

Commuter Profile

Evangelos Krokos

Bike commuter from Redfern
to Sydney CBD

1) What does your typical commute look like?

When cycling to work I start in Redfern and end in Kent Street. The commute takes about 20-30 minutes, depending on how lucky I get with the traffic lights. I have been doing this since December 2019. COVID hasn't changed the commute itself, just the frequency I need to commute.

2) What made you decide to start riding to work and how does your bike commute compare to other transport options in the area?

For moving around in a 5-10km radius, cycling beats every other option and has less risk for a COVID infection. Cycling to work has a lot of benefits, it is a good opportunity for exercise and it saves money and time compared to other transport options. Having a cycleway on my route and end of trip facilities available at my workplace has helped make it possible for me to ride to work.

3) From your experiences, what has been the biggest benefit to you by riding your bike to work?

The greatest benefits are cost savings and better physical condition. Although when considering the air quality in big cities, the second part is questionable. That is why we need more people to cycle and have less cars on the road!

4) How much does it cost you to own and maintain your bike?

My bike paid for itself in the first 3 months with the total cost of purchasing and setting up my bike around \$400 and upkeep expected to be around \$15 per month. Transport cost for getting to work is about \$6/day, \$30/week, ~\$120/month.

I bought my bike used, and serviced it 9 months after buying it which cost around \$180, the next service in about 9-12 months should be around \$50. So over a period of 4-5 years, I would reckon that an average yearly cost of \$100-150 for upkeep should be expected, which amounts to less than \$15 per month.

5) What advice would you give to anyone looking to start riding their bike to work?

- Always follow the traffic rules, cycling is not dangerous, not following the road rules is.
- No need to get an expensive bike, get a used one, make sure it's in good condition and you're good to go!
- Dress lightly so as not to sweat excessively.
- A backpack with a change of clothes and a water bottle should be okay for commuting.
- Tip for the tyres: do not park your bike in direct sunlight, UV degrades the tyres.
- The Hitchhiker's guide to the Galaxy also strongly recommends having a towel. It is considered the most massively useful thing a traveller can have.

