

From: [CHO COVID](#)
To: ["stephen@weride.org.au"](mailto:stephen@weride.org.au)
Subject: C-ECTF-20/6316 - Queensland Health response to your letter in relation to COVID-19 and advocacy for cycling
Date: Wednesday, 3 June 2020 5:46:05 PM
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Dear Mr Hodge

Thank you for your email to the Honourable Steven Miles MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, dated 22 April 2020, regarding novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and providing for physical distancing for cyclists. The Deputy Premier has asked me to respond directly to you on this occasion.

This issue is important to Queensland Health, so I apologise for the time it has taken for our response. As I am sure you can appreciate, this is a fast-paced situation and Queensland Health is actively managing the frontline actions required to prepare and protect the community from COVID-19.

Queensland Health acknowledges the value that cycling provides to the community as a means of transport, for fitness, and for leisure activities. Thank you for the advocacy role We Ride Australia plays in encouraging cycling. We agree that the active lifestyle that cycling can provide delivers numerous health and social benefits, such as reducing the risk of lifestyle diseases, preventing some types of cancers, and improved quality of sleep. In addition, it can help reduce feelings of depression and anxiety, increase energy levels, and encourage social interaction, all things that seem more important than ever as we face up to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is noticeable that individuals and families have increased their participation in active pursuits such as cycling, which remained one of the few outdoor exercise choices available and encouraged during the period of home confinement.

The Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) has developed the 'Queensland Cycling Strategy', the key vision of which is to set the direction for encouraging more cycling to take place, and for people to participate in it more often. The Strategy is available at <https://blog.tmr.qld.gov.au/cycling/>. An important mechanism for achieving the vision set down in the Strategy is the 'Cycling Infrastructure Policy' which states, in part, that TMR funded projects on principal cycle routes will explicitly provide cycling infrastructure within the project's scope, and those not on a principal cycle route will implicitly provide for cycling. The Policy is available at <https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/Travel-and-transport/Cycling/Cyclists>. Examples of explicit provisions include marked bicycle lanes, cycle paths, continuous networks and end of trip facilities.

The Queensland Government's response to COVID-19 has quickly evolved, and Queensland has been agile in its response to these shifts. As restrictions lift, changes will be evident as Queensland, and Australia, commence the staged return on the road back from COVID-19. It is hoped that any additional uptake of cycling that has occurred due to COVID-19 restrictions placed on most other sporting activities and outdoor pursuits remains with new habits having been formed. One of the Queensland Government's main priorities is securing a safe return to normal life, as this will enable our community and economy to start its recovery from this public health event, while embracing positive changes that have come out of the community's response.

Should you have any additional queries in relation to COVID-19 please do not hesitate to contact Queensland health again.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact the Queensland Government.

Kind regards



CHO COVID Correspondence Officer

Correspondence Team
Office of the Chief Health Officer | Queensland Health

E cho-covid@health.qld.gov.au
W health.qld.gov.au
A [33 Charlotte Street BRISBANE Q 4000](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/locations/33-Charlotte-Street-Brissbane)

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