

Sandra Bailey

From: Mark or Andrew Downey <mark@thebicycleemporium.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2015 3:39 PM
Subject: Burns Point Ferry charge for cyclists

Good afternoon,

I'm writing to express my concern at the resolution to charge cyclists to use the Burns Point Ferry.

While I understand the need to manage the ongoing costs of maintaining the ferry and to appear to treat all ferry users equally, I am concerned that the actual outcome will be to discourage people on bicycles from using the ferry or riding to South Ballina and Wardell.

River Drive through empire Vale to Wardell is one of the quieter local roads and a very good place to ride because of the low traffic volumes. It is used by athletes in training, by the veterans cycling club for races, by social riders, older riders for exercise, beginners and tourists. If they have to pay to use the ferry, many of them will simply not ride at all or find somewhere else to ride. Somewhere that the riding conditions, facilities, infrastructure, etc. are not as good and will then be asking the Council to create additional facilities, no doubt at greater expense than the funds collected in ferry fees.

The alternate route to Wardell is along Pimlico Rd, which will force cyclists out onto the Pacific Highway where there is no shoulder on the bridges across Emigrant Creek. As a result, cyclists will be forced out into the main flow of highway traffic, which is extremely dangerous and could have tragic consequences. How many ferry fares is a life worth?

Ballina is an excellent place to ride a bicycle because of the climate, the terrain and the great network of the bike paths and quiet roads. For locals and visitors alike it could be so much better if we were to really encourage more people to ride bicycles. If more people rode bicycles we would not need to worry about increasing parking spaces in the CBD and Ballina Fair, we would reduce traffic volumes and thus road maintenance costs and we would improve the overall health and well-being of the residents with social and healthcare benefits.

Rather than discouraging people from riding bicycles by imposing fees on them, we should be trying to get more people onto bicycles by removing disincentives like fees and improving infrastructure like bike paths and bike parking.

Cycling is also a very cheap form of transport that is widely used by those on lower incomes and pensions, by children, etc. many of whom will not be in a position to pay the ferry toll or will find it an impost. Will there be any discount for pensioners or concession card holders? Will children have to pay to use the ferry?

I think that this is a very short-sighted decision by the council to charge cyclists to use the Burns Point Ferry, it is unlikely to raise significant revenue, will discourage people from riding bikes and sends the message to the community that the Council doesn't support or encourage cycling; a message that is at odds with building bike paths and skate parks. These mixed messages create confusion and uncertainty within the community and will have the effect of discouraging people from getting involved in cycling rather than promoting cycling and its benefits, or promoting Ballina and its cycling infrastructure to national and international visitors. I would strongly urge the Council to review this decision and not charge people on bicycles to use the ferry.

Regards,

The Bicycle Emporium
2/158 River St, Ballina NSW 2478
(02) 6681 4054

Mark Downey

mark@thebicycleemporium.com.au
0428 543 122

www.thebicycleemporium.com.au

Rev. Richard Brown
21/111 Kalinga Street
BALLINA, NSW, 2478
shortyrbrown@bigpond.com.
(02 66813097
042 919 5291



General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
BALLINA, NSW.2478

The Proposed Burn's Point Ferry Cycling Fee

Dear Sir,
I am writing in regard to the proposed fee for cyclist using the Burn's Point Ferry which your council is contemplating to implement after the council meet to be held in August this year.

Will pedestrians who use the ferry also be under consideration to pay for the ferry trip? If not what is the difference between cyclist and pedestrians as both walk onto and off the ferry?


I do understand that the cost of providing this service to all who which to travel to and from South Ballina is high and that the cost has to be meet.

As an cyclist I utilize the ferry four to six return crossings a week and I realize that it would be fair that I pay for the convenience which the ferry provides.

As I understand the council considering a \$1.00 fee one way, about two years ago the council posted a fee for cyclist's using the ferry with a \$ per trip our an annual ticket for the cost \$25.00, which in fact I purchased such a annual ticket.

If council introduces a fee for the use of the ferry, with a one way fee could also a yearly ticket be introduced as well.

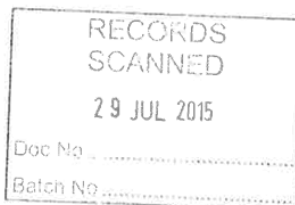
Yours sincerely,


20th July 2015

Ballina Masters Cycling Club
C/- PO Box 1215
Ballina NSW 2478

23 July 2015

Ballina Shire Council
40 Cherry ST
Ballina NSW 2478



Re: Burns Point Ferry fee for cyclists

Dear Councillors,

Recently we were informed by one of our members that the Ballina Shire Council plans to impose (without consultation) a fee on cyclists for use of the Burns Point Ferry.

