

# **Bike Theft in Auckland: An Inhibitor to Cycling Trips**

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# Focus of this Presentation

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- Bike theft has been identified as a concern in Auckland and other major centres of New Zealand.
- Auckland Transport (AT) is trialing the implementation and outcomes from a high-density network of secure bike parking in Central Auckland.
- Baseline research focused on bike parking behaviours, understanding of parking options, and concern and experiences of bike theft.
- This presentation will focus on key findings about bike theft from the research conducted.

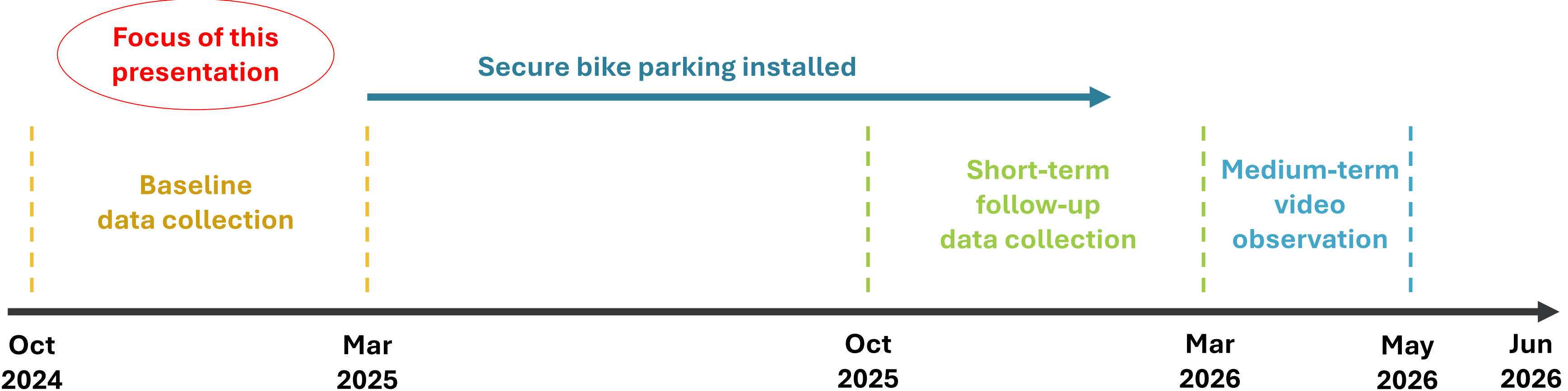
# AT Secure Bike Parking Trial

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- The trial involves the installation of secure bike parking in six new locations, to build on the existing network.
- Outcome evaluation focuses on:
  - How well understood are bike parking options, are they easy to use, what does secure bike parking look like?
  - Does the network increase use?
  - Can a network of secure storage facilities create trips?
- Locky Docks were chosen for the trial.



