



City of
Fremantle

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The opinions expressed in this letter
are not necessarily those of the City
of Fremantle.

From the office of the Mayor

Our Ref: RNB26112018
Contact: Rebecca Bowden - 9432 9799
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26 November 2018

Ms Lauren Wells
Parliamentary Officer (Committees)
Select Committee on Personal Choice and Community Safety
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth W 6005
Email: pccs@parliament.wa.gov.au

Dear Mr Stonehouse

Submission to the Select Committee on Personal Choice and Community

Thank you for agreeing to accept this late submission to the *Select Committee on Personal Choice and Community Safety* in my personal capacity as Mayor of the City of Fremantle.

There has been a strong support within the Fremantle community over recent years for a sensible relaxation of the rules around the mandatory use of bicycle helmets within central Fremantle. It is argued that this would have strong benefits from a tourist perspective and would also increase cycling rates by locals in Fremantle.

If the Committee was to recommend it, and we were then approached by the State Government, I would expect that the City of Fremantle would be open to hosting to a pilot scheme to ascertain what impact a lessening of regulation around the mandatory use of bicycle helmets had on cycling rates in central Fremantle.

This pilot scheme could be done in a few different ways depending on the ambition of the pilot the Committee prefers to recommend:

First and simplest, would be an approach just focusing on *riding on footpaths or off-road cycle path* that is in line with Australia's Bicycle Network recently updated position on Australia's mandatory helmet laws:

Australia's mandatory helmet laws should be relaxed with a five-year trial permitting people older than 17 to choose whether they wear a helmet when riding on footpaths or off-road cycle paths.

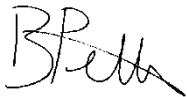
Second, the pilot scheme could be expanded further to also exempt mandatory helmets for adults on roads with speeds 40kmh or under. This is the whole of the Fremantle CBD within the Parry St ring road and would make for a well-defined trial area.

Third, the scheme could be even expanded further to also exempt mandatory helmets for adults on roads with speeds 50kmh or under. This would include all local roads within Fremantle with the exemption of major arterial roads like High St (East)/Leach Hwy and South Street.

I would be happy to advocate all of positions above or look at other options that will lead to greater cycling in Fremantle.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'BPettitt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Brad Pettitt
Mayor