




Bicycle Queensland

Advocacy & Education Report

Quarter One



January - March 2021



Launching the Commuter Harmony Alliance, working on submissions on major issues and an on-going focus on strengthening our involvement with regional councils have been three of the major themes of Bicycle Queensland's advocacy work in the first quarter of 2021.

The advocacy team, working with local bicycle user groups across the state, and on national issues in partnership with other state and national bicycle advocacy groups, has been involved in six major submissions and two letters to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads in this time.

Submissions:

- [National Road Safety Strategy, in partnership with Amy Gillett Foundation and We Ride Australia.](#)
- [Brisbane City Council's Off-Road Cycling Strategy](#)
- [Brisbane City Council's E-mobility strategy](#)
- [Brisbane City Council's Green Bridges proposals for Toowong-West End and St Lucia-West End projects.](#)
- [Cross River Rail Roma Street Priority Development Area, submission on the proposed development scheme.](#)
- [Letters to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads](#)

All of these submissions are available by following the links above. On the Off-Road Cycling issue, Bicycle Queensland was pleased to work closely with a relatively new organisation, the Brisbane Off-Road Riders Association (BORRA), which has worked very diligently on establishing credentials with both the mountain bike community, and local authorities. BORRA have been particularly strong on ensuring that mountain biking and other off-road cycling activities can meet the highest standards for protecting the environment. Bicycle Queensland and BORRA believe there is plenty of evidence from trail building and maintenance programs around the world that conservation values and bike riding can co-exist and indeed thrive.

Advocacy

Campaigns

Letters to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads

Bicycle Queensland's advocacy team has built very good relationships with the Minister, and the Active Transport team within TMR. We have met with the Minister and department representatives several times presenting key data around participation rates and retail figures at various stages when COVID-19 affected patterns of movement in Queensland cities and towns.

We have advocated that building cycling infrastructure aligns well with the "Unite and Recover" mandate, with the additional health savings to the treasury purse. We have advocated that building cycling infrastructure aligns well with the unite and recover mandate, with the additional health savings to the treasury purse.

Our hard work has seen the following recent announcements made by the State Government:

- 17 feasibility studies into rail trail projects across Queensland brought forward
- BQ Director of Advocacy will serve as the BQ representative on two working groups set up by the Department for Transport and Main Roads.
 - A study of the Moreton Bay Cycleway to inform future investment
 - An investigation of a method for capturing, measuring and reporting on growth in bicycle tourism in Queensland.

On some issues, however, we still need to make formal requests for change, to get things moving. One such area is the prohibition of bikes on trains in peak hour and peak direction of travel. This restriction doesn't apply on either Sydney or Melbourne's train networks, and our view is that it is not needed in south-east Queensland either. Bicycle Queensland and the metro area BUGs have a very successful regular meeting with Queensland Rail's customer team, which looks at bike-related issues on the CityTrain network – mostly to do with station upgrades and ensuring that good bike-parking facilities are included. However, to get this major change, we need to go higher.

The letter can be read from the link under the Submission section (page 2). Also in progress but not yet finalised is a letter to the Minister from Bicycle Queensland and the City of Gold Coast and other partners from the Gold Coast, requesting a removal of the bike ban on G-Link trams. Allowing bikes on public transport means a reduction in car trips, and a more active population. It all makes sense to us!

The second letter to the Minister this quarter arose from BQ's submission to Brisbane City Council's e-mobility strategy. Feedback from BQ members on the subject of e-scooters over the last couple of years since the introduction of Lime in Brisbane has often included complaints about the speeds of privately owned scooters. Bicycle Queensland asked the Minister to commission a review of the safety of e-scooters and other rideables.

Building our work with regional Councils

In the first quarter of 2021 Bicycle Queensland has developed new work with Redlands, Ipswich, Sunshine Coast, Logan, Toowoomba and Gold Coast councils.

