ECOTEKK SUNSHINE COAST ELECTRIC BIKE RENTAL RISK STATEMENT

McKitney Pty Ltd trading as Ecotekk Sunshine Coast (ABN: 40 139 013 204) and the Hirer(s) have understood and agree as follows and in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of hire

EcoTekk Public Liability Risk Statement:

Please be aware of the following risks associated with electric bicycle (e-bike) usage. By accepting the conditions outlined in this Risk Statement, you acknowledge these potential hazards and agree to take necessary precautions to mitigate them.

1. **Protective Gear**:
   Failure to wear protective gear, such as a helmet, can increase the risk of severe injury in case of an accident.
   a. **Head Protection**:
      A correctly fitted helmet is essential for head protection.
      i. Unsafe Helmets: Ensure that your helmet is safe and all components are permanently attached. Strangulation Risk: Be aware of the risk of strangulation if a helmet becomes caught on an object.
      ii. Availability of Helmets: The requirement for helmets can make spontaneous rides challenging, always wear a helmet while riding, even to nearby destinations like a shop.
   b. **Sun Exposure**:
      Prolonged sun exposure can lead to sunburn, heat exhaustion, and skin damage. Take precautions, such as wearing sunscreen and UV-protective clothing.
      i. Sun Sleeves: Consider using sun sleeves for added protection against harmful UV rays.
   c. **Footwear Security**:
      When riding an e-bike, it's important to have secure footwear. Shoes that could readily fall off, like flip-flops/thongs, can pose a risk.
      i. Shoelaces: It is crucial to tie shoelaces tightly to keep them out of the spokes or the chain. Loose shoelaces can get caught in the bike's moving parts, leading to accidents.
      ii. Foot Protection: Closed-in shoes provide protection for your feet. In the event of an accident, injuries to unprotected feet are likely to be much more significant.
      iii. Pedal Grip: Shoes should grip the bike's pedals effectively. Cleats, shoes with high heels, or flip-flops can all create problems while riding.
      iv. Injury Prevention: Proper footwear can help prevent cuts, scrapes, and other injuries that could occur if you need to put your foot down quickly or if you accidentally brush against moving parts of the bike.
2. **Bicycle Condition**:
   It is important to check that your bicycle is in good condition, and ready for the journey ahead, at drop-off and before every ride. This includes the brakes, tyres, lights, and battery.
   a. Roadworthiness: Confirm that your bicycle is ready to hit the road. This includes ensuring that the brakes are responsive, the tyres are well-inflated, and the lights are functioning properly.
   b. Suitability for Use: Make sure the bicycle is suitable for your intended journey. Whether you're planning a city commute or an off-road adventure, the right bike can make all the difference.
   c. Size and frame geometry: Ensure the bicycle is the right size for you. A well-fitted bike isn't just more comfortable—it's also easier to control, making your ride safer and more enjoyable.
   d. Maintenance: Our e-bikes are well-maintained and are a joy to ride. Regular maintenance checks between each hire keep our bikes in peak condition and help limit unexpected issues.
   e. Battery Risks: Damaged batteries used in electric bikes can overheat, catch fire, or explode, posing a significant risk. Report any damage to the e-bike battery to ecoTekkSC staff and do not ride.
3. **Unexpected Punctures**:
   Punctures can occur unexpectedly, potentially causing the rider to lose control and fall off the bike.
   a. Damage to the wheel: Riding on a flat tyre, even for a short distance, can damage the bike's wheel.

b. Delays: Repairing a puncture can cause delays, disrupting the schedule of a guided tour.
c. Maintain Correct Tyre Pressure: Maintain recommended tyre pressures to prevent punctures, especially with the added weight of cargo on electric bikes.
d. Avoid Sharp Objects: Attempt to avoid riding over sharp objects or rough surfaces that could cause punctures.