# Evaluation Timeline & Methods



**Video observation**  
of bike parking and theft behaviours at eight sites in Central Auckland.

**Survey**  
of Auckland cyclists, and non-cyclists (n= 856 at baseline)

**Interviews**  
with Auckland cyclists, including secure bike parking users (n= 20)

**Data analysis**  
of secure bike parking usage and Police/ Garage 529 theft data.

# Experiences of Bike Theft- Survey

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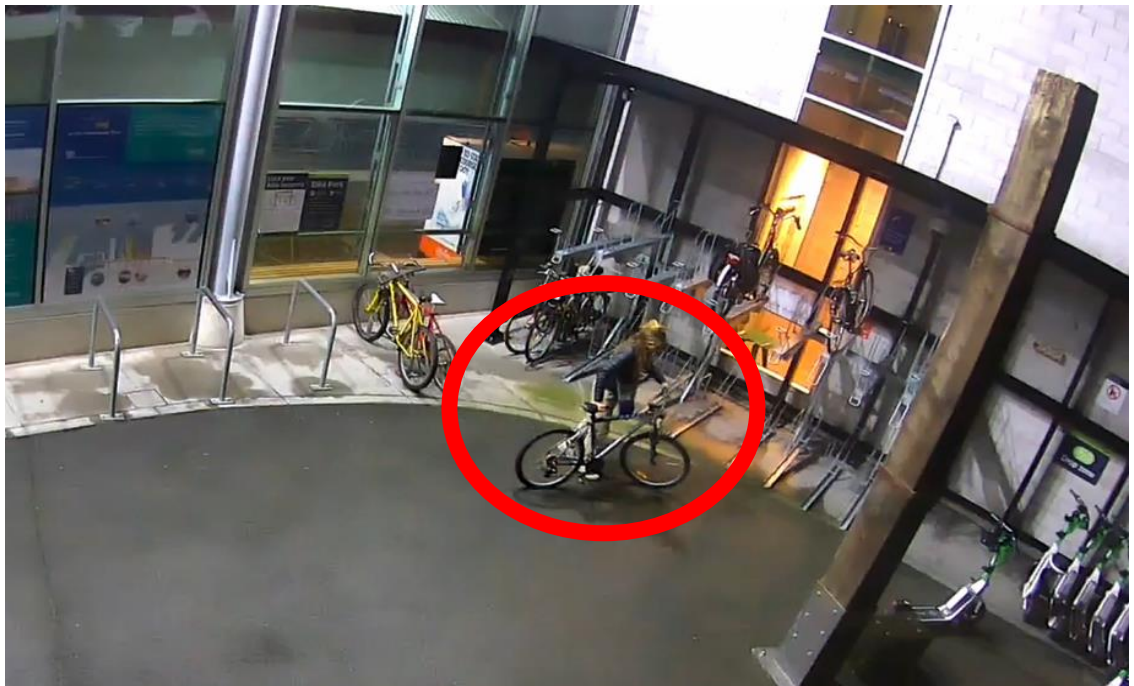
**19%** of **Central City** cyclists reported having their **bike stolen or vandalized** while parked in the central city or elsewhere.

- **72%** of these reported theft or vandalism events **occurred at on-street locations within the central city.**
- Accounts recalled bike theft, theft of accessories, and vandalism including puncturing of tyres, smashed lights, etc.