For many years Bicycle Queensland has run a “ride to work” event in Brisbane. In 2021 however, we have launched a more adaptable model of an event which can work in a variety of ways to suit the needs of a particular city or council.



The brand is “Bike With”, and our recent ride to work style event in Brisbane was ‘Bike With Brisbane’. In Redland City, the Bike With Redlands was a mountain bike event at Bayview trail network. In Toowoomba, the Council wanted Bike With Toowoomba to be on a Sunday, as a culmination of their Parks Week. In Ipswich, BQ will be co-hosting a forum style event to help Council engage with local bike riding groups and individuals.

Sunshine Coast Council recently met with BQ at the start of the process of updating its active transport strategy. We would welcome BQ members on the Sunshine Coast getting in touch with issues they see that a five year strategy could tackle to make the Sunshine Coast a better place to ride a bike.

Bicycle Queensland also has quarterly online meetings with the network of regional bicycle user groups. At the most recent meeting, the agenda ranged from the National Road Safety Strategy, to ways to make sure that safety was front of mind in local group rides, to how local BUGs can ensure that their Council builds bikeways and shared paths to the correct current standards.

Commuter Harmony Alliance

One consistent theme in our feedback from Bicycle Queensland members since the introduction of mandatory passing distance laws in Queensland has been about the need for greater public education on the safety of vulnerable road users (i.e. bike riders and walkers).

Another identified need for education came as BQ engaged with the heavy vehicle industry about how we can reduce the number of hospitalisations and fatalities involving bikes and trucks.

The Commuter Harmony Alliance emerges from all these conversations as a positive influence that Bicycle Queensland hopes to build with like-minded people, organisations, corporates and governments.

The details can be found at commuterharmonyalliance.com.au, but the essence is a pledge to work towards a safer road environment. On our own, a bicycle advocacy organisation won’t achieve the changes in behaviour across society that we are looking for. We need to build community support across all areas – parents in school communities, heavy vehicle operators, community advocacy groups, walking groups, motorcycle groups, motoring groups, and all levels of Government.



It's a simple idea:

I pledge to commute in harmony regardless of the mode of transport I use, by

- Treating all other commuters with the respect I would like to be shown to me
- Assisting those in need as I am able
- Taking care around vulnerable road users, giving them the space they need to feel safe

Go to commuterharmonyalliance.com.au to sign the pledge and add your voice to this growing movement.

Education

Our Work

Bicycle Queensland's Director of Education, Patrick, has had a busy start to 2021 as the demand for our education services increases. The development of online learning tools remains a priority to ensure we meet our statewide membership and stakeholder base.

Key Resources Developed

Our early learning resources have been brought to life with the introduction of BQ's youth mascot, Turbo the Turtle. Turbo now features in an interactive drag and drop game called "Ready to Ride". This new e-learning asset is a part of our road safety program and provides an engaging learning experience for preschool age children.

The successful bike basics video series continues to be developed with the addition of an accompanying interactive online course. Participants can now engage with content that explores the essential elements of bicycle riding for new and beginning riders.

Building on our successful face to face bike maintenance curriculum we have identified the need to reach a regional audience. This has seen the development of an online beginner bike maintenance module to give our regional members access to the content that we deliver at our SE Queensland based workshops. Each section is followed up by a short 'check your learning' section that consolidates the knowledge before moving to the next section.

[The Bike Life Blog](#) continues to expand with relevant and up-to-date content that takes a deeper dive into the bicycle world. There are now six categories and twenty posts covering everything from celebrating women who ride, debunking cycling myths and the importance of e-bikes. Our strong working relationships with CARRS Q QUT, Nutrition Australia (Queensland) and Cycle Physio ensures that this content is using the latest research and is relevant to all bicycle riders.



Research

Continued collaboration with CARRS Q, QUT is instrumental to BQ Education's research and data analysis process. A presentation from PhD Scholar, Elizabeth Rubie on "Motor vehicles passing cyclists: the cyclist and driver perspectives" has been shared with Bicycle Queensland. BQ is using this information to create an online module informing drivers and bicycle riders of how different passing strategies are perceived.

