



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 - TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Inquiry into E-scooters and E-bikes Recommends Significant and Urgent Reform**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**13 FEBRUARY 2025**

An inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options, has just handed down its report and recommended significant and urgent reform to the way in which these devices are regulated.

'E-mobility has revolutionised how people move through our cities, but our regulations haven't kept pace', said Committee Chair Cate Faehrmann MLC. 'We need immediate action to ensure public safety while also ensuring the use of e-mobility is actively supported.'

'Many people in the community are understandably frustrated at the lax regulatory framework for e-scooters and shared e-bike schemes, along with a lack of enforcement. This has led to dangerous speeds and bikes strewn all over footpaths, posing a significant risk to pedestrians, especially people with disability, the elderly, and children.'

'Meanwhile the responsibility has fallen on local councils to managed shared e-bike issues, with many struggling against a patchwork of inconsistent regulations and oversight that varies from one council area to the next. The lack of a unified, state-wide approach has left councils without the tools or authority to effectively address mounting community concerns,' added Ms Faehrmann.

Key recommendations from the committee include that the NSW Government:

- develop a comprehensive framework to integrate private and shared e-mobility into the state's transport system that supports the use of both private and shared e-scooters, e-bikes and other e-mobility devices as legitimate forms of transport
- regulate the use of private e-scooters in New South Wales
- amend its draft e-scooter rules to allow riding on footpaths and shared paths, unless otherwise stated, at a maximum speed of 15 km/h, with riders having to give way to pedestrians at all times
- institute a 15km/h speed limit for e-mobility devices on shared paths and implement complementary measures, including enhanced enforcement and rider education programs, to ensure safe and responsible e-scooter use



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 6 - TRANSPORT AND THE ARTS

- reduce on-road speed limits in the appropriate local government areas, providing for:
  - 30 km/h speed limits in the city centres, high streets, around schools, around childcare centres and playgrounds, around universities and health care centres
  - 40 km/h speed limits in all other areas
- develop a plan for the provision of parking infrastructure for shared e-bikes and e-scooters in cities and key regional centres, including dedicated parking locations, ideally no more than 200 m apart in high-density areas
- invest in a statewide social media campaign targeted at young people about safe and responsible e-mobility devices use
- establish and regulate consistent, statewide standards for clear, up to-date and easily understood signage about road rules for e-mobility device users and provide targeted funding to local governments for the installation and maintenance of this signage on road and path infrastructure.

'These aren't just recreational riders - they're commuters, they're parents and they're essential workers who have found that e-mobility has made a big difference to their daily lives. While they understand the need for safety measures, they're frustrated by infrastructure gaps and restrictive regulations. They're calling for balanced rules that protect public safety while allowing this promising transport option to grow,' said Ms Faehrmann.

The committee also recommends reviewing maximum power ratings for some e-bikes to align with other jurisdictions and expanding dedicated cycling infrastructure. The report also advocates for exploring options for further rider education and knowledge testing, strengthened battery safety standards and management and new protocols for footpath riding that prioritise pedestrian safety.

'The committee acknowledges that the NSW Government has started laying groundwork for reform, particularly around e-scooter legalisation and road rule updates. Now is the time to build on this momentum', said Ms Faehrmann.

The report includes three findings and 34 recommendations. The NSW Government's response to the report is due by 13 May 2025.

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Ben Cronly for Committee Chair, Ms Cate Faehrmann, on 0487 247 960.*