



# RAC

## Regional e-Bike Trial

RAC, with the support of the City of Albany and the Department of Sport and Recreation, is running a trial in Albany to help increase awareness and usage of electric bikes (e-Bikes) to boost cycling in Western Australia's regional cities.

### What is an e-Bike?

E-Bikes, or power-assisted pedal cycles, are simply bicycles with an electric motor and rechargeable battery that provides assistance to the rider. The motor works up to a speed of 25km/hr and these bikes have a typical range of 20-60km per charge.

E-Bikes are increasing in popularity around the world, with many people finding them a quick, convenient and easy way to get around.

In Western Australia (WA) there are two categories of e-Bikes, those with a maximum power output of 200 watts and 'Pedalecs' which comply with the *European Standard EN 15194* and have a maximum power output of 250 watts.

The global e-Bike market has expanded dramatically over recent years and it has been estimated that global annual sales will increase from around 32 million in 2014 to over 40 million in 2023!<sup>1</sup>

### Why are we running this Trial?

Cycling is a low-cost means of transport that can have many benefits, including helping to provide enhanced mobility options, reducing car dependency and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Such active modes of transport can also provide health, wellbeing and financial benefits for individuals.

However, cycling can sometimes seem less practical for some due to actual or perceived barriers such as distance, time or fitness constraints.

Cycling is booming with around 591,000 cyclists taking to WA's streets and paths every week. That's much higher than the Australian average! We want to help make cycling a more convenient and realistic commuting option for even more Western Australians.

<sup>1</sup>Global annual sales of e-Bicycles are expected to exceed 40 million units by 2032. Retrieved from <https://www.navigantresearch.com/newsroom/global-annual-sales-of-e-bicycles-are-expected-to-exceed-40-million-units-by-2023>.

We think e-Bikes, which take some of the effort out of cycling, are the key to unlocking more demand by overcoming some of the barriers to cycling.

In 2015, we partnered with four large, public sector employers in metropolitan Perth in a trial that successfully demonstrated e-Bikes can enhance the attractiveness and convenience of cycling as a mode of transport for commuting.

On Friday 30 September 2016, we launched the RAC Regional e-Bike Trial. This is an exciting opportunity to gain further insight to help increase awareness, understanding and ultimately usage of e-Bikes as a commuting option in Western Australia's regional cities.

## How will the Trial work?

Over 10 weeks, from Monday 3 October to Sunday 11 December 2016, 20 employees of the two participating workplaces will have the exclusive use of an e-Bike for their commute to and from work, as well as any other trips they want to make.

Three different models of e-Bike are being used for this regional trial:

- > two that are city e-Bikes, one of which has a step-through frame suitable for all types of riders (18 participants will have city e-Bikes); and
- > an electric mountain bike, making cycling a more viable option for regional users who need to ride on unsealed roads (two participants will have this model).

### Safety induction

To help them feel more confident and safer when cycling, all participants received the following as part of their induction:

- > a practical demonstration of how to use their e-Bike;
- > bicycle skills and on-road cycling training;
- > safety equipment (e.g. high visibility vests);
- > an induction booklet setting out procedures and important information (e.g. road rules of relevance to cycling in WA); and
- > useful resources (e.g. personalised journey planning maps).

## Who is taking part?

Fifteen participants were selected from the City of Albany and five from the Department of Sport and Recreation.

Participants needed to reside within 20km of their usual place of work. They also needed to be fit and healthy to ride a bike, willing and able to ride to / from work at least two days a week, and happy to share their experiences throughout the Trial.

## How will the Trial be evaluated?

Participants will be completing before and after surveys and keeping weekly travel diaries to capture their e-Bike usage and experiences. Results from the Trial may be used to promote the uptake of e-Bikes and cycling more broadly.

We hope to be able to share the results in the first half of 2017.

## About RAC

RAC works collaboratively with Government and other organisations to ensure our members and the community can move around our State safely, easily and in a more sustainable way.

We give back by reinvesting our profits for the benefit of our members through projects aligned to RAC's Mobility Agenda, such as the RAC Regional e-Bike Trial.

Supported by:



Department of  
Sport and Recreation

For further information about the RAC Regional e-Bike Trial please contact [advocacy@rac.com.au](mailto:advocacy@rac.com.au)



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