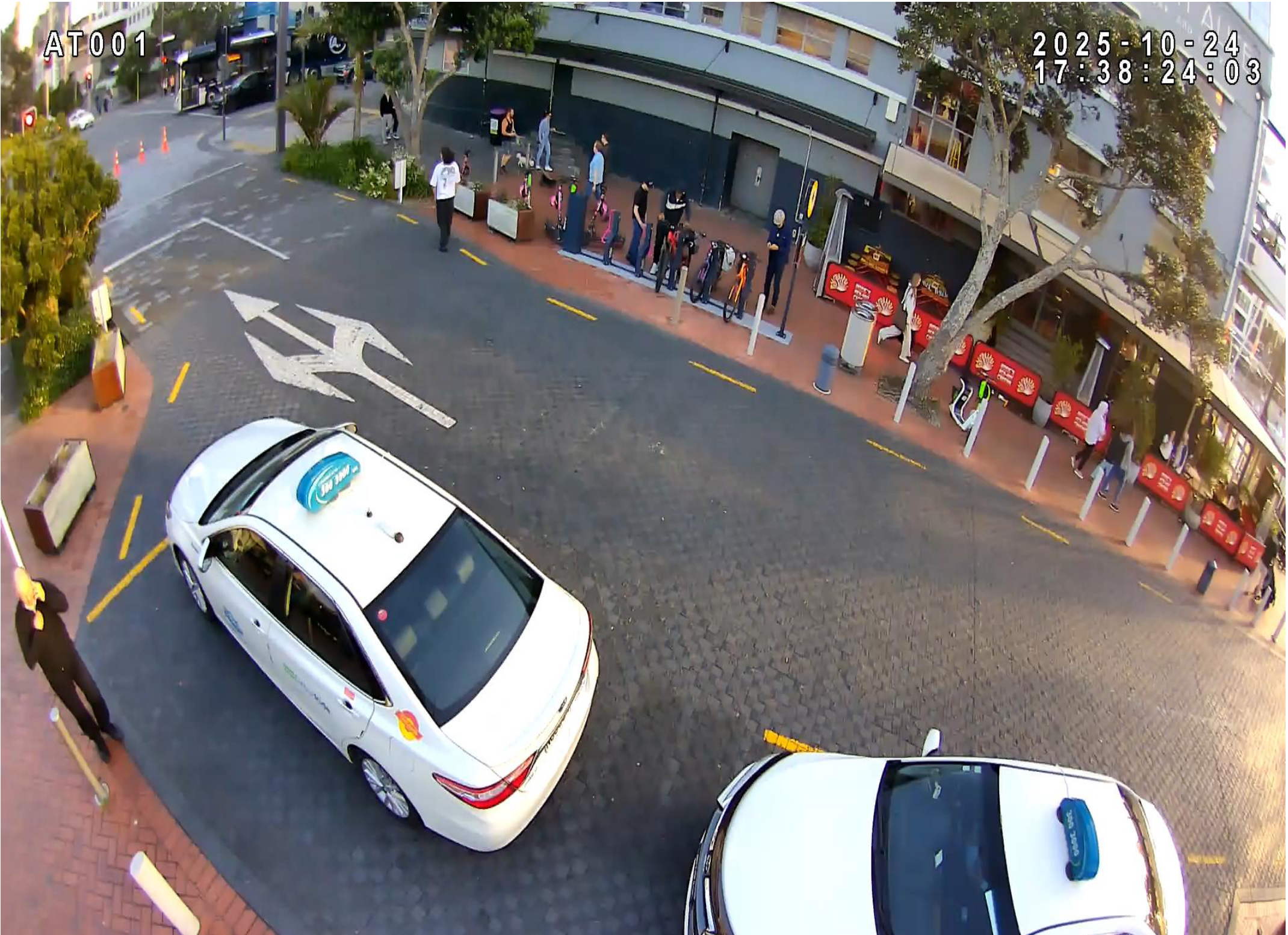
**11%** of **Other Auckland** cyclists reported having their **bike stolen or vandalized** while parked in the central city or elsewhere.

- **Half of the thefts occurred at their home and half occurred at on street locations,** some of which were in the central city.
- Accounts recalled bike theft and theft of accessories.