Patrick also participated in a global online workshop delivered by the European Cyclist Federation that discussed strategic planning for cyclists. The workshop explored case studies from around the world, including Spain and Croatia, focussing on how they developed sustainable cycling strategies for their cities. From the case studies it was clear that building on existing strategies is a more preferred method of practice. It is important for decision makers to take on board as much input from stakeholders as possible and make sure citizens understand the advantages of effective cycling strategies.

Our Impact

We have delivered early learning bicycle skills and road safety programs to centres across Brisbane and the Gold coast. The coming months will see BQ deliver at Buderim, Toowoomba with booking enquiries coming from as far as Cairns. We are excited about building our reach with the kindy audience as it lays the foundation for increased active transport and improved road safety awareness in the primary years.

BQ's primary school program will be delivered at Yeronga State School and St Peter Chanel The Gap over the next two terms, after successful funding applications with TMR. Due to our programs being aligned to the Australian curriculum, schools are eager to engage with BQ as our programs provide an exciting and purposeful learning opportunity. Where possible we link in the local bike shops to assist with the mechanical needs at the start of the program and assist us to achieve our goal of strengthening the cycling connections within the school community.

Several young riders benefited from our basic skills lessons held at our Bracken Ridge pump track activation. These workshops are supported by the Brisbane City Council. Young riders explored the ABC bike check, helmet fitting and slow speed balance activities with a couple of lucky riders receiving KrushOz cleaning products prizes for their good work on the day. We will hold another session in May, and it too will be supported by a bike maintenance workshop lead by a professional bike mechanic.



Bicycle Queensland's 'Bike With' Brisbane event saw the launch of our first heavy vehicle experience, a product of the education partnership formed with Boral. The interactive experience provided insight to the various blind spots surrounding a heavy vehicle and an opportunity to for riders to connect with heavy vehicle drivers in the industry. The participants were invited to sit in the driver's seat and see if they can spot any of the people (life-size cut-outs) in the vehicle's blind spots. By looking at road use through different eyes, participants can acknowledge and resonate with the different perspectives, helping build empathy towards other road users and ultimately making roads safer for everyone.

BQ's initiatives to improve the safety of riders when interacting with heavy vehicles has not gone unnoticed. BQ has been joined Construction Logistics and Community Safety – Australia's steering group. This initiative brings together a diverse range of stakeholders from all over Australia to develop a good practice approach for managing the risks and impacts associated with a construction project's on-road transport and logistics activities to community road safety. Participation in this group reflects the agreement between partners to work together to improve the safety and operational efficiency of construction infrastructure projects. The group will specifically act as a catalyst and champion to guide the establishment of CLOCS-A. Bicycle Queensland will play a critical role in the development and implementation of the driver training program to ensure great outcomes for vulnerable road users.

The 'Bike With' Toowoomba event was an opportunity to celebrate Toowoomba's active travel initiatives and was supported by a beginner bike maintenance workshop. Participants learnt how to check the bike before a ride and change a flat tyre as well as maintenance strategies to help make the bike parts last longer.

Patrick visited the Wesley Mission, ORCA project to deliver a 30-minute maintenance workshop. The ORCA project is a post-school option for young people with different abilities that includes training and work experience. The workshop explored different career paths within the bicycle industry and participants engaged in simple bike maintenance strategies.

In April we will begin our workplace active travel workshops. These activations are supported by the Brisbane City Council and aim to promote active travel initiatives and support health and wellbeing strategies in the workplace. The workshops consolidate our position as the experts in cycle education and advocacy and has provide learnings for the development of our corporate membership product.

The Director of Advocacy and the Director of Education spoke with the Sunshine Coast City Council about their active travel initiatives and BQ hopes to play a larger role in promoting active travel and road safety. In this discussion we covered planned new infrastructure, current opportunities for BQ, and current and future active travel programs.



For any advocacy or education enquiries, please get in touch using the details below.

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