

# Improving Bike Facilities in Your School

Bike infrastructure should be fun as well as functional. Many schools have found that providing good quality facilities is one of the most important improvements you can make to encourage students (and teachers) to ride or scoot to school.

Ideally your bike facilities should contribute to a sense of place, visually announce that schools are a 'people zone' and almost yell out to you "hey, riding a bike is fun!"



Each school has different needs and capacity for facilities, so there a few things you can do to make sure your schools bike & scooter facilities are right for your school.

## Assess your needs

Every school has unique needs for facilities, so a good way to start is to conduct a school audit of available space and current facilities and consider the different options available for bike parking and storage. Your Move can provide advice and guidance on this. You can also use Department of Education standards and design guidelines to determine the type and number of facilities required.

## Bike parking and storage

Students, teachers and visitors need somewhere convenient and secure to park their bike, scooter or skateboard once they arrive at your school. There's a variety of bike parking options available that allow for storage on the ground or on wall/ceiling mounted racks.

### Bike parking should be:

- **Visible** to allow passive surveillance and provide a public display of your schools support for cycling;
- **Easy to find** and located close to key school entry points; and



- **Sheltered** from the sun and rain.

For short-stay users, such as visitors coming to a school, consider parking rails near the main entry, under a shelter. For long-stay users, such as students or teachers, consider a dedicated compound with rails and shelters.

## Apply for a Connecting Schools grant

Connecting Schools Grants are part of the Department of Transport's Perth Bicycle Network Grant program that aims to improve existing or provide new cycling infrastructure including end of trip facilities for schools to encourage more kids to be active for the trip to school. These projects can also be innovative cycling infrastructure projects such as way finding signs and sensory paths and bike education.

To be eligible for a grant, schools must be a member of the Your Move program and complete a minimum number of surveys and share stories on their profile page as part of the reporting requirements.



Phoenix Primary School's covered bike parking facility

The grants are provided on a 50:50 matched funding basis. The 50% match funding may come from the school, P&C, local government, or any other source (except other state government sources). Please note - grant funding is paid by the Department of Transport when the project is completed, invoiced and a successful audit/site inspection has been made.

## Who's eligible to apply?

Schools can now apply directly for projects within school grounds and local governments can help and apply for projects on schools' behalf.

Local governments can also apply for projects outside the school gate such as for simple projects that can be completed within a year, or more complex projects that could be undertaken over two years.

Remember, if any infrastructure is to be within school grounds, the schools are responsible for any liaison required with the Department of Education or any other third party, and all maintenance costs over the lifetime of the structure.

The [Connecting School Grants](#) are usually advertised mid-year with Schools notified closer to the time. See our Grants page for more details.

## Some innovative ideas

For some inspiration see the collection of images below of inspiring infrastructure from our school network and from around the world. New bike racks, scooter racks, skateboard racks, sheds, covered shelters and even sensory bike paths have been installed to encourage more kids to walk, ride or scoot to school.



**Perth Waldorf School's steel and Jarrah shelter.**

Perth Waldorf School has a brand new bike parking area underneath a steel and Jarrah shelter. Students were used to parking their bikes under the trees up until now. Staff commented that the students are stoked to have some shelter for their bikes and it is encouraging to see it being used every day.



Lockable scooter racks






Beelihar Primary School even combined new bike and scooter racks with a sensory bike path

## How much space will you need?

The number of bike & scooter racks and size of the parking space needed really depend on how many students you have. Therefore, it's a good idea to conduct a whole of school survey to ask who currently rides and who would like to ride. An important lesson that our school champions have learned is that it's better to build in extra storage to accommodate more riders in the future than to retrofit later. For large schools several bike and scooter parking spots will be needed.

## Bike and scooter parking options

Certain bike and scooter parking options are more suited to particular locations. The following table suggests the types of parking facilities to different users and destinations.

Bike parking facilities at Schools	
Photo	Parking option/s
	<p><b>Bike parking U rails and mounted racks:</b></p> <p>An effective and low cost way to provide short to medium term parking and can be arranged to maximise bike storage in the available space.</p> <p>They can be installed in any number to meet the parking demand, with rails installed as clusters or groups spaced 1m apart. Be sure to allow space for people to move their bikes in and out.</p>
	<p>U-rail's support the entire bicycle or scooter and allows users to lock the bike frame and wheels. Each bike rail can support two bicycles, with one of each side.</p> <p><b>Scooter racks</b></p> <p>Can be installed in sections to meet the parking demand, with lockable racks installed in groups. Be sure to allow space for people to move their bikes and scooters in and out.</p>
	<p><b>Bike enclosures:</b></p> <p>Grouping parking rails within a restricted-access enclosure can provide a higher level of security. Enclosures include rooms, compounds and purpose built areas and can be fitted with a roof for added security and weather protection.</p>

## Personal lockers

Teachers like to ride their bike to school too! A locker can give staff somewhere to store clothes and other belongings such as their helmet, a change of clothes, and toiletries. Using split or full-length lockers (rather than half-length ones) gives space for people to hang shirts or pants without creasing them.

When working out the number of lockers to install, consider what's needed for people

involved in lunchtime or in-work exercise activities as well as teachers riding to school.

## Changing facilities and showers

Adequate changing and showering facilities are a big incentive for staff considering cycling to your school. These facilities can also be used by teachers doing other types of physical activity, such as before or after school sports or exercise during lunchtime.

It's not always possible to add state-of-the-art facilities, however the provision of storage and lockers might be enough to encourage staff to try riding to school.

## Other equipment

- **Iron and ironing board and hairdryers** - making a professional look easier for those who ride commuters
- **RCD power points** and pneumatic switches - reducing safety concerns
- **Places for people to dry wet towels** and clothes, e.g. drying racks, a clothes line or drying cabinet.
- **Sunscreen**

## Bike Repair facilities

A bike repair station will complete your bike facilities. It could include a floor pump, puncture repair kit, spare tubes and set of allen keys, spanners and screwdrivers. The bike repair facilities could be stationed inside the bike parking area or near the reception desk so teachers, students and visitors can use it.

## Infrastructure Guidelines

There are guidelines available for end-of-trip facilities at workplaces, including [Cycling Aspects of Austroads Guides](#). These provide guidance in relation to the number of bike parking spaces and design features. Some local councils have end-of-trip facility requirements under their local planning schemes.

Austrroads and Bike Network Victoria guidelines - these requirements can be used to assess the adequacy of facilities at an existing school and can also provide specifications for a new school.

When applying them consider current and potential demand from teachers / students and visitors. The size and nature of the school will also shape what is needed (e.g. current participation, potential uptake, demand from teachers involved in lunch time exercise or activities outside normal work hours, etc.)