



22nd March 2020

The Hon Gladys Berejiklian MP
Premier of New South Wales
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000
Australia, 3002

Dear Premier

RE: Essential services – Bicycle mechanics

Covid-19 has demonstrated a need to look differently at the way we operate across Australia, and I would like to congratulate you on your proactive approach to addressing the issues relating to the virus.

With the reduction in access to public transport, in many cases, bicycles have replaced buses, trains and trams in necessary trips to work, education and family.

The change to travel has also highlighted that bicycles are extremely critical for those that are financially and socially at risk, providing a link to many that do not have access to private motor vehicles.

Bicycles are critical tools for home delivery, becoming the primary vehicle for food delivery along with important roles for courier companies and the fleet of thousands of bicycles used by Australia Post.

To allow people access to transport options, bicycle service centres have become a critical link in the transport plan, both for those that have been riding, those that are 're-discovering' riding due to the virus, those relying on the delivery and the businesses supplying the goods.

The need for mechanic services has been highlighted by, at a time when shops are generally slowing down, we have seen an average increase of 10-20% in bookings in most bicycle shops across Australia in recent weeks.

As Australia progresses to the next stages of management of the virus, forcing the closure of non-essential services, bicycle service centres are critical to continuing to promote safe and healthy travel and delivery, and should be included on any list of essential services to remain open.

In an extremely challenging time, I look forward to you continuing to recognise the essential role of bicycle mechanics in achieving transport security across Australia in managing the impact of Covid – 19.

Thank you for your time

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Bourke', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Peter Bourke

GENERAL MANAGER