

# BLACK IS BEAUTIFUL



By Geoff Dobson

**B**lack bikes are electric bikes developed by nationwide e-bike retailer Electrify NZ for New Zealand customers and conditions.

The team learned what works (and doesn't) during many years of importing and retailing European and American brands, and now select quality components from among global manufacturers that have withstood the test of time.

And Black e-bikes are generally cheaper than many imports at under \$2000 for the Black City and Black Trail.

The Black City is a comfortable step-through to suit riders in a range of heights, with a rear hub drive, seven gears and up to level five pedal assist.

Most customers want batteries built into the frame for sleeker design, and this can be charged in situ or the battery removed if need be.



Geoff Dobson checks out the Black City

**We tested the Black City, the bike proving comfortable and stable even on a lumpy gravel road, and handling the one-hour urban commute over more than 25km with ease.**

That left two or three bars still showing on the five-bar battery indicator despite some steep hills and a heavy backpack.

Specifications provided show the Black City can do up to 60km on a single charge,



Black City - in the country.



depending on the terrain (flatness) and conditions (such as a screaming head wind).

On the flat or downhill (and with a tail wind) it's easy to use zero pedal assist, which saves on power and is like pedalling a normal bike – and it's not too heavy at about 21kg to keep it moving that way. It will do up to about 32km/h under pedal assist, the speed governed for safety which is necessary on most shared pathways.

**Black e-bikes come with a standard 36-volt 10.4Ah battery or you can upgrade to a 14Ah one if you need more power and range.**

The Black City has mudguards and a rear carrier (both absent on the Black Trail) – the mudguards especially handy in the rain so the rider doesn't get soaked from the road spray.

Pannier bags would be great for the rear carrier – I see lots of e-bikers with them.

Wide, 26-inch hybrid tyres and front fork suspension mean the bike can handle the road

or trail with ease, even in winter conditions. A thumb throttle gives power away from lights and is positioned so the rider doesn't accidentally hit it.

A bell on the left handlebar provides plenty of warning for others on shared paths or cycleways.

**You will need to buy front and rear lights if riding in the dark, a speedometer and odometer (unless you have them built into a rider app) and perhaps a bottle and holder if you are going any distance.**

Remember to get a good helmet if you don't already have one – and gloves provide more comfort and protection, although the handlebars are encased in good grip material.

No need to worry about the brakes – the Tektro mechanical disc brakes front and rear provide plenty of stopping power, even in the wet.

A 23km jaunt into a head wind proves the Black City's worth as an electric, without chewing too much battery power either.

**It comes with a two-year warranty, but make sure you get it serviced regularly.**

Electrify NZ has honed the Black e-bikes through years of dealing directly with customers.

It has sold more than 6000 e-bikes in New Zealand – now getting increased interest from overseas as demand steps up for e-bikes globally.

Black e-bikes are designed for Kiwis and therefore sturdy yet comfortable – and affordable too.

If you do want to go higher in price, Electrify NZ also sell a range of Magnum e-bikes and other top brands.

Visit [www.electrify.nz](http://www.electrify.nz) for more information, or visit one of their bike shops in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch or Dunedin.

## NZ's Electric Bike SPECIALISTS



**electrify.nz**