

**Submission  
No 56**

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

**Name:** Mr James Xu

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I regularly commute to work because it saves me money, time, and provides me with a fitness boost. I am concerned about two things in particular:

1. Attitude of drivers against cyclists - even travelling on suburban roads i.e. 40km/h speed limit, I have been honked at to get off the road and have had cars zoom past me i.e. less than 1m of space even though there is heaps of room to give me more room. This is at 7am in the morning on suburban streets as well (Wollstonecraft). With this in mind, when people ask me is cycling safe, I have to say no it's not. If I was not a fit and athletic male, I would be a lot more hesitant to ride.

2. Heavy Policing - On a Sunday afternoon at 2pm, I made the mistake of not coming to a complete stop at a stop sign (instead came to a slow of walking pace) and was pulled over by a policeman and subsequently fined \$475. I have no prior driving offences i.e. I don't own a car and the policeman was trying to find other issues with my bike i.e. when I explained it is a little harder to come to start/stop on a push bike he asked if there was a problem with my breaks - which would've left me with another fine. If I didn't have a bell, I'm sure he would've fined me as well. Lastly, I bought my bike second hand for \$250 so to be given the motorist fine seems excessive. I understand the penalty if I was ignoring red lights or speeding through an intersection but this was on a suburban road with no cars in sight.

This is an extremely negative experience for me, which has turned me off cycling and also made me quite fearful of police now.

Lastly, despite these two negative experiences, I strongly believe that cycling is the future and that electrified cycling makes it more accessible for everyone. It is impossible to build more highways throughout Sydney as there are too many buildings. I think Sydney should aspire to be like Japan in regards to its approach to bicycles providing the last leg of transportation.

There needs to be a cultural shift towards creating a cycling culture which comes through providing good infrastructure to encourage the less experienced riders first and foremost.