

**Submission  
No 58**

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

**Name:** Mr Stephen Hopkin

**Date Received:** 10 July 2024

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Dear Committee,

I am a retired Police Officer and a resident of the Sutherland Shire. I reside at Cronulla, NSW, so the majority of my observations have been collected in that area of the Shire.

I am not against a blanket ban on these vehicles, but from the dangerous use I have observed whilst walking around Cronulla, and the non-enforcement of legislation by the Sutherland Council or the NSW Police, I felt compelled to write to You, given this opportunity.

I would be happy to be involved in any Committee into this subject, especially possessing related skills and qualifications been involved in the investigation of collisions for over 30 years, along with my Detective and Crash Investigation Qualifications. I would give a public voice to such an enquiry.

I could type for hours on this subject, but I will be relatively brief on this occasion.

Brief outline of observations at Cronulla:

- \* Huge number of E-Bikes, Scooters and Skateboards in use illegally.
- \* Scooters and Skateboards 100% illegal on roads and road related areas.
- \* No obvious effort from Police to stop/discourage offences on the ground.
- \* eBike vehicles far from safe on footpaths even if legal for under 16 children.
- \* Police observed on numerous occasions to ignore offences.
- \* Letters of concern replied to by Police, giving lip service only.
- \* Signage inadequate, giving riders an 'excuse' for not knowing an offence is being committed.
- \* Bike controls generally set to illegal operation (Works alone with throttle)
- \* Weight and Speed of eBikes a danger to Pedestrian's.
- \* On one Sunday in summer I counted 120 offences in only two hours of walking between my home, Cronulla Mall and the North Cronulla Beach.
- \* Enquiries discovered nil fines given out by Council for these offences in previous 12 months, and a partial search on huge data base failed to locate any infringements given out by Police in the area (RMS supplied location of data base, but no ability to search same by suburb or area - HUGE job to confirm)

Proposals to strengthen legislation and reduce danger:

- \* Registration Plates so offences can be reported and actioned. with Identification.
- \* Council Officers given power to issue TINS on public Streets re eBike offences.
- \* eBikes banned entirely from footpaths, other than designated cycle ways and shared paths.
- \* Signage made clearer so no excuse for rider not realizing their vehicle is banned in an area.
- \* Greater fines created for riders where eBike is used for a business-related purpose

(e.g. Uber Eats riders).

\* A more comprehensive list of rules and offences be created in the Australian Road Rules so the use of eBikes cannot be related to the rules for the use of bicycles or eBikes considered under the same classification of bicycles.

\* Police Commanders encouraged to command their staff to act on any offence they observe.

Yours Sincerely

Stephen Hopkin

Unable to attach images of example offences and signage quality