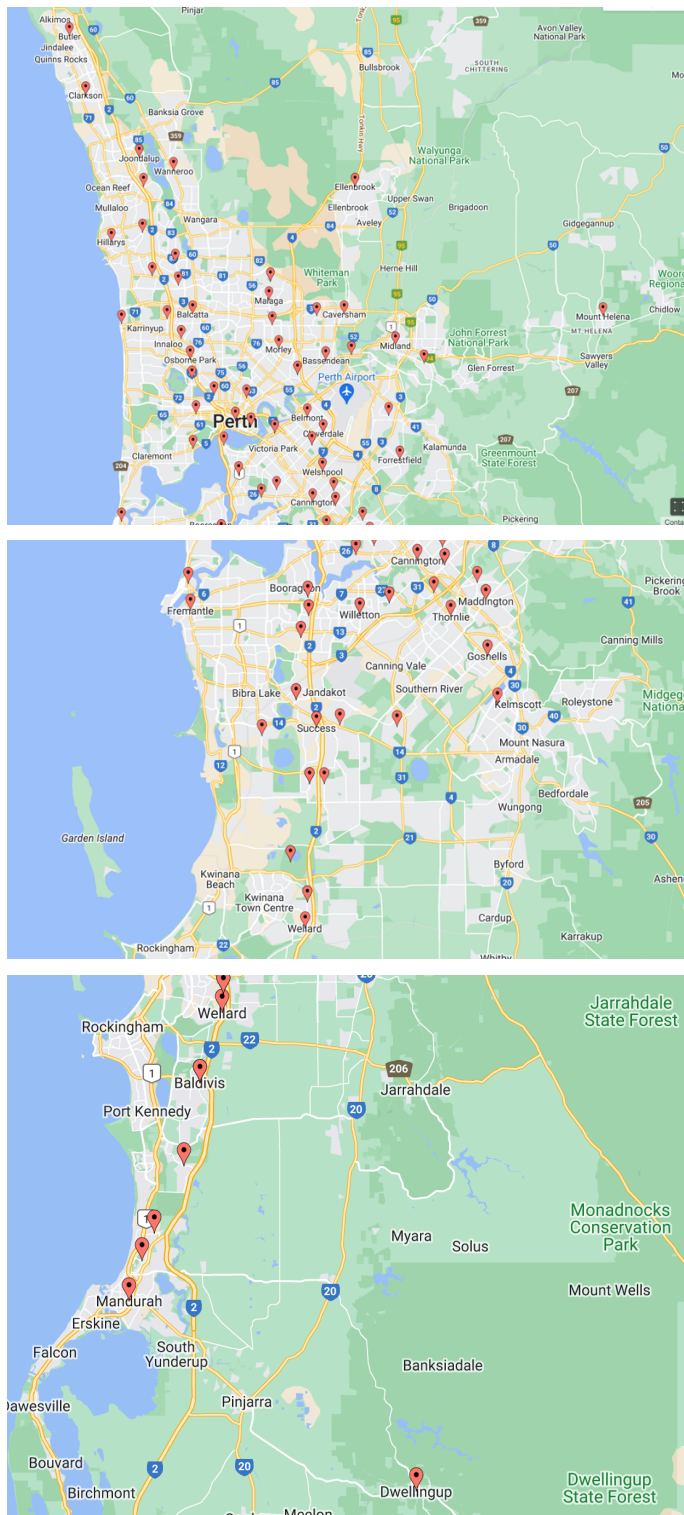
Male, 31-40 years

*I have been assaulted twice - once in June 2023 - it was dark - two young men on a petrol Vespa type scooter glided up beside me - bumped me and ripped my light off my handlebars - then sped off. Luckily I did not crash. The second time was Nov 27 2023 - about 5:30pm - 3 young men all on the same blue full size dirt bike glided up beside me - bumped me - then purposely hit me on the head (helmet) then sped off - again lucky not to crash - I am an experienced rider.*

