



Government of Western Australia
Department of Transport

Empowering a
thriving community

People's Pulse Report

Active Travel Community Insights 2022-23





Acknowledgment of Country

The Department of Transport acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land throughout Western Australia and pays our respects to Elders both past and present.

We acknowledge the members of all Aboriginal communities, their cultures and continuing connection to Country throughout the State.

About this Report

The information contained in this publication is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate at time of publication.

The State shall in no way be liable for any loss sustained or incurred by anyone relying on the information. October 2023.

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Contents

Community survey data3

Why we collect data3

Key insights: Community survey data4

Key Insights: DoT Community Data 2023 ... 7

Appendix12

Endnotes13

Community survey data

The Department of Transport (DoT) regularly collects data on community perceptions and attitudes, participation and behaviour. This data provides valuable insight into people who walk, wheel and ride in WA, and provides important insight and context to the changing patterns of the community's active transport behaviour.

DoT's current vision is to collect, analyse and report on a robust set of data that can provide insights on network use and attitudes from people of all ages and abilities, and thus inform state planning and policy decisions to improve the lives of all Western Australians.

Why we collect data

Collecting transport data helps us to better understand transport choices and behaviours, and guide infrastructure investment in local communities to support the growth of active transport.

It also helps us to:

- undertake evidence based active transport planning;
- establish baseline data before infrastructure interventions; and
- monitor and evaluate transport projects.





Key insights: Community survey data

Key insights

This report provides insight into the perceptions and behaviours of people who walk, wheel and ride across WA. This report draws upon the community survey data collected in 2022 and 2023.

The findings provided have been drawn from the National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey and from DoT Surveys. A brief overview of the community surveys is provided on this page, followed by key insights from 2022 and 2023.

National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey

Insights from the 2023 WA Report

Cycling and Walking Australia and New Zealand is the Australasian lead reference group for walking and bike riding on transport and recreation networks.

The National Walking and Cycling Participation Survey (NWCPS) provides insight into walking and bike riding activity across Australia.

The survey provides data on walking and bike riding participation at a national and state or territory level and within each state or territory divided between capital city and regional (non-capital city) areas.

National surveys of bike riding participation have been undertaken every two years since 2011, providing valuable insight into trends over time.

These surveys measure what proportion of the Perth population rode a bike in a specified period. This information is different to what is collected through counts on the bicycle network, however, together provide valuable insight into bike riding activity.

DoT Community Surveys

DoT undertakes surveys to monitor community sentiment towards, and participation in, bike riding and walking, and more recently on eRideable use.

In 2020, DoT's Peoples' Voice Survey commenced, which initially started as online surveys of Perth and Peel residents to monitor riding behaviours and the level of bike riding participation in the community during and following the first COVID-19 lockdown period. Surveys were collected in April, May, June and October 2020, and continue to be collected annually in May.

DoT also administers other community tracking projects and data collection. Data from these sources, where relevant, have been provided in this report.

Key insights: NWCPS 2023

Bike riding participation

Approximately 373,300 Western Australians were riding a bike weekly in 2023.

- The NWCPS reported 13.4 per cent of Western Australians were riding a bike weekly in 2023. This is down from 21.4 per cent in 2021, however, this decline is not surprising given the previous data collection was done in 2021 and would reflect boosted activity levels during COVID-19.
- Significant growth in bike riding was seen across Australia in 2019 and 2020. This trend has also been observed in DoT's bike riding counter data (FY 2021-22), however, has begun to settle and looks to be entering a period of stability. Encouragingly, bike riding activity has remained higher than pre-COVID-19 counts.
- The NWCPS data showed participation levels nationally are tracking higher than pre-COVID levels, and this trend is also observed in the **Perth metropolitan area.**

2023: Rode a bike (including eBikes)

13.4% in past week

= **373,300 Western Australians**

21.4% in 2021

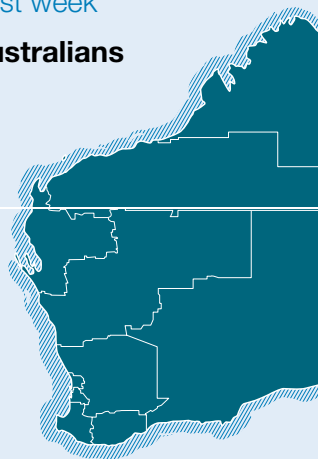
15.6% in 2019

35.9% over past year

= **1 million Western Australians**

46.7% in 2021

40.8% in 2019



Source: [NWCPS 2023](#)

