

**Submission
No 64**

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

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Submission to NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into

Use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options

I am a long term resident of Cronulla and lifelong cyclist now aged 63. A number of my cycling friends have complying ebikes, with which I have no issue. By complying, I am referring to ebikes with motors up to 250/500 watts maximum, which you have to pedal for electric assistance to kick-in, and which are speed limited to 25kmph. Similar regulations apply world-wide to these bikes, and for good reason, to ensure they retain their essential character as a pedal powered bicycle.

Over the last year or so there has been an explosion of “electric fat bikes” in our area, often ridden irresponsibly by young riders with no idea and sometimes by older riders who should know better. These bikes have motors of 1,500 watts (ie 2 horse power), do not need to be pedalled (operating by throttle alone), are not speed limited (so can travel at 50kmph and more) and weigh in the order of 50kgs versus say 12 kgs for a normal bike and 25 kgs for a complying ebike.

These non-complying “electric fat bikes” are essentially a motor bike masquerading as a push bike and have no place on footpaths and bike paths. On two or more occasions when walking on the pedestrian only Esplanade in Cronulla, I have been passed by electric fat bikes travelling at reckless speeds of perhaps 50 kmph or more, the last time at lunchtime today. Had I stepped out of line I would have been cleaned up, badly injured and no doubt ended up in hospital.

These “electric fat bikes” should be regulated like mopeds, limited to use on the road, registered and carry compulsory insurance. Simple as that!

I am all for environmentally friendly transport, walk to work every day and catch trains wherever possible, sometimes with my mountain bike, and drive less than 5,000 kms per annum.

Regards

Ken Millar