

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

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Partially  
Confidential

My wife and I live in the heart of Cronulla CBD. On any one day there is a proliferation of E bikes and scooters using the roads, bike lanes, footpaths and Shopping Mall. The majority of riders do not wear a helmet, and in the case of E bikes it is common to see one or more pillion passengers. Despite the many signs in the 'Mall' warning not to ride E bikes and scooters in that area, very few if any, obey the signs, weaving in and around pedestrians.

As you are aware, there is no requirement for riders to be licensed (or of licensed age), for the bikes and scooters to be registered and insured. for the vehicles to have a horn or bell, nor to display any form of identification. Nor is there any requirement for riders to be tested on the rules of the road.

There has been accidents in the Cronulla area. Affected pedestrians have been required to attend to their own medical insurance as there is no way of identifying the offending riders. As a couple who are in the Mall area every day of the week, and despite warnings in The Leader Newspaper that the Mall will be policed, we have only witnessed one police officer speaking to two girls (without helmets) riding through the Mall shortly after publication of the Leader's warning.

If E bikes and scooters are permitted to continue using public places, roads and footpaths, there needs to be a set of regulations allowing their use. Firstly, riders need to pass an oral test in relation to road rules. The vehicles need to have a bell or horn to warn pedestrians of their approach. As many of the footpaths are very narrow, they need to know who has right of way (pedestrians or riders). It is essential that all E bikes and scooters have a form of identification, such as a registration plate, where any offending E bike or scooter can be picked up by an injured pedestrian or CCTV.

One example of the danger these E bikes and scooters present can be witnessed from students travelling to and from Cronulla High School, particularly at the end of the day, Many leave together in a 'pack'. Most ride in a southerly direction from the school using the bike lane and Elouera Road. Approximately half of them have helmets and in most cases those with a pillion not wearing a helmet. There is a tendency by most to ride on the road surface and not in the bike lane, as they can keep up with the traffic travelling at 50kph. The speed limitation is easily converted to allow speeds in excess of 30kph.

Many of these students cut through the car park at Cronulla Golf Course with no regard to vehicles travelling towards them, particularly when they make a sharp right hand turn in the car park at a dangerous speed before cutting back onto Hume Road and continuing up Hume Road on the road surface.

I am sure these actions are repeated all over the Sydney Metropolitan Area.

In respect to policing, as a former senior police officer with many years experience, I would like to state that in the past 10 years we have had no beat policing in Cronulla. The Cronulla Police Station is attended by a sole police officer who is not permitted to leave the Station. I am not criticising the local police, but merely stating that due to their serious shortage of police, they do not have the numbers to commit to reasonable RBT requirements and beat policing. They are chasing their tails with more important policing requirements.

This is evident by the rise of youth crime and serious crime figures. In the meantime, the horse has bolted in relation to the danger E bikes and scooters present to the community in general. Any suggestion in relation to having bike lanes in shopping malls is ridiculous and should not be proposed.

Best of luck with your deliberations,