

## Tasman Bridge Accident Survey

Bicycle Tasmania initiated an online survey related to cycling accidents occurring on the Tasman Bridge in November 2006. Anecdotally many cyclists have accidents on the bridge but we were not aware of any agency collecting statistics or information that may help in improvements. This survey is ongoing. Please continue to report all accidents as accurately as possible.

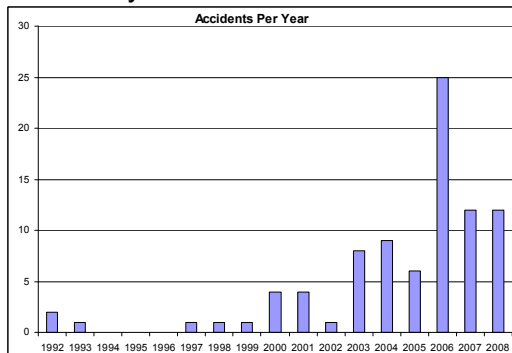
In summary, the most common accidents are due to a combination of

- gusty side winds,
- narrowness of the shared pathways especially when passing others,
- clipping the railing with handlebar,
- excessive speed and/or poor visibility,
- path surface (gap in deck near steel plate),
- other steelwork sticking out and catching handlebars.

We have been told by DIER engineers responsible for bridge design and maintenance that widening the shared pathways would, given the engineering constraints, be extremely expensive and is unlikely to occur in the short to medium term.

Since initiating the survey about 118 accidents have been reported. Who knows how many don't get reported – another 50%, 100%? Some accidents have been quite severe and unnerving to read. Very recently DIER installed new ladder extensions and deflection sheet metal work. Soon after this BT started receiving emails and reports of accidents, and it appears the ladder extensions have since been removed.

Note in the following graph the spike in 2006 is quite possibly related to when the survey started.



Accident where wind was a factor:

- 30 - gusty or strong wind, or was caught unaware
- 15 – some wind

Other contributing factors to accident:

- 33 - railing involved
- 23 - 2nd bike or car
- 10 - pedestrian
- 29 - other hardware (box/ ladder) involved
- 15 - excessive speed
- 14 - gap in surface or wet
- 26 - visibility

Accidents related to direction:

- 53 travelling east
- 51 travelling west

Number of days off work:

- 80 reported no days
- 21 reported average of 9 days
- total of 196 days off work

Every respondent said they knew of someone who does not cycle over the Tasman Bridge because they do not think it is safe.

Some of the accidents were very severe and the stories were quite gut wrenching. Given that any improvement in conditions are going to be slow, if they ever occur, **PLEASE PLEASE**

- always ride with extreme care,
- especially in cross winds,
- ride slowly,
- especially when approaching other cyclists or pedestrians,
- especially over the decking steel plate that has a gap near it,
- maybe consider getting off and riding (as one respondent now does).