Perth weekly participation

13.5% in 2023

20.8% in 2021

12.6% in 2019

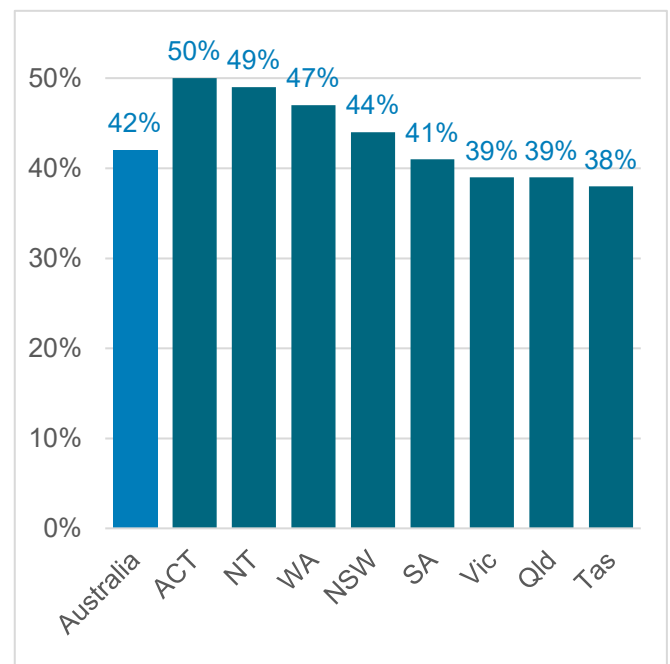
The recent survey data also reported WA as having one of the lowest proportions of people 'not interested in riding' in the country.

WA has around 47 per cent of people who are interested; that is, they either do not currently ride but would like to or do ride but only off-road.

This cohort of 'interested' bike riders has grown since 2021, up from 40 per cent.

One third (33 per cent) identified as being not able to ride or not interested in bike riding, which is one of the lowest percentages recorded for this category compared to other Australian states.

Proportion identifying as 'interested' in bike riding (%) ¹



Source: [NWCPS 2023](#)

Who is riding?

More than one third (35.9 per cent) of all Western Australians have participated in bike riding over the past year, and almost 3 in 20 (13.4 per cent) have ridden in the past week.

Males are significantly more likely to have ridden in the past week than females, and (weekly) participation is higher among children aged under 10 and those aged between 10-17 years of age.



Approximately 2.4 per cent of Western Australians ride an eRideable (e.g., eScooter, eSkateboard) in a typical week, up from 1.9 per cent reported in 2021.

Table 1: Rode a bicycle in the past week (Gender)

Gender	2019	2021	2023
Males	17.3%	26.5%	17.2%
Females	10.4%	16.4%	9.6%

Table 2: Rode a bicycle in the past week (Age)

Age	2019	2021	2023
0-9 Years	34.9%	49.9%	30.3%
10-17 Years	32.7%	40.1%	29.3%
18-29 Years	8.2%	10.2%	5.7%
30-49 Years	9.8%	18.3%	10.7%
50+ Years	6.6%	10.0%	8.3%

Source: [NWCP 2023](#)

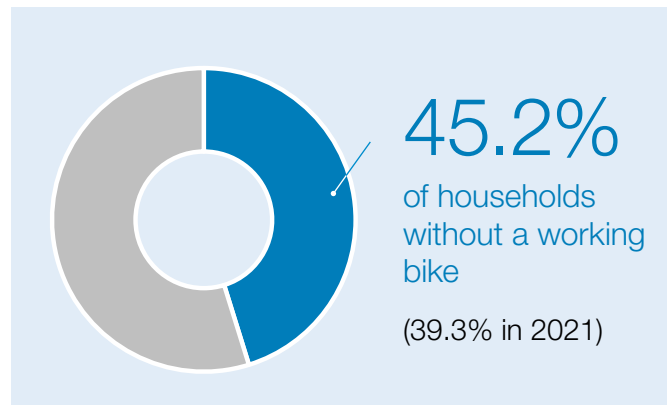
Bike ownership

There are approximately 54.8 per cent of households who reported having at least one working bike (of which 5.6 per cent are eBikes), however, there are a high number of households who do not have a working bike.

In 2023, there were:

- 16.4 per cent of households with **one** working bike (18.1 per cent in 2021)
- 17.4 per cent of households with **two** working bikes (16.9 per cent in 2021)
- 20.9 per cent of households with **three or more** working bikes (25.8 per cent in 2021).