4. **Loss of Control**:
Dismounting while the bike is moving can cause the rider to lose control, leading to accidents.
   a. Injuries During Mounting and Dismounting: Many injuries occur during the mounting and dismounting process, particularly for older riders or those with mobility issues. The extra weight of an e-bike could cause it to tip over and injure the rider.
   b. Minor Injuries: Although dismounting while moving typically occurs at low speeds, it can still result in minor bruises, cuts, and property damage.
   c. Embarrassment: Falling off a bike can be embarrassing.
   d. Bike Falling Over: If the seat height is adjusted incorrectly (you cannot touch the ground with the front ball of the foot while seated), the rider may need to lean the bike more to one side to get a foot flat on the ground. This is likely to cause the bike to fall over to one side completely, possibly with one leg under it, which can cause injury.
   e. Too Much Acceleration at the Start: Excessive speed setting for riding conditions from a standstill is a common cause of minor e-bike accidents.
5. **Edge Wheel Tracking:**
The wheels of the bicycle could get caught in the railway tracks, the edge of the pathway, lip of a driveway, or similar, causing the rider to lose control and potentially fall.
   a. Uneven Surfaces: High lips alongside pathways can create uneven surfaces, which can lead to accidents if the rider is not careful.
   b. Obstacles: Obstacles such as rocks or debris near the high lips can pose a risk, especially if the rider does not see them in time.
   c. Limited Space: If the pathway is narrow, the rider might have less room to maneuver, increasing the risk of an accident.
   d. Visibility: In low light conditions, it might be difficult for the rider to see the high lip, increasing the risk of accidents.
6. **Dangers to Pedestrians**:
Electric bikes are quiet, which can make it difficult for pedestrians to hear them coming. This can lead to accidents if pedestrians are not aware of the bike's presence. Use the bell supplied on the e-bike to warn other path users.
   a. Increased Speed: Electric bikes can reach higher speeds than traditional bikes, increasing the risk of accidents. Riders may need to be more accustomed to the increased speed/acceleration, to avoid collisions with pedestrians or vehicles or stationary objects.
7. **Young Children's Unpredictable Movements**:
Toddlers can move unpredictably and may suddenly step into the path of a bicycle.
   a. Reduced Reaction Time: The speed of electric bicycles could give riders less time to react if a toddler moves into their path.
   b. Noise: Electric bicycles are relatively quiet, which means toddlers may not hear them approaching.
   c. Height Difference: Because toddlers are shorter, they may not be seen by the rider until it's too late, especially in crowded areas.
   d. Injury Risk: Due to their small size and developing bodies, toddlers are at risk of serious injury if a collision occurs.
8. **Age-Related Risks**:
Certain age groups, such as older adults, may face increased risks due to difficulties with balancing on an electric bike.
9. **Dogs' Unexpected Behavior:**
Dogs can behave unpredictably, especially when they are excited or scared. They might run into the path of the bicycle causing a collision.
   a. Leashes: A dog on a leash can pose a risk if the leash extends across the path of the bicycle. The cyclist could trip over the leash, leading to an accident.
   b. Distraction: Dogs can be a distraction for cyclists, especially if they are barking, running around, or jumping up.
   c. Dog Attacks: In rare cases, dogs might become aggressive and attack the cyclist.
   d. Legal Issues: In Australia, it's illegal to ride a bike with a dog on a leash, and doing so can lead to fines.
   e. Injury to the Dog: If a dog is running alongside a bicycle, there's a risk that the dog could get injured, especially if the bike is moving at a high speed.
10. **Slippery Surfaces**:
Wet weather can create slippery pathways and bicycle lanes, increasing the risk of accidents, especially on painted

surfaces or when wet leaves, algae, organic matter, or other materials, are present.

a. Reduced Visibility: Rain and fog can reduce visibility for both riders and other road users, making it more challenging to detect obstacles, cyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles.
b. Equipment Malfunction: Wet conditions can potentially lead to equipment malfunctions, like less effective brakes.
c. Increased Stopping Distance: Wet conditions can increase the stopping distance of e-bikes, necessitating more space between riders and other objects.
d. Puddles: Puddles can obscure potholes and hazards, requiring riders to exercise caution and avoid them when possible.
e. Bike Lanes: Bike lanes, especially those with a green surface, aim to enhance bicycle awareness and traction during wet conditions.

11. **Risky Driving Behavior**:
    E-bike riders may engage in risky driving behaviour, resulting in accidents, including aggressive, negligent, or violating actions.
12. **Non-compliance with Traffic Rules**:
    Some riders may not adhere to traffic rules, such as running red lights, riding in the opposite direction, and using motor vehicle lanes.
13. **Electric Mountain Bike** (e-MTB) **Risks:**
    e-Biking can pose several risks. Here are some common ones:
    a. Soft-Tissue Injuries: These are the most common type of injuries, accounting for about 40% of all e-bike injuries.
    b. Fractures: Particularly wrist fractures are another common injury associated with e-bike use.
    c. Internal Injuries: About 17% of e-bike injuries are internal.
    d. Concussion or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): While less common (0.5%), concussions or TBIs can occur, especially in the context of mountain biking.
    e. Broken Collarbone: A common injury in mountain biking.
    f. Carpal Tunnel Syndrome: This can be caused by the strain on the wrists during biking.
    g. Knee Pain and Lower Back Pain: These can result from the extra physical exertion of mountain biking.
    h. Skin Abrasions: These can occur from falls or collisions.
    i. Collisions with Pedestrians: E-bike-related injuries were more than three times more likely to involve a collision with a pedestrian than either pedal bicycles or powered scooters.

By accepting this risk, you understand and agree to assume the associated risks while using our e-bikes and take responsibility for your safety. It is imperative to exercise caution, follow safety guidelines, and use protective equipment for a safe and enjoyable experience.