# Video Results- Thefts



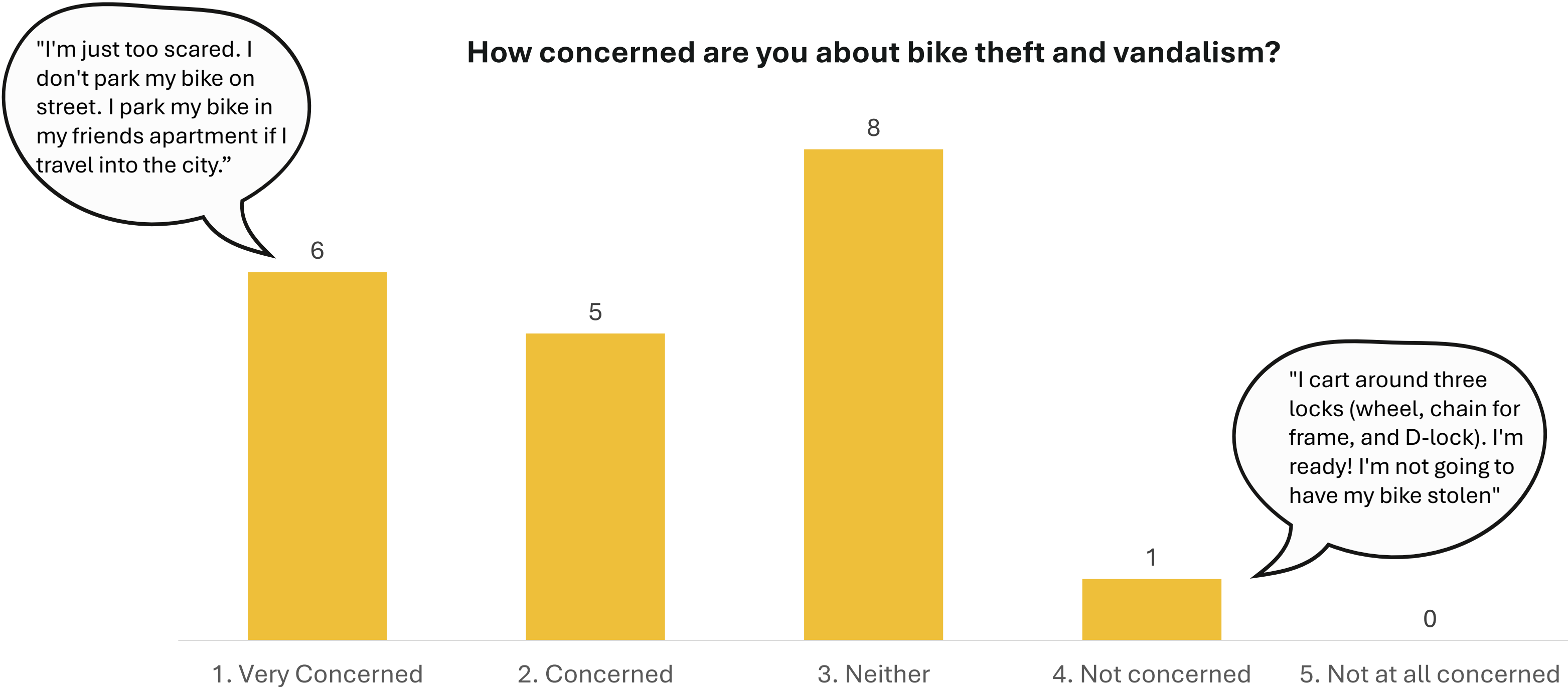
# Video Results- Attempted Thefts



# Concern about Bike Theft & Vandalism- Interviews

Participants who felt they were prepared to deal with bike theft were generally less concerned.

How concerned are you about bike theft and vandalism?



# Factors Affecting Level of Concern- Interviews

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## Factors informing rating of concern about bike theft and vandalism:

### Experience and awareness of bike theft (n=20)

- Have had their own bike stolen or seen theft or vandalism happen.
- Knowledge of friends/colleagues/family who have had their bike stolen.
- Awareness of bike theft through social media, Bike Auckland media, or discussion with others.
- Other ways of awareness (e.g., have seen snapped locks around)

### Preparedness for preventing bike theft (n=11)

- Have a secure lock for their bike (e.g., D-lock or chain lock)
- Have access to secure bike parking (e.g., Locky Dock or secure lock-up at work)
- Have strategies for preventing bike theft (e.g., where they travel with their bike, at certain times of the day, and where/how they secure their bike)
- Level of acceptance that bike theft is a possibility