However, there are approximately 2 in 5 households in 2023 who reported not having a working bike at all.



Please note: NWCP data estimates provided are based on a 95 per cent confidence interval. Data has also been weighted by age and gender to be representative of the WA population using ABS census data.

Key Insights: DoT Community Data 2023

Community behaviour

DoT's Peoples' Voice Survey provides detailed data on the types of active transport and public transport trips Western Australians are doing, including trip purpose, frequency and duration. Several key insights from the May 2023 survey have been provided.

Around 72 per cent of trips done by bike riders over the past month were mainly for **recreational** purposes, up from 65 per cent in 2022, and just over half (54 per cent) were done for **sport, health or fitness**.

Bike riding trip purpose: May 2023



72%
recreational / outdoor

65% in 2022; 72% in 2021



54%
for sport, health or fitness

56% in 2022; 62% in 2021



21%
shopping / personal appointments

24% in 2022; 17% in 2021



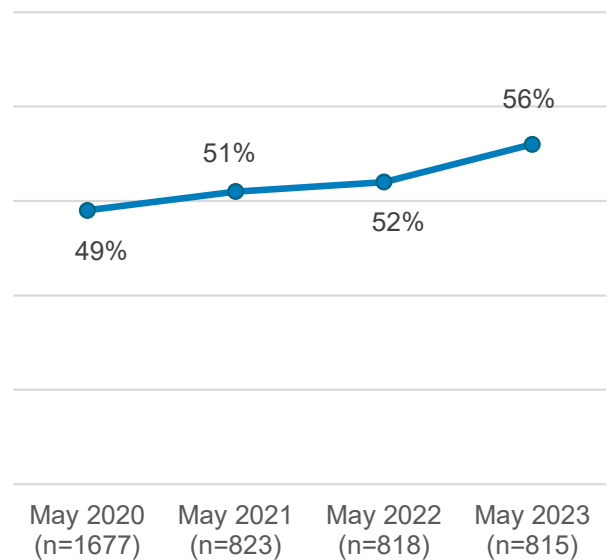
16%
commuting to or from work

14% in 2022; 15% in 2021

Bike riding typologies

Each year, survey participants are asked to identify which category (from a list) best describes them as a bike rider.

Year on year growth in the proportion identifying as bike riders (%) ²



Source: DoT People's Voice Survey

The proportion of people identifying as bike riders continues to grow each year and has significantly grown compared to May 2021 and May 2020.

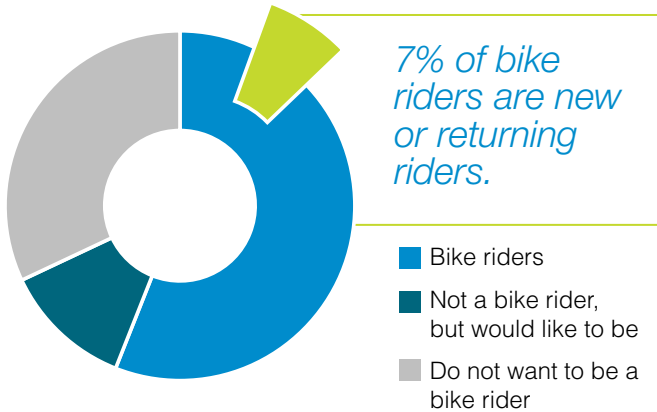
The proportion who identified as not wanting to be a bike rider continues to decline, from 35 per cent in 2020 and 2021, and is currently at an all-time low of 32 per cent in 2023.

This is consistent with the NWCPs, which reported 33 per cent in WA and 31 per cent in Perth, as being not able to ride or not interested in bike riding.

Source: DoT People's Voice Survey

In 2023, there were around seven per cent of people who were new or returning to bike riding. This continues to grow, up from five per cent in 2022 and four per cent in 2021.

Proportion identifying as new or returning bike riders (%) ³

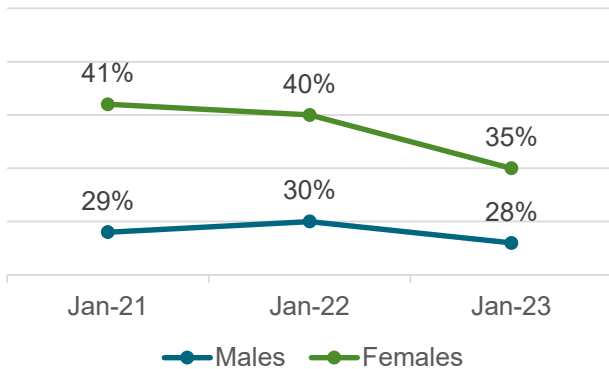


Source: DoT People's Voice Survey

Encouragingly, 71 per cent of these riders were females, and the proportion of females who do not want to be a bike rider is at its lowest level since tracking began (in 2020) at 35 per cent.