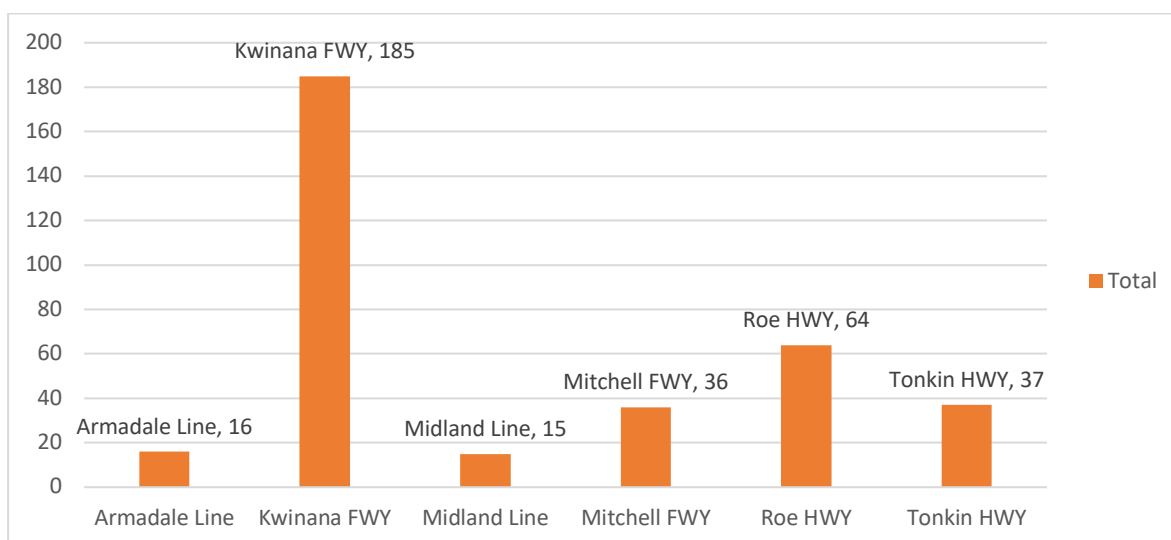
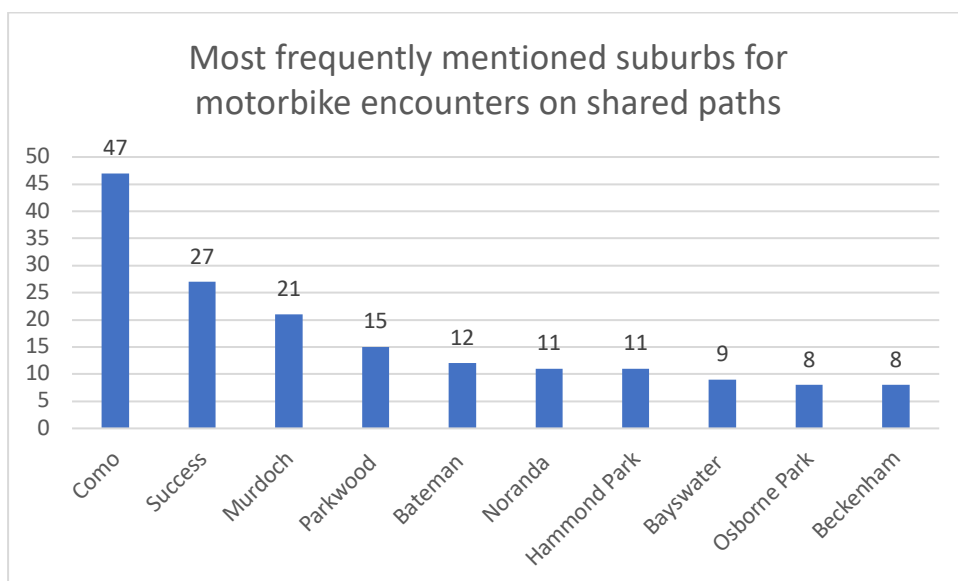
Female, 61-70 years, Roe Hwy near Kenwick



## Locations of motorbike encounters on shared path network



*Locations survey respondents had encountered motorbikes on the shared path network (Google Maps)*



*PSP locations respondents had encountered motorbikes.*

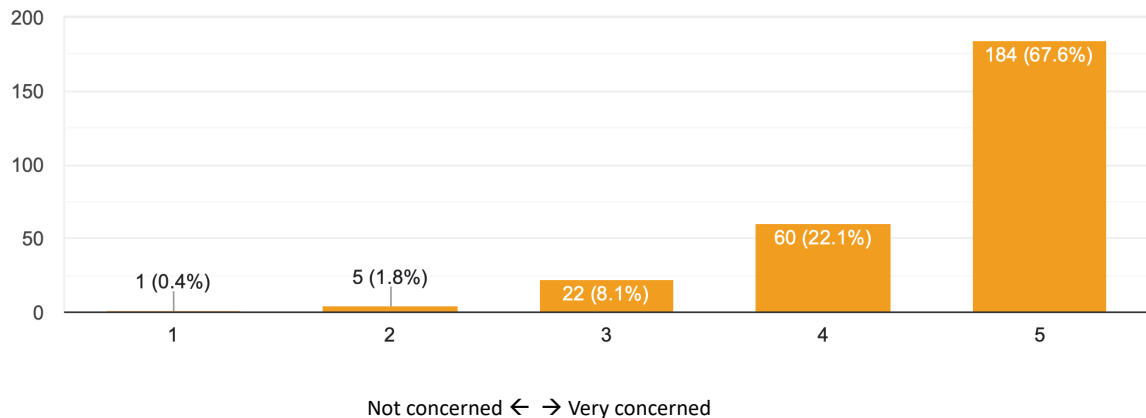
The Kwinana Freeway PSP – especially the section near Como – was the most frequently mentioned for encounters with motorbikes.

