

30 March 2020

Hon Anastacia Palaszczuk MP
Premier and Minister for Trade
PO Box 75
INALA QLD 4077
inala@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Premier,

Re: Bike shops are an essential service – COVID-19

Bike shops have long been pillars of their local communities in Queensland. It is one of the few local businesses where customers are routinely on a first-name basis with the staff.

Now that coronavirus has made cycling one of the safest forms of transport, we applaud bicycle retailers and mechanics for supporting the community and we encourage the cycling community to support them back.

As more public transport services are affected or reduced, cycling's role for journeys too long to walk becomes even more important to maintain the resilience of the transport network.

Why bike shops are an essential service?

Support for essential workers

The cycling community includes commuters who work in essential services that don't drive or can't afford cars. Essential workers still needing to get to their jobs will still need mechanical support.

Bronwyn Victor, owner of Planet Cycles in Woolloongabba, thinks there is no question that bike shops should keep trading.

"Bicycle use is now more than ever essential, for both transport and mental and physical health. It is imperative that bicycle stores remain able to function for both servicing and supply of vital parts and accessories (e.g tyres, tubes, helmets, lights, brake pads) to keep these people moving safely."

Support for the hospitality industry and courier services

Bicycle food delivery services and bike courier services are providing valuable support to our small businesses, hospitality and logistic industries. All of which have been met with heavy restrictions. For many restaurateurs and small businesses, bicycles are a critical tool in providing home delivery services and is the only way they can continue to trade.



Support for community health and wellbeing

In these difficult times, giving people options to maintain their physical and mental health has been a priority for all governments. We believe this should continue. Keeping bike shops open is vital to maintaining the physical and mental health of our population.

As the Queensland Government considers the next stage of management steps of the virus, I ask that you continue to recognise the essential role bike retailers and mechanics play.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Randazzo', written in a cursive style.

Rebecca Randazzo
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Hon. Steven Miles, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services
Hon. Shannon Fentiman MP, Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development
Dr Jeannette Young, Chief Health Officer, Department of Health