### Concern about aspects of bike parking (n=10)

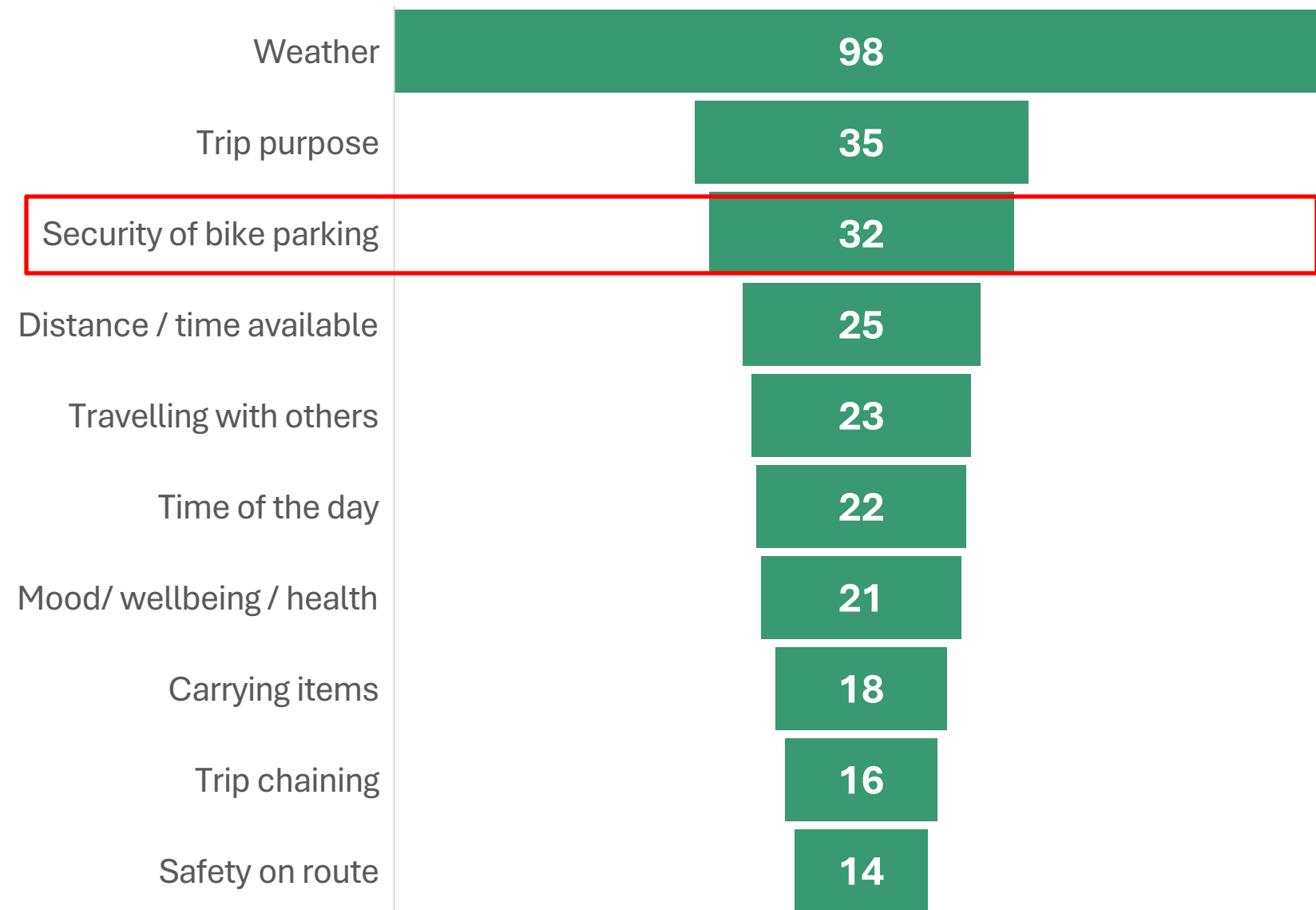
- Parking in less visited areas of the city
- Leaving bike for long periods of time
- Parking in the same place regularly
- Bike parking that can be unsecured (e.g. bolted staples/lamp posts)

### Consequences if bike theft happened to them (n=11)

- Lack of Police follow-up/CCTV assistance when bike theft occurs
- Cost of replacing the bike (particularly e-bikes or accessorised bikes)
- Disruptions to how they travel if their bike was stolen