The Ballina Masters Cycling Club (BMCC) is an organisation that uses the Burns Point Ferry regularly for training, leisure and competition. Riders competing in BMCC events held in South Ballina (Keith Hall to Wardell) use the ferry to attend races.

BMCC is strongly opposed to the imposition of ferry fee on cyclists as this will discourage the wider community from cycling and it will create a barrier to people racing with the BMCC as the fee will effectively increase the cost of racing. The fee will also add an further costs to training and recreational cycling for our members.

BMCC is also concerned that while they will be charged a fee to use the ferry, facilities on the ferry for cyclists will not be improved, the allocated area will not be increased and we will continue to be squeezed in between cars whenever the ferry driver wants to get additional cars on the ferry. If we are going to pay to use the ferry, it would be reasonable to expect that we would have a dedicated area to park our bicycles while crossing and that this would not be sacrificed for additional cars and that the ferry would make the crossing for a single bicycle, which frequently does not happen currently.

Cycling is one of the easiest sports for the wider community to become involved in and one of the easiest ways to incorporate regular exercise into your daily routine. Regular exercise has proven benefits to the whole community both from the improved health and wellbeing of individuals to decreased medical and associated infrastructure costs at all levels of government from a healthier populace.

The BMCC membership and committee are keen supporters of cycling in the community and are involved in cycling at a wide range of levels from recreational to competitive. The BMCC actively encourages new cyclists and juniors as well as our core demographic, older cyclists to become involved in the sport, not just for racing, but for any physical participation as well as the social interaction. Many of our members are also involved in other cycling organisations and are active in the wider community promoting cycling and its benefits.

One of the great advantages of living in Ballina is its excellent network of cycle paths and the many quiet roads suitable for cycling. For keen cyclists, this is an important consideration in living within the Ballina Shire and the reason many of our members from other regions travel here to ride and race. It also makes Ballina an attractive destination for cycle tourism.

Page 1 of 2

10.4 Ferry - Bicycle Fees.DOC

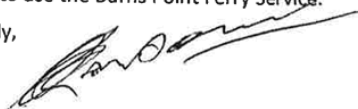
River Drive in South Ballina is one of the best of these local roads, because the ferry limits vehicle traffic, making it one of the safest place to ride for people of all ages and abilities. Discouraging people from cycling in South Ballina through the imposition of a fee would leave some of these people with nowhere that they felt safe to ride or would force them to find other, less safe, places to ride.

The perception within BMCC is that the ferry fare for cyclists is largely punitive, a response to the public backlash for increasing the fare for motor vehicles. Many of the BMCC members are locals who pay rates and expect those rates to cover services like the ferry. Our members also drive cars and while they begrudgingly accept the fare increase for motor vehicles they are strongly opposed to being charged for their bicycles as well.

BMCC can see no meaningful benefit that will be derived from imposing a fee on bicycles using the ferry either in terms of the of revenue or community engagement in sports and recreation and that any monetary gain by the council will be outweighed by the negative impact of discouraging community engagement in sports and recreations.

The BMCC strongly urges the Ballina Shire Council to reconsider their proposal to charge cyclists to use the Burns Point Ferry Service.

Sincerely,



Jack Ransom
President
Ballina Masters Cycling Club

10.4 Ferry - Bicycle Fees.DOC

Sandra Bailey

From: Kevin Durkin <bigkev.durkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2015 4:53 PM
Subject: Re: Burns Point Ferry

It begs the question Why Is there not yearly pass????

I know of pensioner mates who ride 4/5 a week and are now using the highway. How is the council going to look when some one is killed on the double bridges??

Kevin Durkin

On Thursday, August 13, 2015, Ballina Shire Council <council@ballina.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

> Dear Mr Durkin

>

> Currently it is \$1.00 each way on the ferry for a bicycle. At the moment there is no provision to buy a season pass. The link below will take you to Council's website, showing ferry charges.

>

> Thank you

>

>

> http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-APF-67-58-61

>

> Rachel Curtis

> Records & Information Specialist

> General Manager's Group

>

>

> ballina.nsw.gov.au | discoverballina.com

> p: 66861274 | f: 0266867035 | m: 0414193309

> The environment thanks you for not printing this message. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please pass it on to the intended recipient in its original form, or contact the Ballina Shire Council.

>

> Opinions, conclusions and other information contained within this message that do not relate to official Council business are those of the individual sender, and shall be understood as being neither given nor endorsed by the Ballina Shire Council.

>

>

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Bigkev.durkin [mailto:bigkev.durkin@gmail.com]

> Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2015 1:29 PM

> To: Ballina Shire Council

> Subject: Burns Point Ferry

>

> Please advise the cost of a yearly bicycle pass.

