



Media Release

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RAC taking electric bikes for a spin

RAC has teamed up with four Western Australian employers in a trial of e-Bikes that will showcase the growing importance of 'personal mobility options' as well as the broader benefits of cycling in Perth.

RAC Senior Manager Policy and Research Anne Still said cycling is booming with 591,000 cyclists taking to WA's streets and paths every week.

"That's much higher than the Australian average and RAC thinks that e-Bikes, which take the sweat out of cycling, are the key to unlocking even more demand," Ms Still said.

"Bikes and in particular e-Bikes are just one example of a growing range of Personal Mobility Devices available in the marketplace."

RAC has been vocal about the need to significantly step up efforts to develop a world-class cycling network in Perth. In 2012, RAC's *Cycling Business Case* outlined that \$388 million was needed over 10 years for cycling facilities, education and promotion.

"It's predicted that by 2031, seven of the nation's 10 most congested roads will be in Perth while congestion will cost the State \$16 billion in lost productivity.

"While there is no single solution to Perth's congestion problem, an increase in cycling can help to reduce the number of cars on the road while also providing big benefits for individuals."

Over the next 10 weeks, 40 employees from the City of Wanneroo, City of Perth, North Metropolitan Health Services through QEII Medical Centre Trust and the University of Western Australia 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.

"Cycling is a low-cost means of transport that is available to almost anyone, however sometimes it may not seem that practical due to perceived barriers such as distance and time constraints.

"With the support of our partners, RAC is running a trial of e-Bikes to better understand and promote their potential to overcome some barriers to cycling, helping to make it a more convenient and realistic commuting option for more people."

RAC is committed to safe, accessible and sustainable mobility options for Western Australians. Through programs such as the e-Bike trial, RAC is reinvesting its profits to benefit members and the wider WA community.

Participants will keep, and share with others, a travel diary to document their use and experience of the e-Bikes. The trial is being run with the support of the Departments of Transport and Sport and Recreation through the *Your Move* program.



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Results from the trial may be used to promote the uptake of e-Bikes and potentially inform future e-Bike or bike share schemes.

Fast facts:

- The RAC e-Bike Trial is being supported by the City of Perth, City of Wanneroo and *Your Move*, North Metropolitan Health Services through Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust and the University of Western Australia.
- E-Bikes, or electric bikes, are power-assisted bicycles designed for use on cycle paths, shared paths and roads. They use rechargeable lithium batteries and have a range of 30-60km per charge. Many factors influence the range including terrain, rider weight, speed and how much the rider pedals.
- Overall, WA is seeing a surge in the popularity of cycling with 591,000 Western Australians cycling each week according to the 2015 Austroads National Cycling Survey.
- In 2013, around 180 million e-Bikes were already on the road in China, with another 37 million new e-Bikes produced the same year. In Europe, annual sales are approaching one million e-Bikes per year.

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