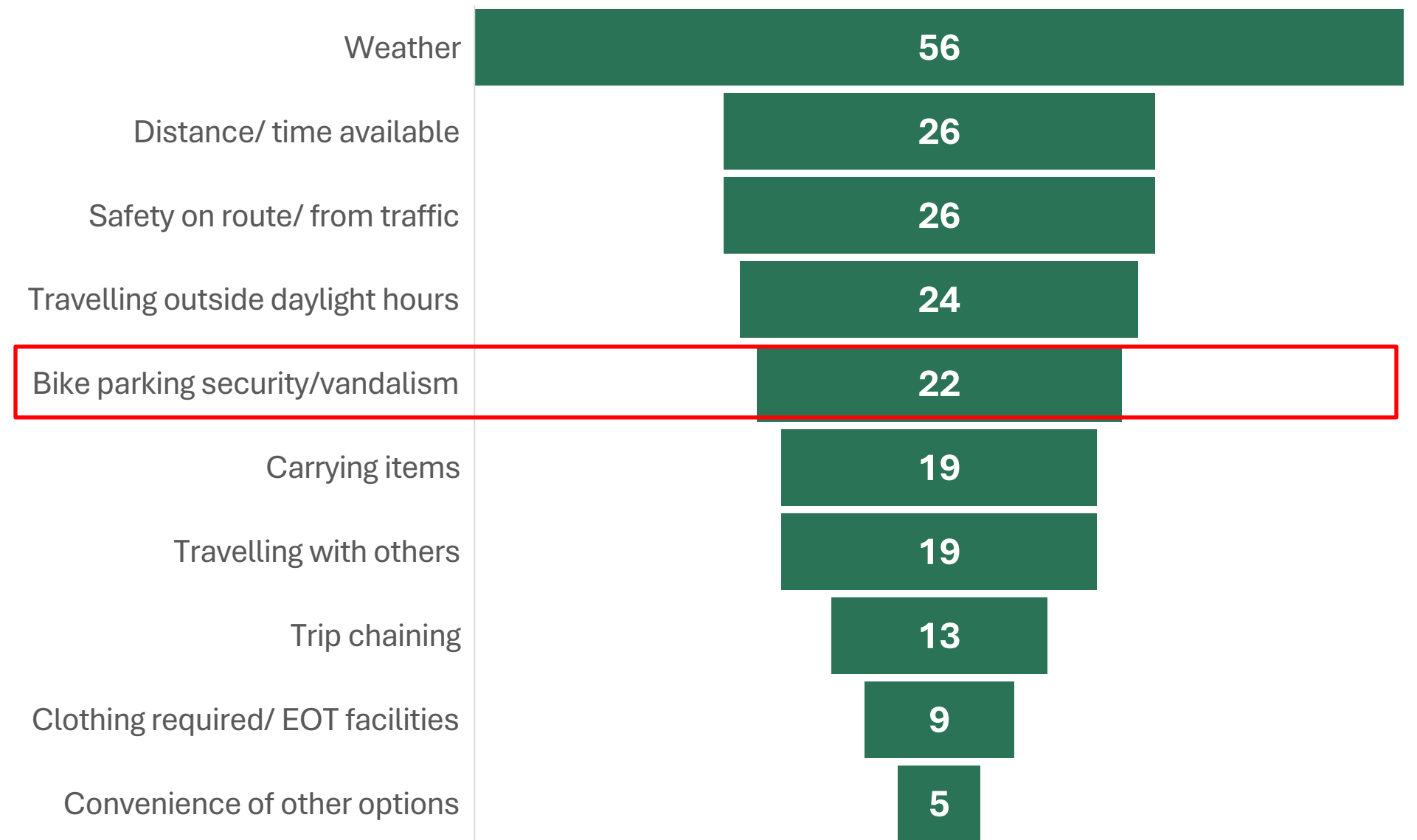
# Barriers to More Cycling Trips- Survey

What factors influence your bike trips to the central city?- Top 10 responses



**Other responses:** to avoid traffic/parking costs (11), what's happening at work (10), public transport availability to trip chain (9), clothing required/EOT facilities (7), convenience of trip/route (7), bike availability (3), social reasons (3)

For your trips into the central city that you use a vehicle/public transport for, what are the barriers for you doing them by bike/e-bike?- Top 10 responses



**Other responses:** trip purpose (3), health/fitness (3), hills (2)

# Opportunities to Shift Cycling Trips- Survey

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44%

Central City cyclists

&

32%

Other Auckland cyclists

**would change some of their trips** into the central city taken by other modes to cycling if **more secure bike parking** was available.

# Summing up

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- Bike theft is a significant concern for Auckland cyclists, particularly those who travel to Central Auckland.
- The security of bike parking at destinations affects decisions whether to cycle.
- Secure bike parking is needed so that other investments, such as cycleways, can reach their full potential.
- Outcomes from the AT Secure Bike Parking Trial will provide further insights.



# What's next?

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- Short-term follow-up data collection will be completed shortly (survey, interviews, theft and Locky Dock data).
- Evaluation findings to date will be reported in mid 2026.
- Ongoing monitoring of the trial will be completed, with further evaluation stages possible.