> Kevin Durkin

>

>

>

>

10.4 Ferry - Bicycle Fees.DOC

Sandra Bailey

From: Tim Marsh <tmarsh1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, 13 August 2015 4:56 PM
Subject: Bicycle fee Burns Pt Ferry

Hi Council

I believe there is now a \$1 fee for bikes to cross on Burns Pt Ferry.

1. Were local cycling user groups' opinions canvassed for comment? Or was the proposal advertised or gazetted?
2. Is there an annual unlimited use ticket.

Best
Tim

--
Best regards,

Tim Marsh

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

<BR

10.4 Ferry - Bicycle Fees.DOC

Sandra Bailey

From: Tim Marsh <tmarsh1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 14 August 2015 9:26 AM
Subject: Bicycle fee on Burns Pt Ferry

Council

This link indicates submissions re: bike fee on BP Ferry open till August 10, with fee commencing August 10.

http://www.ballina.nsw.gov.au/cp_themes/default/page.asp?p=DOC-CDG-37-37-62

What is the point of taking submissions if the fee is going to start on submission start date with no time for consideration of submissions.

Will pedestrians be considered for a fee? If not, please advise why what rational a cyclist incurs a cost to the ferry but a pedestrian does not.

This reeks of responding to recent complaining by motorists about cars missing out on ferry trips due to cyclists (an absolute nonsense) and whatever other complaints they have about cyclists.

--

Best regards,

Tim Marsh

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

<BR

10.4 Ferry - Bicycle Fees.DOC

Sandra Bailey

From: Julia Kelly <juliakelly55@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 14 August 2015 1:19 PM
Subject: Ferry Fee for cyclists
Attachments: BBUG letter BSC.docx

Att: Peter Morgan

Following a conversation with one of the members of the Ballina Bicycle User Group, we submit the following letter to go to council regarding the recent changes to the ferry fee.

Julia Kelly

On behalf of Ballina BUG

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.

For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

<BR

10.4 Ferry - Bicycle Fees.DOC

Julia Kelly
8 Petrel Court
East Ballina 2478

Peter Morgan
Ballina Council
Cherry St
Ballina 2478

Dear Peter,

At a recent Ballina Bicycle User's Group (BBUG) meeting, disappointment was expressed at the lack of consultation prior to the imposing of a fee for bicycle users on the Burns Point Ferry. As a group which promotes safe cycling in the Ballina Shire, we are concerned that one of the safer ride options ie – Ballina to Wardell along the River Road will no longer be a priority for cyclists, particularly those who are on a limited income and cyclists will choose other options such as using the Pacific Highway then riding through Pimlico to Wardell and return. This is a most unsafe option due to the right hand turn back onto the highway from Pimlico Road.

With the \$1 per journey option, if cyclists choose this road 2 or 3 time a week, the costs could be in excess \$220 per year – almost as much as a year's ticket for residents' cars. Other ferries in the region – Lawrence and Ulmarra have no charge for either cars, trucks or cyclists.

As a group, we believe this fee is excessive for residents in the Ballina Shire who choose the option of staying healthy through regular cycling along a quiet road. We are happy to be part of a consultative process to examine the introduction of the fee.

Yours truly

Julia Kelly

On behalf of Ballina Bicycle User's Group

Affiliated with Bicycle NSW

10.4 Ferry - Bicycle Fees.DOC

Sandra Bailey

From: Paul Pryor <ppryor@eac.nsw.edu.au>
Sent: Monday, 17 August 2015 9:47 AM
Subject: attn: Peter Morgan - Bike fees on burns point ferry

Hi Peter,

I am writing to let you know of the impact on myself of the new fee of \$1 each way on burns point ferry.

I am a resident of Keith Hall and daily ride my bike to work which is in West Ballina. In theory, if i ride my bike to work 200 days in a year that is going to cost me \$400, which is more than a car.

I am not sure how much thought has gone into this policy, as I would assume you would prefer a bike to be on the ferry, as it takes up less space, and also encourages people to leave their cars at home and be active.

I am already paying passes for 2 cars which is \$590 and feel as though it is a disappointing decision to unfairly charge a fee which is exorbitant just to cross the ferry on a bike for local residents.

My proposal is to waive the fee for residents that already have passes for their cars. This makes much more sense.

Can you please let me know how this issue progresses.

