

Risk Management

Things to consider in your risk assessment (see template and example risk assessment for further info). Many of the issues with bushwalking activities cross over to cycling, but there are a few cycling specific risks.

Speed

Manage speed. Lead riders should control the speed of the group. Riders should not pass the lead rider in their group. Riders should maintain a couple of bike lengths distances between them.

Navigation

Often bike tracks have 'ambiguous' sections, often at major intersections, shopping centres and council boundaries. If necessary, put your own directional arrows out prior to the ride or have the lead rider mark with chalk.

Road crossings

Signal controlled:

Where traffic signals are in place, they are to be used. (If there is a bike signal, riders may ride, otherwise they should dismount and walk).

Uncontrolled crossings:

Leader rider would become crossing supervisor. Group would stop at muster point back from intersection. Crossing supervised in small groups (2-4). Riders dismount and walk bikes across. Riders cross abreast, not in single file!

First Aid

The main issue will likely be abrasions.

Participants will have a personal first aid kit.

Leaders of groups will have a comprehensive first aid kit and be qualified.

The group spreading out

Riders within groups will ride at different speeds and can get quite spread. Use regular muster/rest points where groups should pause to regroup (Make sure the slower riders get a chance to rest before the group starts again). Use set points like road crossings, toilet blocks, points of interest along the route and times points. Have the first rider set the pace to avoid people racing ahead. Consider two-way radios for the lead and tail-end riders.

Other Trail users

Most trails are well used by walkers, cyclists, and horse riders. Use general common road sense, keep left, use your bells to let people know you are there, and pass on the right when safe to do so.

Pedestrians

Warn then of your approach with a bell, or polite calling out. Pass on the right when safe to do so. Let them know you are passing by saying 'passing on your right'. Many will be walking dogs on and off leash, take care as they may be unpredictable.

Cyclists

Keep left to allow faster riders to pass. Pass slower riders on the right when safe to do so. Let them know you are passing by saying 'passing on your right'.

Horses and Horse Riders

Warn then of your approach with a bell, or polite calling out. Pass on the right when safe to do so. Let them know you are passing by saying 'passing on your right'. Follow any instructions given by the riders. They may want to move off the trail for you to pass as some horses may be spooked by bikes.

Emergency Contacts

Share contact details with all on the ride that have mobile phones and any support personnel. Ensure that someone not riding has a copy of your Event Plan and intended return time.