



CYCLING FACT SHEET No. 79

Bicycle cameras keep drivers honest

Road rage seems to be on the rise around the world and cyclists involved in these disturbing incidents may feel particularly vulnerable.

An affected rider is often taken by surprise and unable to write down clear details of the event required when lodging a complaint with authorities.

In response to this issue, a number of manufacturers have begun marketing compact wireless video cameras to the cycling fraternity. They use the latest digital technology enclosed within small lightweight shock-resistant units, with some retailing for as little as \$180.

Over the past few weeks, Bikewest staff have been trialling one of the cheaper models, and the general consensus has been very positive.

The camera we purchased is waterproof and can be attached to a bicycle helmet, either on top or to one side.

Including batteries, the unit weighs just 200 grams, meaning it is comfortable to wear.

It can also be fitted, via a bracket, to the handlebars, which reduces the field-of-view slightly but makes it easier to operate.

A 2GB SD card gives about an hour of recording time at the highest definition and one touch deletion of the entire memory allows you to immediately start recording again.

There is no viewfinder so you have to find the ideal filming angle by using a bit of trial and error.

When wearing it on the helmet, there is a tendency to have the camera facing too far downward resulting in a close-up shot of the front wheel rather than the road ahead.

Our budget camera is able to read vehicle registration plates at distances up to about 15 metres.

It has to be said that the sound quality is fairly poor with this type of camera, but you would likely be using them primarily for the visual aspect anyway.

Many cycling cameras have a streamlined design to reduce wind drag and detach from their mounts for security when the bicycle or helmet is left unattended.

The footage can be downloaded to a personal computer in seconds and it can also be viewed on a television.



This fact sheet is one of a series dealing with the use of bicycles for recreation and transport in Western Australia. The series looks at a range of cycling-related topics including ride routes, touring tips, maintenance, safety, road rules, insurance and product reviews. It is not to be construed as the provision of legal advice or advice about insurance products.

Bikewest
Department of Transport
441 Murray Street, Perth WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9216 8000
Fax: (08) 9216 8497
Email: cycling@transport.wa.gov.au