It should be noted that variations in frequency of sightings on stretches of PSPs will somewhat reflect the level of use. The Kwinana Freeway PSP near Como is one of the most highly trafficked in the network, with an average of 1,819 riders each weekday counted near the Narrows Bridge (see Main Roads [Traffic Map](#)).

## Level of concern for own safety regarding the presence of motorbikes on shared paths

Regarding your own safety, how concerned are you about the presence of motorbikes on shared paths?

272 responses



### Sample of comments

*There's low probability of me coming into contact with a motorbike but the ramifications are disastrous – death, serious trauma.*

Male, 51-60 years

*Yes, dirt bikes and ridden on a fast speed are a danger to the users. Joggers and cyclists alike. Need more security or police presence in these PSP especially on the south of the rivers area.*

Male, 31-40 years

*Very threatening as a female cyclist riding in sparsely populated areas.*

Female, 51-60 years

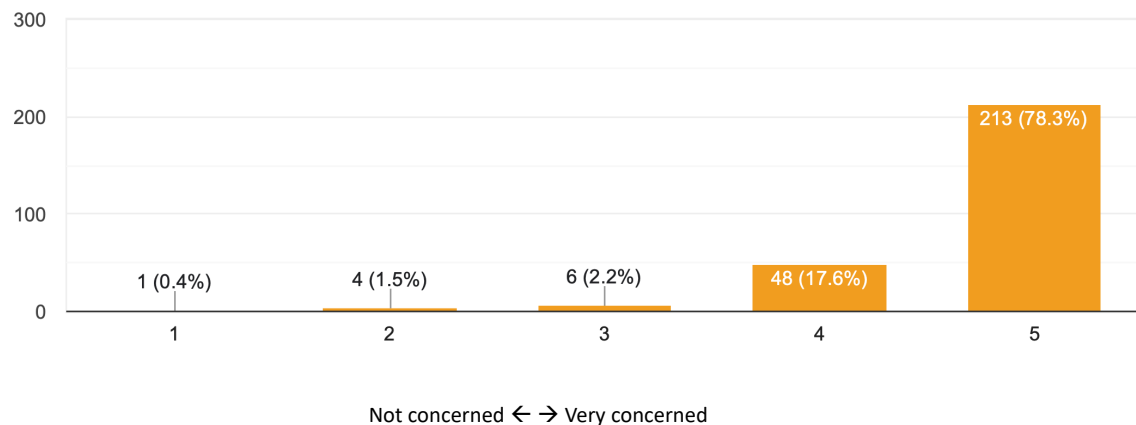
*I get it's against the law, though if they slowed down & gave a bit of respect, it wouldn't bother me as much.*

Male, 51-60 years

## Level of concern for the safety of others regarding the presence of motorbikes on shared paths

Regarding the safety of others, how concerned are you about the presence of motorbikes on shared paths?

272 responses



### Sample of comments

*Lots of families with children and elderly people use the path. Many have dogs which can be unpredictable (and aren't always on leads). I have a loud bell and use it and they still don't always hear me until I am near. It is common to have to slow down to safely pass other users. I am yet to witness a moto rider give any warning or slow down for other users. The speeds they can travel at, the unpredictability of other users and the lack of care for them makes a serious accident a matter of time in my opinion.*

Male, 31-40 years

*People will be injured or killed, it's sadly inevitable.*

Male, 41-50 years

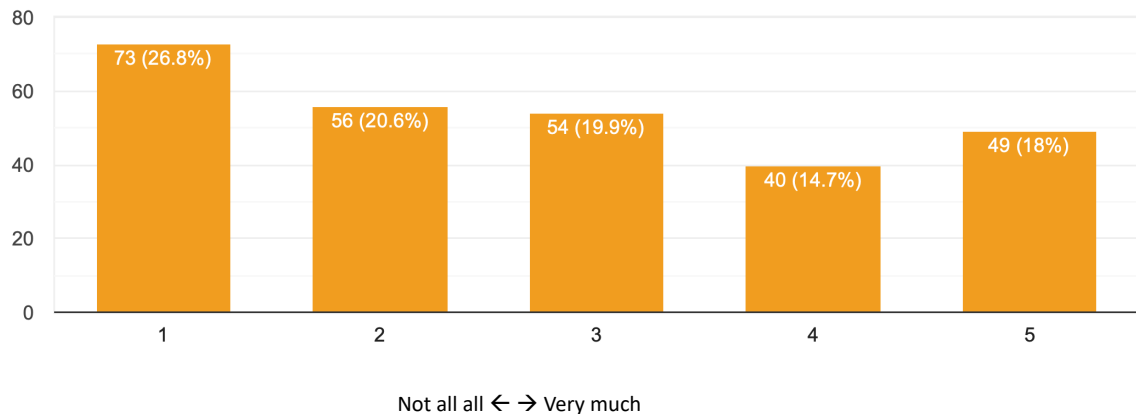
*If you were elderly on a bike a passing motorbike would be extremely dangerous.*

