

# HAVE YOUR SAY: MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

## WHY YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Public comment periods for development applications, plans, or strategies are your chance to influence decisions in your community. By speaking up, you can help ensure that issues relevant to bike riders are prioritised.

## TELL YOUR STORY

You don't need to be an expert—what's most powerful is telling your story in your own words. Share why these changes matter to you and how they impact your life. Whether you ride a bike to get to work, take your kids to school, or enjoy weekend rides, your personal experiences can make a big impression on decision-makers.

Your stories help WestCycle's advocacy, because they provide real-life examples to show how well current government infrastructure and policies are working for regular folks in the community. By speaking up, you help us make the case for things like more bike paths, slower speeds on local streets, and subsidies for e-bikes.

## CONTACT YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

You can also write directly to your local councillors or members of parliament. Let them know the changes you'd like to see and why they're important. Representatives are more likely to act when they hear from people in their community.

Councillor email addresses and phone numbers are usually easy to find on your local council's website, or you can call the council's main administration number and they will help you work out who represents your ward.

# A GUIDE TO WRITING YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

## FIRSTLY, YOU HAVE THE EXPERTISE!

Recognise that as a daily observer and participant in your community's travel dynamics, you hold valuable insights into the importance of bike-friendly infrastructure and policies. Your perspective on how bike riding influences local travel, community health, and environmental sustainability makes you an expert worth listening to.

## IDENTIFYING WHO TO CONTACT

Find your Western Australian State MP here:

<https://www.parliament.wa.gov.au/parliament/memblast.nsf/WAMembers>

Consider also reaching out to Ministers responsible for transport, road safety, environment, climate change, local government and urban development. In 2024, this is:

[Hon. Rita Saffioti](#) MLA

Deputy Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Transport: Tourism

[Hon. Reece Raymond Whitby](#) MLA

Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action

[Hon. David Robert Michael](#) MLA

Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Ports; Road Safety; Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport

[Hon. John Newton Carey](#) MLA

Minister for Planning; Lands; Housing; Homelessness

[Hon. Hannah Mary Beazley](#) MLA

Minister for Local Government; Youth; Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

You can find your federal representative here:

[https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members/Members](https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members)

## **CRAFTING YOUR MESSAGE:**

### **Introduce Yourself**

Start with your connection to the community and your commitment to promoting bike riding as a sustainable mode of transport.

### **Be Specific**

Reference concrete examples, like the need for protected bike lanes, bike parking at local shops or public transport stops, or initiatives to promote cycling education in schools. Utilise reports or studies that underscore the benefits of cycling to support your points.

### **Personal Stories Matter**

Share personal experiences or observations that highlight the positive impact of cycling or the challenges faced by cyclists in your area. Connecting personal narratives with broader data makes your argument more compelling.

### **Clear Ask**

Conclude with a specific request, such as advocating for a particular bike infrastructure project, policy adoption, or funding commitment. Being precise about what you're asking for increases the chances of your MP taking actionable steps.

### **Persistence Pays Off**

Politely follow up if you don't receive a response. Reminding your MP's office of your initial contact and the importance of the issue to you and your community can help keep your advocacy at the forefront of their agenda

### **Remember:**

- **Keep It Brief** – Aim for clarity and conciseness to ensure your message is engaging and to the point.
- **Passion and Politeness** – A respectful tone paired with genuine enthusiasm for making your community more bike-friendly is key to a productive dialogue.
- **Stand Out** – Suggest how supporting cycling initiatives could offer positive publicity for your MP, showcasing their commitment to sustainable transport and active living.