

Two wheels or four?

A break down of annual costs






Merri-bek
City Council



We know that buying an electric bike is an investment, but if you're planning to use it for local trips like the school run, your work commute or picking up groceries, it can very easily replace a second car. For those that have good transport connectivity where they live, it can even replace your first car!

You already know that riding can save you time on traffic & parking for short local trips. But how does it stack up on your wallet? Let's compare costs for owning a second car vs an e-bike - we've crunched the numbers to help get you started.

			
Category	Second Car	Electric Cargo Bike	Standard E-bike
Maximum Carrying Capacity	2 Adults & 3 kids	1 Adult & up to 3 kids	1 Adult & up to 1 kid (in a child seat)
Upfront Purchase (New)	\$25,000 - \$35,000	\$3,500 - \$10,000	\$2,000 - \$4,500
Upfront Purchase (Second Hand)	\$10,000 - \$25,000	\$2,500 - \$8,000	\$1,000 - \$3,000
Annual Depreciation	\$2,800 - \$3,500	\$600 - \$1,200	\$350 - \$700
Registration & CTP	\$1,200 - \$1,800	\$0	\$0
Insurance (optional)	\$1,200 - \$2,400	\$300 - \$600	\$150 - \$300
Fuel / Electricity	\$1,800 - \$3,000	\$20 - \$50	\$15 - \$30
Servicing & Tyres	\$1,200 - \$1,800	\$300 - \$750	\$250 - \$400
Parking & Tolls	\$0 - \$1,000+	\$0	\$0
Helmet, lock & lights	\$0	\$150 - \$300	\$150 - \$300
Annual Running Costs	\$5,400 - \$10,000+	\$620 - \$1,400	\$415 - \$730
Annual Savings vs Car	-	~\$4,800 - \$8,600	~\$5,000 - \$9,300

All costs are based off Australian averages