Data consistently shows females are considerably less likely to ride than males, so this increase is a positive shift.

Proportion (split by gender) who identified as: 'do not want to be a bike rider' (%) ⁴



Source: DoT People's Voice Survey

Walking

Walking participation has been taken from the DoT Peoples' Voice survey. This is based on people who have walked, run or jogged outside for at least five minutes or more.

Walking participation - May 2023

81% weekly or more

Walked, run or jogged for at least 5 minutes.
(80% in May 2022, 74% in May 2021)

Source: DoT Peoples' Voice Survey

In 2023, approximately **81 per cent** of Western Australians walked for at least five minutes or more in the past week.

Participation is similar among males and females, and participation among those aged 18-34 years has grown significantly, up from 67 per cent in 2021 to 85 per cent in 2023.

Table 3: Walking participation (Gender)

Gender	2021	2022	2023
Males	76%	80%	79%
Females	73%	81%	82%

Table 4: Walking participation (Age)

Age	2021	2022	2023
18-34 Years	67%	82%	85%
35-54 Years	77%	78%	80%
55+ Years	79%	81%	77%

Trip purpose - 2023:

- 70 per cent walked for recreation / to be outdoors (69% in 2022; 73% in 2021)
- 64 per cent walked for sport, health or fitness (61% in 2022; 62% in 2021)
- 41 per cent walked for a shopping related trip or personal appointment (39% in 2022; 36% in 2021)

Electric devices are changing how people travel

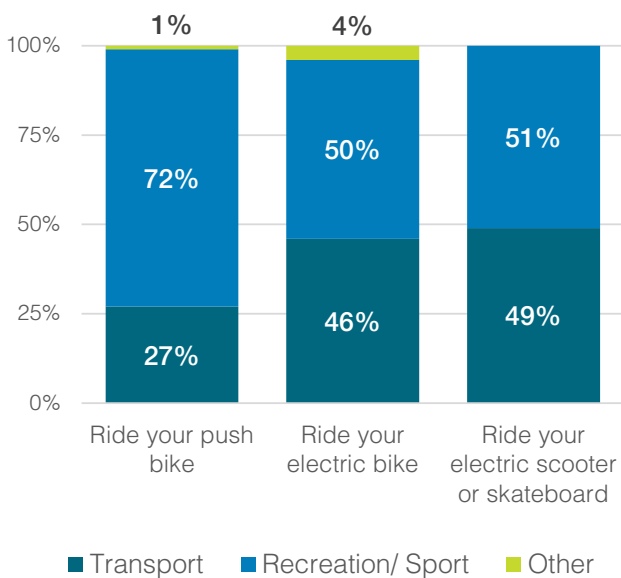
Participants were asked what proportion of time they use their push bikes or eRideables for recreation versus transport.

The data indicated **push bikes** tend to be used mainly for recreational purposes (72 per cent, compared to 27 per cent for transport).

In contrast, eBikes and eScooters /eSkateboards were more likely to have a higher proportion of transport trips compared to push bikes, and a more even split between recreation and transport.

While the number of users of electric modes is currently small, numbers are growing, and changes in use will be interesting to monitor.

Share of Riding time - May 2022 ⁵



Q: In an average week over the past month, what proportion of time have you spent on each of these activities?

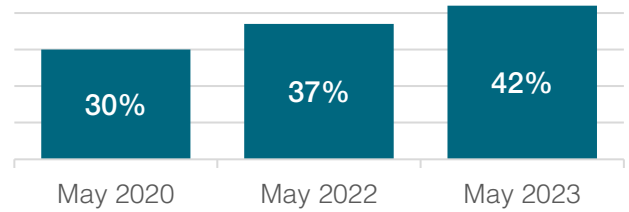
Transport trips e.g., commuting to or from work, a place of study, the shops, to see friends or family, for personal appointments, or as part of a longer transport journey, etc.
 Recreational / sport trips e.g., for leisure, sport, to gain fitness, to enjoy the outdoors, etc.

