

2024-25

BUDGET SUBMISSION

NOVEMBER 2023





ABOUT BICYCLE QUEENSLAND

We are the state's peak body representing the needs of almost 800,000 Queenslanders who ride a bike for recreation or transport, every week.¹

With 12,000 members and 34,000 supporters, Bicycle Queensland (BQ) is committed to breaking down the barriers to bicycle riding and creating a state where everyone can enjoy riding safely for transport, recreation or sport – *regardless of age, ability or location.*

OUR STRENGTHS:

Bicycle Queensland boasts a rich 44-year history of successful advocacy and is the leader in the field of bicycle advocacy.

BICYCLE QUEENSLAND DRIVES CHANGE THROUGH:

- Mobilising our 12,000 passionate and active members and 34,000 supporters to contribute to a greener, happier and healthier Queensland where more people ride bikes for transport and recreation
- Implementing effective behaviour change initiatives like our school education and HerRide programs
- Ensuring continued financial support from the State Government and other stakeholders to foster behaviour change and enhance safe riding initiatives
- Influencing urban planning and road design to incorporate improved riding facilities, creating safe, interconnected, and liveable communities, including remote and regional areas.

Bicycle Queensland looks forward to engaging with the Treasury for the upcoming 2024-25 Queensland Budget, *aiming to get more people riding, more often.*

Lisa Davies Jones

Interim Chief Executive Officer

OPPORTUNITIES

In the 2024-25 budget proposal, Bicycle Queensland has advocated for budget allocations that align with the Government's [Queensland Cycling Action Plan](#), particularly focusing on constructing integrated cycling networks and implementing separated cycle paths.

Bicycle Queensland asks the Government to invest in bike riding with the aim of growing the economy through three priorities – more jobs, delivering better services, and protecting the Queensland lifestyle. Our submission also provides solutions that support the objectives of the [National Obesity Strategy 2022–2032](#) and the [Queensland Climate Action Plan](#).

COLLABORATION WITH PARTNERS

This Budget submission is also in harmony with the budget priorities of [The Heart Foundation](#), [Queensland Walks](#), and [Diabetes Australia - Queensland](#).

BICYCLE QUEENSLAND IS RECOMMENDING THAT THE FOLLOWING BE INCLUDED IN THE 2024-25 QUEENSLAND BUDGET.

1. Healthy and Active Communities, Creating Safer Neighbourhoods

In 2020, using height and weight data from 2017–18, it was **estimated that 25% of children and 66% of adults were overweight or obese.**²

In the 2023–24 Budget, the Health System experienced a notable 9.6% increase. Our proposed initiatives support the goals of the National Obesity Strategy. The promotion of physical activity in adults and children, advocating for bike riding in both recreation and transportation, is crucial in tackling health and obesity concerns. A modest investment, relative to health or transport budgets, could substantially enhance public health and the quality of life for Queenslanders.



We endorse initiatives promoting **Healthy and Active Communities** and see the significance of investing in behaviour change for communities, specifically children and women. Encouraging children to ride bikes naturally leads to increased adult ridership. We advocate for state funded behaviour change grants to be made available to local governments, emphasising education for safer bike riding among children and promoting inclusivity with women.

- I. **Commit to behaviour change programs**, encouraging more children and their parents to ride to school and deliver targeted 'safe streets' and road safety education. These programs would also aim to attract new riders and be part of a 'whole-of-school' safety approach to riding.
- II. **With only one in five bike riders in Queensland being women³**, commit to behaviour change programs and deliver women-specific bike riding programs to encourage broader participation.

2. Increase Investment in Walking and Cycling Infrastructure

In Global Outlook on Walking and Cycling, the UN Environment called on countries to invest at least 20% of their transport budgets in walking and cycling infrastructure to save lives, reverse pollution and reduce carbon emissions, which are rising at over 10% a year.⁴

Furthermore, the transport sector in Queensland contributes to around 14% of the state's overall greenhouse gas emissions⁵, ranking as the second-highest emitting sector. The proposed initiatives align with and contribute to the goals outlined in the [Queensland Climate Action Plan](#).

