

## **Draft Council guidelines for the use of e-bikes in Rotorua**

Council will use the NZTA definition of a 'vehicle', which includes e-bikes over 300W, petrol powered bikes, or those designed to be propelled primarily by an engine. Power-assisted bikes under 300W do not meet this definition and can thus use standard cycling facilities, both on and off-road. In addition, Council recommends **an upper speed limit for all users of 25 km/h on off-road facilities** (which also restricts higher speed mobility scooters).

### Urban cycleways

**Council maintains an inclusive stance for the use of e-bikes on urban cycling facilities and promotes safe riding.**

Based on the current NZTA guidelines, e-bikes under 300W can use standard cycling facilities. E-bikes and standard bikes must be ridden with consideration for other users, particularly on shared paths. Cycle safety messages including specific mention of e-bikes will be promoted by the Rotorua Lakes Council transport team, especially as numbers of e-bike users increase.

### Council reserves

**E-bikes under 300W may be used on Council-owned recreational spaces in a similar manner to standard bikes, with some access regulated by signage and barriers.**

Council's Activities on Open Public Places Policy (Section 13.1.4 Traffic Control and Parking Arrangements) covers the use of vehicles in Council-owned recreational spaces, ie.

1. A person must not take, ride or drive a motor vehicle, unless authorised to do so by the Delegated Council Officer, into or in a public space except on any part of the open public place set aside by the Rotorua District Council for vehicular traffic.
2. A person must not take, ride, or drive a motor vehicle or animal into or on a reserve unless it is an emergency vehicle or it is authorised by Council.
3. Car parking is confined to dedicated car parking areas.
4. A person must not park a motor vehicle on a public space except in a place set aside by the Rotorua District Council for the parking of vehicles.
5. A person must not stop a motor vehicle in a public space so that the vehicle obstructs an entrance to or part or track in the open public place.
6. The conditions stipulated in the Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1978 and would apply in the case of a request for temporary road closures (A processing fee is payable).

The definition of 'vehicle' in the policy above includes e-bikes over 300W, petrol powered bikes, or those designed to be propelled primarily by an engine. Reports of failure to adhere to restrictions on recreational spaces can be acted on by Council staff.

### Whaka Forest

**E-bikes not exceeding 300W and limited to 25 km/h are allowed on tracks in Whaka Forest used by standard mountain bikes, assuming land owners have given permission. Council/Rotorua Trails Trust reserve the right to use signage to exclude e-bikes from specific trails for safety or environmental reasons.**

The use of e-bikes in the forest will be reviewed as numbers of e-bike users increase.

### Other trails, including Te Ara Ahi

**Council will encourage land owners/managers, including forest operation managers, DoC and iwi, to develop an individual considered view on the use of e-MTBs on existing bike trails on land owned or administered by them. Council/Trails Trust to discuss the use of e-bikes on Te Ara Ahi with appropriate landowners.**

From a users' perspective it would be beneficial to adopt some consistency across the district.