



RAC e-Bike Trial

RAC is taking electric bikes (e-Bikes) for a spin to showcase the growing importance of 'personal mobility options', as well as the broader benefits of cycling in Perth.

We have partnered with the City of Perth, City of Wanneroo, North Metropolitan Area Health Service through Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre Trust, and the University of Western Australia to run this trial of e-Bikes in Perth. The Trial is also supported by the Departments of Transport and Sport and Recreation through the *Your Move* program.

What is an e-Bike?

E-Bikes, or power-assisted pedal cycles, are simply bicycles with an electric motor that provides assistance to the rider. The motor works up to a speed of 25km/hr and these bikes have a typical range of 30-60km per charge.

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.

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

In 2013, around 180 million e-Bikes were already on the road in China, with another 37 million produced the same year. In Europe, annual sales are approaching one million e-Bikes per year.

Why is RAC running this Trial?

Perth is growing at a rapid rate and our City's population could jump a further 1.5 million, to 3.5 million, within the next 35 years. Strong population growth brings its own challenges. By 2031, it's predicted that seven of the nation's 10 most congested roads will be in Perth and 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, as well as provide benefits for individuals.

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.

With our wonderful climate and relatively flat landscape it's no surprise that many people enjoy cycling, for a variety of reasons. For some however, actual or perceived barriers such as distance, time, fitness or health constraints can make cycling less practical.

We think e-Bikes, which take the puff out of cycling, are the key to unlocking more demand. So, on Friday 28 August 2015, we launched the RAC e-Bike Trial with the support of our partners to gain valuable insight into user experiences to better understand their potential to overcome some of the barriers to cycling.

How will the Trial work?

Over 10 weeks, from Monday 31 August to 6 November 2015, 40 employees of the four participating workplaces will have the exclusive use of a SmartMotion e-City e-Bike for their commute to and from work, as well as any other trips they want to make.

As part of their induction, all participants received a practical demonstration of how to use the e-Bike, valuable cycle skills and on-road cycle training, safety equipment (e.g. high visibility vests and ankle straps) and useful resources (e.g. journey planning maps, information on road rules) to help them feel more confident and safe when cycling.

Who is taking part?

Ten participants were selected from each of the four participating workplaces. To be eligible, employees of the City of Wanneroo needed to be Wanneroo residents taking part in the Government's Your Move Wanneroo Program. Participants from the other three locations needed to reside within 20km of their usual place of work.

Over 110 employees from the four workplaces applied to take part in the Trial; we think this demonstrates an appetite for e-Bikes!

All participants 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 potentially inform future e-Bike or bike share schemes.

We hope to be able to share the results in early 2016.

About RAC

RAC works collaboratively with Government and other organisations to ensure safe, accessible and sustainable mobility options are available for Western Australians. Through programs such as the e-Bike trial, RAC is reinvesting its profits to benefit members and the wider WA community.

Supported by:



CITY of PERTH



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
North Metropolitan Health Service



For further information about the RAC e-Bike Trial please contact advocacy@rac.com.au



For the better