- I. At present, Queensland commits less than 1% of the transport budget to active transport, the cleanest and healthiest alternative. We urge the Queensland government to adopt a target of 10% of the overall transport budget being for active transport projects by 2032.
- II. Commit to building infrastructure for children to safely commute to schools.



- III. Commit to retrofitting secure end-of-trip facilities in existing schools and implementing bike storage to prevent theft on school grounds.
- IV. Commit to establishing separated cycle ways within communities, ensuring safe biking access to local shops and community centres that prioritise safety.
- V. Upgrade existing residential areas to enhance walkability and bike-friendliness and safety.

3. The Safer Freight Vehicle package of Australian Design Rules (ADRs)

Approximately 15% of the 20.1 million vehicles on Australian roads are trucks⁶ emphasising the critical need for improved safety regulations and standards in this segment of the automotive industry.

- I. Commit to providing financial incentives to owner-drivers of Heavy Goods Vehicles to retrofit blind-spot, safety features such as extra mirrors and sensors, and side under-run protection.
- II. Commit to adding this standard to the procurement and tender process in all state-run infrastructure projects.



4. Electric bikes present a solution to meet revised emission standards while relieving financial pressures on Queensland families.

Currently, household transportation costs amount to \$26,000 annually, representing 18% of income.⁷ Electric bikes not only aid in meeting updated emission standards and easing financial strains on Queensland families, but they also promote a healthier and more sustainable mode of transportation. Reducing reliance on traditional vehicles not only cuts emissions but also encourages a more active and eco-friendlier lifestyle.

Promoting biking, including e-bikes, will assist governments and businesses in achieving their emissions goals. Companies will need to report their strategies for meeting these targets. By advocating for cycling, we're actively contributing to the solution.

- I. Initiate a strategy to prompt behavioural change and promote the adoption of electric bikes, to relieve the financial strain on families.
- II. In line with [Tasmania's initiative of investing \\$1.2 million in groundbreaking eBike grants](#), we urge the Queensland government to pledge support by offering financial incentives, like subsidies, aimed at stimulating e-bike purchases. This strategy aims to accelerate the adoption of low-emission solutions *and ease the financial burden on families.*

References:

¹QueenslandGovernment, Department of Transport and Main Roads. "Travel and transport: Participation and encouragement," Cycling and Walking Australia and New Zealand (CWANZ), Cycling and Walking Australia and New Zealand (CWANZ), www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Travel-and-transport/Cycling/Research-and-resources/Participation-and-encouragement. 11th October, 2023

²Chief Health Officer Queensland. "Health of Queenslanders." The Health of Queenslanders, Report of the Chief Health Officer Queensland, March 2023, www.choreport.health.qld.gov.au/our-lifestyle/weight. Accessed 14th November 2023.

³Debnath, Ashim Kumar. Haworth, Narelle. Heesch, Kristiann. "Women cycling in Queensland: Results from an observational study." Science Direct, 2021. www.sciencedirect.com/science. Accessed 14th November 2023.

⁴United Nations. "Urgent investment needed in walking and cycling infrastructure to save millions of lives and combat climate change." UN Environment Program, United Nations, 20 OCT 2016, <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/press-release/urgent-investment-needed-walking-and-cycling-infrastructure-save>. Accessed 14th November 2023.

⁵Queensland Government. "Shifting to zero emission vehicles." Queensland Government, Transport and Motoring, 30 June 2023, www.qld.gov.au/transport/projects/electricvehicles. Accessed 14th November 2023.

⁶Australian Bureau of Statistics. "Motor Vehicle Census, Australia. Statistics relating to vehicles which were registered on 31st January 2021 with a motor vehicle registration authority." Australian Bureau of Statistics, 30/06/2021, www.abs.gov.au/statistics/industry/tourism-and-transport. Accessed 14th November 2023.

⁷Australian Automobile Association. "Transport Affordability." Australian Automobile Association, Q2 2023, <https://data.aaa.asn.au/transport-affordability/>. Accessed 14th November 2023.

