

Posties back on their bikes

PUSHBIKE posties are making a comeback — with a hi-tech twist.

Posties will ditch their bikes in favour of specially produced electrical bicycles after a successful trial in Victoria and NSW.

About 1000 bicycles will arrive in Melbourne within the next fortnight and about half are expected to be allocated to Victoria.

Posties can use pedal power for most of their round with electrical assistance for hills.

Communication Workers' Union Victorian Branch Secretary Joan Doyle said a shortage of workers with motorbike licences and a high accident rate

Jessica Craven

were among reasons behind the move.

"A lot of posties have become fat and lazy and have beer guts. I used to be a pushbike postie and it keeps you really fit," Ms Doyle said.

"The vast majority of posties deliver by motorbike and have done so for years."

The green-friendly bicycles are also part of an Australia Post push to cut their carbon emissions by a quarter.

It's believed about a quarter of postal rounds in Victoria will be conducted on electric bicycle once they are delivered, mostly in the inner suburbs.