

## E-BIKE POLICY

Pedal assisted e-bikes are becoming more and more commonplace, and we now need a policy to deal with their use in club rides. We are doing so to allow those who enjoy cycling to participate in group events, and allow members who are not as strong to keep up with other members. E-bikes enable those who may require some assistance, to ride certain distances and/or to climb hills and long grades.

We will define e-bikes for the purpose of our club as motorised bicycles that look like conventional bicycles, have steerable handle bars, working pedals and an electric motor enabling speeds not to exceed 25 kilometres per hour. No e-scooter configurations will be allowed on any club rides.

The following rules must be followed by e-bike riders on club rides. **An e-bike will only be allowed on club rides when it is used in the pedal assist mode.** Bikes with handlebar throttles will be allowed on a Club ride but on the condition that the handlebar throttles are not used.

Those choosing to ride e-bikes on club rides should ensure they pay particular attention to the range of their battery and should not participate in long rides unless their battery power will allow them to complete the ride.

E-bike riders should also make sure they ride within their group riding skill level and at a pace level with the group they are in. **It is imperative that the e-bike rider does not ride at a faster pace than that of the group and avoid riding at the front of the group, with the exception of hill climbs, as this pushes the pace higher for the rest of the group.** E-bike riders should also be aware that their speed going up hills may be faster than the speed of others and must be well aware of their positioning and speed control in such situations. If it is necessary to pass another rider at any time, but specifically on a hill where there is a tendency for most non-electric bike riders to lose speed and/or power up (stand up), this must be communicated in a loud clear voice - "passing on your right." Requiring e-bike riders not to pass in such situations would not be reasonable given the potential for jamming up the group, but must always be done in a safe and orderly manner and only when traffic conditions allow such a manoeuvre.

E-bike riders must also always be aware of how their e-bike reacts and should anticipate and control any surges so as not to impact others in the group. For this reason, **they should leave more than the usual amount of space behind other riders.**

New e-bike riders and particularly those who are new to the club should start with the shorter easier rides, such as our Tuesday ride around Ballina, to become fully comfortable with their bike's performance capabilities and how they fit in with a group dynamic.

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