

# Folding bicycles (in folded or bagged condition) on public transport in Australia and New Zealand

Prepared by the Bicycle Federation of Australia - May 2007

Area	Transport operator	Makes distinction between folding and non-folding bikes	Current status for accompanied bicycle	Additional information
National	Qantas (Domestic)	No	All bikes must be boxed or bagged. Bikes must be partially disassembled to fit in box. Boxes sold at airports for \$16.50	The bike box constitutes one piece of checked baggage. Excess baggage rates charged if the bike box and checked baggage exceed the free baggage piece allowance.
	Virgin Blue (Domestic)	No	Bikes are considered luggage. Owner must present bike to check-in pre-boxed or bagged. Virgin Blue do not sell bike boxes.	Each bike represent 5kgs of the guests' free baggage allowance. Regardless of the weight of the bike). Free baggage allowance is 20kgs, leaving 15kgs for other luggage.
	Greyhound Australia	No	Bikes charged separately to luggage. Charges for accompanied bikes: Assembled \$49, Disassembled \$25, Boxed \$25.	Items that are considered to be standard baggage (not separately charged) include (but are not limited to): Boogie boards, Skis, Snow Boards, Golf Clubs/Bags, Golf Buggies (separate from Bag). Prams and wheelchairs travel free.
	Great Southern Railway (long distance rail)	No	Bikes carried in luggage van, \$80 fee per trip.	Prams and wheelchairs permitted as part of checked luggage.
NSW	Metropolitan rail services	No	Accompanied bikes travel free out of peak and on weekends. Half fare at other times.	Golf buggies, shopping carts and child strollers are permitted free at all times. No bicycle storage areas provided. Some inter-urban trains have a few hooks to hang bikes.
	Metro buses	No	No bikes permitted	No racks on buses
	Sydney Ferries	No	Bikes permitted subject to available space.	At the discretion of ferry staff
	Sydney Light Rail	No	Bikes permitted subject to available space.	At the discretion of driver
	Country Link (interstate and regional rail)	No	Only three spaces are available for carrying bicycles, surfboards or snowboards per train. Coaches have one space reserved for this type of item. A place must be reserved when purchasing a ticket. Weight limited to 20kg. A fee of \$12.10 applies.	Baby strollers, prams and capsules, along with golf clubs and collapsible wheelchairs are classed as carry on luggage and travel free.
Victoria	Metlink trains	No	Bicycles carried free at all times	
	Metlink trams and buses	No	Bicycles not carried	
	Vline regional trains	No	Bicycles carried free in storage area	
	Vline coaches	No	Bicycles not carried	
Queensland	Citytrain metro rail	Yes	Folding bicycles are permitted to travel at anytime as long as the bicycle is bagged. The bagged bike should be no bigger than 79cm X 59cm X 36cm.	Full-size bikes permitted free out of peak and on weekends. Some services against the peak also free. Bikes not permitted on peak services.

	Traveltrain regional rail	No	Bicycles are accepted as checked luggage on all services except for Tilt Train and Spirit of Capricorn services. These trains do not have a baggage car and there is no room for bicycles in the passenger carriages.	Bike fee is 20% of the adult economy rail fare for the journey. Bikes must be checked-in partially disassembled: handlebars turned parallel to the frame, pedals and bags removed.
	Brisbane City buses	No	No bikes in buses unless racks fitted.	External (front) bike racks (carry 2 bikes) fitted to buses on three routes.
WA	TransWA regional rail	No	Bicycles and surfboards are carried on all services for a fee (excluding the Prospector) if space permits.	Bicycles should fit into the storage compartment. Pre-booking is recommended as space is limited.
	TransPerth rail	Yes	Six month trial of free fold-up bicycle travel from 5 February 2007 Fold-up bicycles in a carry bag not exceeding 79cm long x 59cm high x 36cm wide.	Full-size bikes are permitted free out of peak and on weekends. Some services against the peak also free. Not permitted on peak services.
	TransPerth buses	Yes	Belt-driven fold up bicycles with small wheels are carried free - space permitting. Fold up bicycles must be kept out of the aisle.	Full-size bikes not permitted on buses.
	TransPerth ferries	No	Bicycles of any type are permitted to travel free.	Two ferry services.
SA	Adelaide Metro trains	No	Accompanied bikes travel free out of peak and on weekends. Concession fare at other times. Dependent on space available.	
	Adelaide Metro trams and buses	No	Bicycles not permitted in buses.	
Tasmania	MetroTas	No	Bicycles not permitted in buses.	
Northern Territory	Darwin Bus Alice Springs Bus	No	Full-size bicycles not permitted in buses. Hand luggage at discretion of driver.	
ACT	ACTION buses	No	No bikes in buses unless racks fitted.	External (front) bike racks (carry 2 bikes) fitted to 300 route buses.
NZ	Tranz Scenic	No	Dependent on space. At discretion of staff. \$10 per trip.	Two bikes only can be pre-booked.
	MAXX Auckland Bus	Yes	Folding bikes permitted. Full-size bikes not permitted on buses.	
	MAXX Rail	No	Dependent on space. At discretion of staff. \$1.00 per trip.	
	MAXX ferries	No	Dependent on space. Free. At discretion of staff.	
	Regional bus	No	Bikes permitted subject to available space.	Partial disassembly may be required.

## Notes

1. Folding bicycles are a class of personal transport designed specifically for travel on public transport systems. Most will easily occupy the space of a medium to large size suitcase.
2. Most Australian operators do not make a distinction between normal full-size bicycles and folding bicycles. Rules, fares and restrictions are applied regardless of the type of machine.
3. This lack of awareness and inability to embrace the folding bicycle type is an inhibition to commuter travel and tourism.
4. European rail companies make a distinction between folding bikes and full-size bikes. Folding bikes travel free as passenger luggage and have to be folded and protected (bagged or wrapped) and stored in luggage racks. The website <http://www.railpassenger.info/> lists the availability of bike travel on European systems.
5. Peak travel times differ from state to state. For national consistency it is desirable that uniform peak times be adopted by all state transport agencies. Operational issues such as coordinating peak times to ticket machine operation should be easily rectified once uniform peak travel times are set.

**This document was prepared by Warren Salomon for the Bicycle Federation of Australia. The information was sourced from the various transport agencies' and operators' websites and is current as of May 2007. Please advise Warren at [wsalomon@bigpond.net.au](mailto:wsalomon@bigpond.net.au) if you have any changes or corrections to this information so it can be kept up to date.**