Male, 31-40 years

## Level of impact of the possibility of encountering a motorbike on where or whether respondents ride on shared paths

Has the possibility of encountering people using motorbikes affected the likelihood you will ride on shared paths or which paths you ride on?

272 responses



### Sample of comments

*I need to ride these paths for my commute so do not have the option not to use them, however they have made me more anxious for this ride.*

Female, 31-40 years

*I still need to use paths in some locations, so no choice.*

Male, 51-60 years

*Yes I have altered my route to avoid this section - meaning I must travel on the road in heavy traffic - hazardous but no choice.*

Female, 61-70 years, Roe Highway near Kenwick

*I ride solo less frequently in locations where I've encountered them.*

Female, 51-60 years

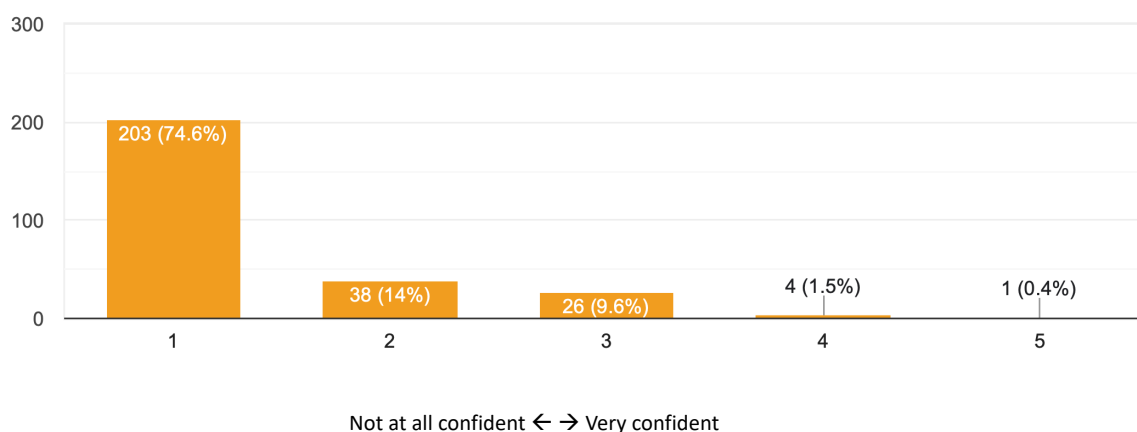
*It is concerning but it won't stop me from riding as it is my main form of transport.*

Male, 31-40

## Level of confidence that the presence of motorbikes on shared paths is being addressed by the relevant authorities

How confident do you feel that the presence of motorbikes on shared paths is being addressed by the relevant authorities (e.g., the police, state and local governments)

272 responses



*In fairness to police it's hard for them to do anything as they would have to be in the right spot at the right time and even then actually physically stopping these people would be hard. I also am not confident that local councils will put appropriate barriers in the way and will just end up making it more dangerous for cyclists.*

Male, 41-50 years

*You consistently see the tracks of these bikes so authorities are either not doing much or just can't catch them.*

Male, 71-80 years

*Friends have done some reporting to police but, not sure if anything has been done.*

Male, 31-40 years

*Need to have evidence and most are unregistered dirt bikes. Police have better things to do. Only care if is related to other crimes.*

Female, 31-40 years

## Additional comments

*Not only motorbikes are a problem. There are also a lot of very fast e-bikes and e-scooters that seem to fly past at well over 35kmh, plus a small numbers of bikes with an (illegal) petrol motor added.*

Male, 71-80 years

*When do we report to police? Is there an app we can use?*

Female, 41-50 years

*Putting in very tight and twisty barriers is not the way forward as many cyclists use the path for the long uninterrupted riding.*

Male, 51-60 years

*Quite a number appear to be under age (would have no license).*

Male, 41-50 years

*It has always been an offroad unregistered motorbike. Those things are a menace to path users' safety.*

Female, 41-50 years

*If they patrolled the highway path - it is a daily occurrence.*

Female, 61-70 years

*The motorbikes tear up the mtb trails, leaving ruts, loose rocks and slippery gravel on even brand new trails.*

Female, 51-60 years