

**Submission
No 10**

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF E-SCOOTERS, E-BIKES AND
RELATED MOBILITY OPTIONS**

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My husband and I have been avid cyclists for over 30years. While we are still blessed to be in a position where our own 'engine' is still good enough, it has been marvellous to see the development of electric bikes over the last 10years approximately. This has allowed many (who dreaded the hills of a commute) to get outside, and enjoy our glorious outdoors, fresh air and exercise (although partly assisted).

However, what started as a brilliant concept, has been rapidly destroyed by the concept and introduction of throttle bikes as opposed to pedal assist. We ourselves whilst riding on bike paths/lanes have nearly been knocked down on numerous occasions by riders using them as a motorbike alternative. Handsfree, on mobile phones, doubling others, no helmets and the throttle set illegally in 'private' mode (which allows up to 55km/h), they ride around recklessly at high speeds (WITHOUT pedalling), on bikes that weigh about 50kg and are able to inflict serious injuries to pedestrians and other cyclists. For example, the Bolzzen Bandit bike can achieve 55km/h in 'private property' mode, a mode that is frequently used in public spaces.

E-bikes weigh 2-3x more than even the heaviest traditional bike, can be ridden amongst pedestrians at speeds (50+km/h) not achievable by regular bikes on flat terrains by standard riders. As opposed to basic power assist scooters that only weigh 12-15kg, limited to 15-25km/h, can be exited or stopped quickly by the rider to avoid accidents and are commonly pushed or self-propelled in crowded areas anyway like a standard bike. More robust, heavier, and faster motorised scooters, often with seats, again present the same problems as throttle bikes and sit in that category. As do many of the delivery bikes who recklessly ride through crowded city areas.

The basic law of physics is that 'momentum equals mass x velocity' and it's momentum that causes serious injury to others. So why are we allowing heavy throttle bikes, without the need for pedalling, at often illegally high speeds to be ridden amongst others (vulnerable pedestrians and cyclists). For those who wish to do so, I suggest they get a motorbike licence and do it properly. Otherwise, get a pedal assist e-bike and pedal your heart out!!