Newcastle area

Your guide to cycling from Catherine Hill Bay to Williamtown, including Lake Macquarie

How to use this map

This map has been produced to let you know where cycling facilities are in this region. The map shows the location of existing on-road and off-road cycling routes and facilities. The map also offers you a general guide to the likely difficulty you should expect to experience on particular roads in the region.

The cycleways map is like a street directory for cyclists. It helps you choose a suitable route for bicycle trips to work or school, the shops or the park. Railway stations are also shown to help you plan longer trips without the need for a car!

Keep in mind your safety and obey all road rules. Remember, riding defensively and staying alert at all times will help to make your cycling safer and more enjoyable.

Main features of the Cycleway Map

SHARED PATHS

These are paths built specifically to be shared with other cyclists and pedestrians. Shared paths are signposted and marked accordingly so that you can tell if you are meant to share the path with pedestrians.

As a cyclist the law requires you to ride to the left of the path and give pedestrians priority. Take care when you are crossing roads and watch out for motor vehicles.

ON-ROAD FACILITIES

On-road bicycle facilities include bike lanes, sealed shoulders or adequate road space to share with other traffic. These facilities have been marked with bicycle signs and/or bicycle logos to show the route.

On-road difficulty ratings

The map gives you a guide to the levels of difficulty you are normally likely to experience when cycling along these routes. Traffic and weather conditions can make your ride more difficult.

GREEN: LOW DIFFICULTY ON-ROAD ROUTES

Green routes are generally low difficulty routes. These routes are suitable for young and inexperienced riders. They are usually well connected with other streets and cycle routes. Lots of connections also means lots of intersections so take care!

PURPLE: MODERATE DIFFICULTY ON-ROAD ROUTES

Purple or moderate difficulty routes have more traffic than low difficulty routes and you will find that riding them is more challenging. Purple routes mainly have one lane of traffic in each direction with a parking lane as well.

BROWN: HIGH DIFFICULTY ON-ROAD ROUTES

Brown or high difficulty routes are the most challenging and should only be used by experienced cyclists. When you use these routes you will often be sharing the road with a high volume of cars, trucks etc. Brown routes generally have more than one lane of traffic in each direction.

Remember you are the best judge of the most suitable cycle route for your needs based on your skill and fitness level, and on your comfort in different traffic situations.

ORANGE AND RED: FREEWAY/MOTORWAY SHOULDER FACILITIES:

These routes are high difficulty facilities using the shoulder of freeways and motorways and should only be used by experienced cyclists. Freeways and motorways carry large volumes of traffic with multiple high speed traffic lanes in each direction. Freeways and motorways have access ramps that may be used by both cyclists and motor vehicles. Particular care should be taken by cyclists riding along shoulder facilities when approaching and crossing ramps.

INTERSECTIONS

You should be extremely careful at all intersections. Make sure that drivers and other road users see you – use eye contact. Give clear hand signals whenever you are turning or changing lanes so other road users know what you are doing.

CYCLIST HAZARDS

These include railway crossings, bridges and locations where the road suddenly narrows and the cyclist is forced into a 'squeeze' situation. Keep alert at these points.

HILLS

Where you see this symbol >>>>> on the map expect a hill. The colour of the symbol will vary with the route difficulty rating.

BIKE PARKING

Many CityRail stations and Sydney Ferries wharves have bicycle parking facilities. For more information contact the Transport Infoline – www.131500.com.au or call 13 15 00.

PLANNING YOUR JOURNEY

It is useful to mark the start and end of your trip on the map and choose a bike route linking the two. Keep in mind that the route chosen should reflect your riding capability and preferences.

OTHER CYCLEWAYS MAPS

For more information on cycleway maps visit the RTA website – www.rta.nsw.gov.au or call 131 782.

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