



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 – TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS THIS WEEK INTO E-SCOOTERS, E-BIKES AND RELATED MOBILITY OPTIONS**

**FOR RELEASE AT 6.30 AM 29 OCTOBER 2024**

The Upper House committee examining the use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options will hold three public hearings this week on Tuesday 29, Wednesday 30 and Thursday 31 October 2024.

The committee will hear from a diverse range of witnesses over the three hearings, including users, operators of share bike schemes, local councils, medical associations, peak bodies and community organisations. Witnesses from the NSW Government and the NSW Productivity and Equality Commission are also scheduled to appear.

The Chair of Portfolio Committee No. 6 – Transport and the Arts, Ms Cate Faehrmann MLC, stated: 'There's no doubt that e-scooters and e-bikes have made it easier for many people to get around, however, New South Wales hasn't kept pace with other jurisdictions in regulating these devices, which is understandably leading to frustration in the community. The committee will closely examine the regulatory framework governing the use of e-mobility devices, including the NSW Government's announcement this week, to ensure the growing number of people using these transport options are well-supported and safe, along with other road users and pedestrians'.

As part of the inquiry process, members of the public were invited to complete a questionnaire in lieu of making a submission, with 1,298 people taking part, including 467 people who identified as light electric vehicle users and 353 as pedestrians. Some of the key findings from the questionnaire include:

- The environmental benefit of reducing emissions as well as the potential to reduce traffic congestion, and faster and convenient commuting are among the most important factors determining the choice to use e-mobility devices.
- There is considerable concern about safety, especially regarding the use of devices on shared paths. Many highlighted the need for enhanced infrastructure and clearer regulations.
- Many expressed a need for clear technical standards for e-mobility devices, targeted enforcement against dangerous behaviours, and comprehensive user education.

The online questionnaire summary report detailing these findings are available on the inquiry webpage: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3052#tab-otherdocuments>



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Ms Faehrmann continued: 'There has been widespread public interest in the use of e-scooters and e-bikes in particular, as reflected in the large number of written submissions and responses to the online questionnaire for this inquiry. I'm looking forward to hearing from a wide range of stakeholders over the course of this inquiry'.

The public hearings will take place in the Jubilee Room at Parliament House, Sydney. Members of the public are welcome to attend in person. The hearings will also be livestreamed on the Parliament's website: <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/pages/webcasts.aspx>

Further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference and hearing schedules, are available on the inquiry webpage:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3052>

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