**Speed limits on bike paths**

**Behaviour on bike tracks has been reviewed by the BAC several times. There is no need to re-hash this discussion. However, the recent increase in numbers, speeds, hoons and peloton groups means the BAC needs to keep this issue under constant review.**

**This note suggests speed limits enforced to bike confiscation but it is acknowledged that this is a relatively extreme solution and not likely to be adopted in the near future.**

At the February 2012 I presented some notes on cyclist behaviour on bike tracks.

These notes stated, *This problem relates mainly to the bike path on the north side of the Yarra during “rush hour”.*

*Some cyclists:*

* *Ride too fast (up to 40 kph)*
* *Ride in very close formations of up to 10 cyclists (pelotons)*
* *Overtake in dangerous situations especially in the case of curves and on-coming bikes.*
* *Seem to have a default aversion tactic of speeding up rather than slowing down.*

Discounted suggested solutions included

* *“Suggested” speeds could be painted on the track but I doubt this would make any difference to the “warriors”.*
* *Traffic calming bumps or chicanes could be installed but these might add to dangers rather than reduce them. (Remember the chicane on Collins Bridge)*

The final discounted suggestion was that there should speed limits on bike tracks. This would need to be enforced and ultimately this might have to include confiscation of bikes for several days.

This was discussed in February 2012 and it was agreed that nothing could be done. The problem naturally subsided over the winter months as fewer cyclists rode to work. Warm weather returned and the problem is back – with a vengeance!

Apart from the hoon commuters there are now cyclists in training, fully decked out on racing gear on racing bikes hunkered down on their aero bars pumping out over 40kph!

There seem to be more ageing male golf refugees who have turned to cycling and now charge around the paths warding of imminent heart attacks.

There are sections of bike paths that have been improved and widened. These now form the drag strips for the racers. The improved and widened paths have facilitated dangerous and excessive speeds. Furthermore, these high speed paths are marked as shared paths. As the warmer months bring out the joggers, walkers, mums with prams and people fishing(!), the paths become real safety hazards.

Cycling on bike paths is the only form of transport in Victoria that does not have any formal regulations -let alone speed limits. Once cyclists are on the road they have to conform to traffic laws and regulations. On bike paths they can do whatever , and whatever speed, they like.

The only option appears to be speed limits. This would need to be enforced with the ultimate sanction of confiscation of bikes for several days. This is done with motor vehicles. There is no reason why it could not be done with cyclists. The checkpoints could be stationed near public transport so that the transgressors would have an alternative transport option.

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