Much appreciated,

--
Paul Pryor

PDHPE Teacher
Emmanuel Anglican College
62 Horizon Drive
Ballina NSW 2478

Phone: +61 2 66815054 Facsimilie: +61 2 6681 3704

Email: ppryor@eac.nsw.edu.au

CRICOS Provider Code: 02449F



Sandra Bailey

From: Bill Richardson <bill_juan@sctelco.net.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2015 1:44 PM
Subject: Burns Point Ferry Cyclists Fees

The General Manager
Ballina Shire Council

I am aware that a toll of \$1 per crossing is now in operation for cyclists using the Burns Point Ferry. I am also aware that Council may be considering reducing the levy for regular users of the service via pre-paid vouchers, or coupons. While many cyclists are against a toll of any form, I understand the situation Council faces with the continuing operational cost losses and I am not against cyclists being expected to make a user pay contribution. What does concern me and hence the reason for this email, is the manner in which the toll is collected. As you are probably aware there is no provision for the storage of bicycles on the ferry while cyclists pay the toll, albeit by cash of pre-paid voucher, or coupon.

Further, there is a substantial safety risk associated with cyclists moving about on the ferry deck and climbing the stairs to the ferry operators window to pay the toll due to the specialised footwear the majority of cyclists wear. Put simply, the shoes are designed for cycling safety and efficiency; not for walking.

When walking, cycling shoes present a slip hazard at the best of times and as the decks and stairs of the ferry are often wet it will lead to potential serious slip and fall accidents, unless the toll collection is carried out in a safe and practical manner.

Because of my safety concerns, I urge Council to consider introducing an annual pre-paid levy for cyclists who could then be issued with a laminated card that can be simply shown to the ferry operator from the deck of the ferry. To cater for low frequency local users of the service, or visitors to the area I suggest pre-paid booklets be made available to cover say ten crossings so each voucher could be torn off and placed by the cyclist in a secure storage bin on the deck of the ferry while under the visual surveillance of the ferry operator. The cost to produce the laminated cards and vouchers could be covered in the tolls.

While Council is facing some backlash over the introduction of the toll from cyclists, to my mind the emphasis now should be on its practical implementation with a focus on user safety.

As an avid senior cyclist who appreciates the opportunities the ferry service provides my paramount concern at all times is for rider safety. That of my own and my fellow cyclists.

I am a resident/ratepayer in Ballina and a member of three cycling groups including Cycling Australia and I continue to train for races and organized events at venues throughout Australia, riding up to 18,000 kilometres per year. Should you want to contact me at any time regarding this issue, please feel free to use my email address, or mobile. I would greatly appreciate my input being given some consideration...thank you.

Yours sincerely
Bill Richardson
4/22 Norton Street, Ballina
M. 0438249415
Email bill-juan@sctelco.net.au

This email has been scanned by the Symantec Email Security.cloud service.
For more information please visit <http://www.symanteccloud.com>

10.4 Ferry - Bicycle Fees.DOC

Sandra Bailey

From: HAY, David <triboy1406@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 August 2015 3:36 PM
Subject: Objection to Burns Point Ferry Bicycle Fee

ATTN: Peter Morgan

I wish to lodge a formal objection to the Burns Point Ferry Bicycle Fee.

As a regular user of the ferry, I believe the fee of \$1 per journey to be excessive and has the potential to exceed the cost of an annual vehicle pass. School students who commute daily must find this fee especially excessive.

I question the business effectiveness of the decision

- Health and safety implications
- Delay to ferry crossing whilst collecting the additional fee
- Will the ferry master carry sufficient change
- Will have a detrimental impact on tourism in the area
- Will have a detrimental impact on cafes used by cyclists in the Wardell area

I do not believe appropriate risk management has been performed

- Slip and fall incidents as cyclists cross the deck and ascend/descend the stairs to pay the fee
- Unattended bicycles being damaged
- Vehicles being damaged by falling bicycles

If I walk onto the ferry and carry my bicycle, I should be considered a pedestrian. If this is not the case then I expect all vehicles carrying bicycles to be charged an extra fee per bicycle.

I do not believe the ramifications of this decision has been properly thought thru and has been implemented to appease the disgruntled residents following the increase to vehicle fees. Resulting only in an additional community group who are only trying to stay fit and healthy, to become disgruntled

My decision to cycle on the south side is purely based on safety and cost efficiency. If this area becomes cost preventive I will be forced back into the traffic of the Ballina local area and surrounding highways which has a detrimental impact on traffic flow.

I look forward to a commonsense return to no fee for bicycles and return to harmony on the ferry crossing.

Cheers
David Hay
Head Coach

iCan Coaching

Group

Unleashing your full potential
E-mail: triboy1406@gmail.com
Mobile: +61478031532



**NCAS Accredited Coach -
Level 1**
Triathlon Australia



Technical Official - Level 2
Triathlon New South Wales

This email may contain confidential information and may be protected by rules of legal privilege. If you receive this email in error, or are not the intended recipient, you must not use it or the information in any way. If this is the case, please let the sender know by return email or by telephoning +61478031532. Please delete any such email from your computer.