Source: DoT Peoples' Voice Survey

Community sentiment towards walking, riding and scooting

In the May 2023 DoT People's Voice survey, the strongest motivator reported by two in five participants to increase their walking and riding was:

More accessible paths, facilities and on road safety features



Source: DoT People's Voice Survey

Q. Thinking about walking or riding your bike, what might help you do any of these activities more?

In addition, participants reported the importance of having facilities to support their journeys, and the confidence to ride where they need to go.



29%

Having somewhere to park my bike at the places that I want to go

(23% May 2022)



28%

More accessible paths for all ages and abilities

(29% May 2022)



22%

Feeling more confident to ride my bike where I need to go

(17% May 2022)



15%

Bike racks on buses

(11% May 2022)

Mode ownership and consideration to purchase (June 2022 %) ⁶



Source: Transport System Perception and Sentiment Tracking Research W3

*Purchase intent percentages are based on those who would consider (definitely consider + consider) in the next 12 months

The Transport System Perception and Sentiment Tracking Research, conducted over four waves in 2021 and 2022, explored electric device ownership and perceptions of eScooters.

Data indicated around four per cent of households in Perth currently own an electric device.

Despite low levels of current ownership, a large proportion stated they would consider purchasing an eBike or eScooter in the next 12 months.

Ownership and purchase intent of eBikes and eScooters has grown since 2021.

Interestingly, five per cent used an eScooter in the past 12 months. Of those, 58 per cent had used a hired eScooter and 24 per cent a personal scooter.

The benefits of eScooters in providing increased travel accessibility were strongly recognised. Two thirds (67 per cent) agree eScooters give people more ability to travel around Perth, up from 58 per cent in 2021.

There were some concerns regarding their integration with other modes, which has remained largely unchanged since data was first collected in December 2021.

It is worth noting, the legislative amendments to allow the legal use of eRideables was introduced in WA in December 2021.

2022: Perception of eScooters

67% agree

'eScooters give people more ability to travel around Perth'

(58% in 2021)

26% agree

'eScooters and pedestrians can safely share footpaths'

(27% in 2021)

Source: Transport System Perception and Sentiment Tracking Research. Percentages are based on those who agree (strongly + agree)



Further information

- The NWCPS is administered using telephone interviews with a representative sample of Australians using both mobile and landline numbers. In Western Australia 1,148 individuals were surveyed from across 434 households in 2023.
- DoT's Peoples' Voice Survey first commenced in 2020, with multiple surveys collected during COVID-19. This data helped to unpack patterns in the bike counter data on a more time-specific basis. Since 2021, data collection has continued each year in May. Survey numbers and timing:
 - April 2020 (n=3,293), May 2020 (n=1,659), June 2020 (n=1,685 surveys), October 2020 (838 surveys)
 - May 2021 (823 surveys)
 - May 2022 (818 surveys)
 - May 2023 (825 surveys).
- This report references data from the Transport System Perceptions and Sentiment Tracking Research. This research involves four waves of data collection administered via an online survey to collect baseline and tracking data pertaining to attitudes, behaviours and sentiments towards the transport system, mode choice and use. The four waves were:
 - Wave 1 – November/December 2021 (n=1,001*)
 - Wave 2 – March/April 2022 (n=1,003*)
 - Wave 3 – June 2022 (n=1,047*)
 - Wave 4 –October/November 2022 (n=1,003*)

All data is weighted to 2016 ABS census data

*n = sample size

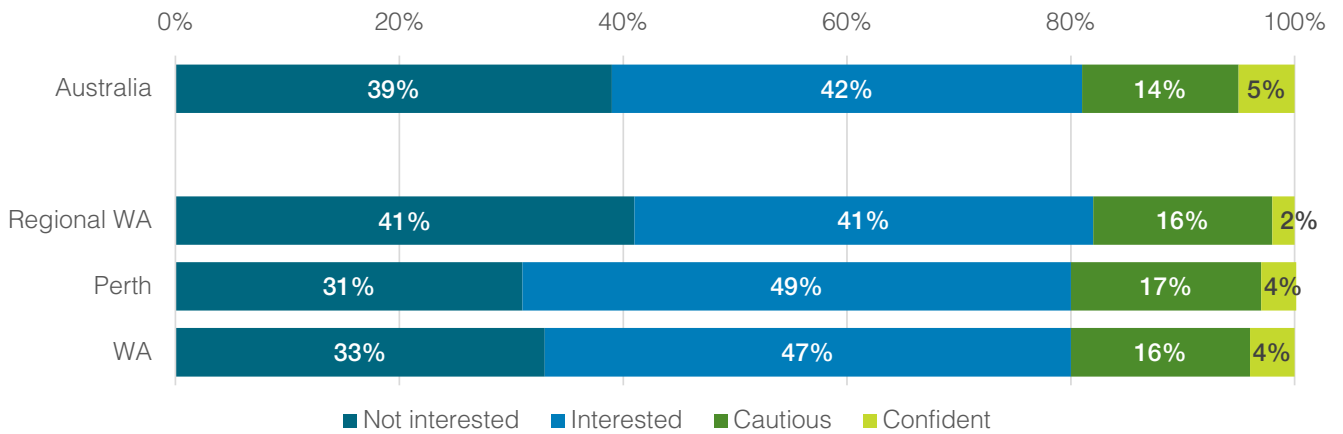
More information on the WA bike riding count data and community survey reports can be found on the [DoT website](#).



