

Dear Sir/madam

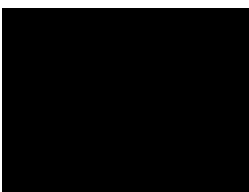
Submission on Cycling

This is a bit hasty as we just saw this in the paper yesterday. Our thoughts are:

1. Fatalities and injuries on the road are a terrible thing. Cyclists are particularly vulnerable.
2. If a 1 meter rule could be enforced that would be wonderful but most roads don't allow for this without the vehicle overtaking a cyclist actually moving into a different lane or crossing the centre lane. Many drivers don't want to do this.
3. Improved on and off road cycle ways would be a great assistance in reducing cyclist fatalities and injuries.
4. Licensing of bicycles would adversely affect children particularly in country areas where the bike is a common way to get to school and around the neighbourhood.
5. A bike is a bit like a canoe or a surf board or a hang glider. It's a non powered way to move.
6. There is an issue with powered bikes. If they are over a certain power rating they should be licensed the same as powered boats. These bikes should not be allowed on the off road bike paths.
7. On our bike paths we find pedestrians, bikes, parents with strollers, old folks in mobile chairs and children on horses. Naturally we have to be careful and everyone has to be sensible.
8. Serious cyclists don't use these bike paths. They ride up the Cook Highway. This highway is dangerous for cyclists as there is very little shoulder room in most places.
9. The Cook Highway is a favourite cycling path for sports and recreation. It is also the path for the Cairns Iron Man competition which brings \$ millions to our local economy every year. It is also heavily used as a major tourist thoroughfare and scenic route. So it is a very valuable piece of road. It needs to be widened to make it safer and to allow for bicycle use. This effort should be supported by all levels of government.

Thank you for your attention

Russell James Watson



for: Cairns Beaches Cyclists Association