

**Who are you?**

We're not a club or organisation. Critical Mass is a bike ride that takes place on the last Friday of every month in over 200 cities worldwide.

What's the protest about?

It's not a protest or demonstration, it's a celebration of cycling as an ideal way of getting around our city.

Why are you taking up all this room?

We're hardly taking up any room at all, imagine if all of us were driving cars!

Why are you blocking the traffic?

We're not blocking traffic – we are traffic! Like cars, buses, trucks and motorbikes, bicycles have a legal and equal right to the road. Cars take up most of the road space every other day of the month – Critical Mass is a chance for people to cycle together safely as the majority for a change, to enjoy their city and show others how much fun cycling can be.

So how do I join in?

Everyone is welcome! Critical Mass is peaceful, good-humoured, welcoming and fun. Simply turn up and ride. 5.30pm, the last Friday of every month at Hyde Park fountain.

Take a few minutes to look around and picture our city free of cars. What would the streets be filled with? What would our city smell like, sound like and feel like without cars?

Critical Mass is about sharing a vision of people-powered machines in a people-oriented society.

As cyclists, we struggle every day to ride amongst the craziness of motor traffic, to fight the noise and pollution, the speeding and general disrespect for cyclists. **To say we are second class road users is an understatement.**

Many motorists see us as having no real right to share the road.

Critical Mass is NOT an exercise to annoy motorists.

The point is to show everyone – **commuters, pedestrians, residents and policymakers**

– there is a better way around our beautiful city. One that is faster, healthier, cheaper *and* environmentally-friendly. Once people see how much fun cycling can be, and how much safer and more pleasant it makes their streets, the thinking behind our car-oriented transport policies will be challenged.

Cycling is

- **Healthier** – no need to spend your evenings or weekends in the gym if you cycle to and from work!
- Produces **no air or sound pollution**, the most energy efficient mode of transport
- **No dependence on fuel or oil**
- Fast – recent research showed that cycling into the city was faster than any other mode of transport
- **Inexpensive**
- **FUN!**

Cyclists should expect and demand safe accommodation on our public roads, just as every other user does. Nothing more is expected. Nothing less is acceptable. We believe all road users should be able to co-exist and **should treat each other with respect and courtesy**

Critical Mass: n. 1. The minimum amount or number required for something to happen, begin, etc. 2. The minimum number of people required to participate in any event or social action safely, or group-oriented social reality. 3. a bicycle ride in which a large number of cyclists congregate on a city street in order to promote bicycles' equal access to the road. The large numbers are effective in protecting themselves from automobiles.

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www.criticalmass.org.au/sydney