Appendix

Chart 1

Perceptions towards bike riding ⁷
Willingness to consider bike riding (%)



Source: NWCPS

Chart 2

Household mode ownership and purchase consideration

Mode ownership ⁸

Mode	December 2021	June 2022
eBike	4%	5%
eScooter	3%	4%
eSkateboard	2%	3%

Source: Transport System Perception and Sentiment Tracking Research

Purchase intent ⁹

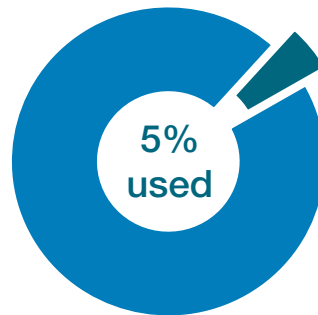
Mode	December 2021	June 2022
eBike	25%	28%
eScooter	20%	24%
eSkateboard	10%	8%

Source: Transport System Perception and Sentiment Tracking Research W3

Chart 3

eScooter use in the past 12 months and type of eScooter used

Have used an eScooter in the last 12 months (%) ¹⁰



Type of eScooter	Percentage
A hired eScooter	58%
A personal eScooter	24%
A friend/family member's eScooter	17%
Other*	1%

*This includes mentions of mobility scooters

Endnotes

- 1 Q. Willingness to consider bicycle riding – Interested riders i.e. either do not currently ride but would like to or do ride but only off-road.
- 2 Q. Which of the following categories best describes you as a bike rider?
- 3 Q. Which of the following categories best describes you as a bike rider? Base size: 2023 n=815
- 4 Q. Which of the following categories best describes you as a bike rider? Base size: Males 2021 n=391; 2022 n=392; 2023 n=355; Females 2021 n=426; 2022 n=422, 2023 n=450
- 5 Base: Respondents who did each activity in the past month: Push bike n=211; Electric bike n=63; Electric scooter or skateboard n=48)
- 6 Q. How many of the following does your household own?
Q. To what extent would you consider purchasing each of the following within the next 12 months?
Base size n=1,047
- 7 Q: Willingness to consider bike riding – Interested riders i.e. either do not currently ride but would like to or do ride but only off-road
Respondents aged 15 or older who had ridden in the past year were asked about their riding style, including which of the following statements best describes the way they ride their bicycle in the presence of traffic:
I prefer to use the most direct and convenient way regardless of traffic – classified as 'Confident'
I prefer paths or quiet streets and am willing to take a longer way to avoid busy roads – classified as 'Cautious'
I would never ride my bike on a road – classified as 'Interested'
Those that had not ridden in the past year were asked why that was the case; if they indicated they cannot ride for health reasons, do not know how to ride or are not interested in riding they were classified as not interested.
Those that did not provide any of these three reasons for not riding were then asked whether they (a) are not a bike rider but would like to be, or (b) do not want to be a bike rider. Those who indicated they would like to ride were classified as interested while those who do not want to ride were classified as not interested.
- 8 Q. How many of the following does your household own? Base size n=1,047
- 9 Q. To what extent would you consider purchasing each of the following within the next 12 months?
*Purchase intent percentages are based on those who would consider (definitely consider + consider) in the next 12 months. Base size n=1,047
- 10 Q. Thinking about the following modes of transport, have you ever used them to travel around the Perth metro area?
Q. You mentioned you have used an e-scooter in the last 12 months. Which of the following have you specifically used? Base size: Perth Population n=1,047, eScooter users n=51

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