

13 May 2022

Kate Chaney, Candidate for Curtin (WA)

Independent

RESPONSE:

"I am passionate about seeing action on climate change so I think bicycles and e-bikes are a really important part of the transport picture as we decarbonise our economy. My family has a bike barn next to our garage. It contains 8 bikes.

I have to answer your questions carefully though, because I have not yet researched all of the specific issues you raise. Specific regulatory or funding proposals are difficult to adopt without thorough research and I don't want to make promises that I can't keep. With that caveat, here are my answers:

Q: Do you believe that every federally funded transport project must provide also provide infrastructure for active travel (often called positive provisioning)?

A: I agree with the principle of positive provisioning and this proposal sounds like a sensible idea. However, I would need to better understand the issues before I could give a commitment for every transport project. Ideally, I would get advice from experts, including groups like yours.

Q: If in a position to do so, would you push for the federal budget to always include behaviour change programmes that encourage young Australians to ride and reduces their risk on our roads?

A: Yes, I would.

Q: If elected, would you lobby the government for financial incentives that will enable Australians to buy and ride a bicycle or E-bike?

A: I am sympathetic to this proposal but it would be irresponsible of me to commit to doing this until I had studied the issues and taken advice. I am careful in relation to Government intervention in markets, so I would want to study the costs and benefits of this proposal.

Q: Do you support changes to the Australian vehicle safety and design standards (including heavy vehicles) in order to match the European Union's General Safety Regulation (GSR) for vehicle safety requirements and protect vulnerable road users?

A: Again, I would want to study this before I could give a commitment like this. In particular, I would need to consider whether the EU approach is applicable in Australia.

Q: If elected, what pieces of bike riding infrastructure would you seek to improve or have constructed in your electorate?

A: This is likely to be largely a State and local government issue. I am aware of a number of cycling infrastructure challenges within Curtin, such as:

- The Mitchell Freeway bike path north of Stirling Railway Station requires upgrading so that there is a continuous, high-quality path all the way from Perth to Reid Highway;*
- Cycling is dangerous on major East/West roads, such as Stirling Highway because of the complete absence of bicycle infrastructure;*
- The Perth to Fremantle cycle path ends abruptly at North Fremantle and spits cyclists out onto the road. A better transition needs to be added; and*
- The riverside route between UWA and Christchurch needs a continuous bike lane.*

I would keep an eye out for opportunities to advocate for them, subject to competing priorities and appropriate division of issues between different levels of government.

Thanks for the opportunity to address your questions. I am supportive of your mission to make riding a bike easier and safer for everyone.”