

**Submission  
No 82**

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

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I have several issues with the hire bike companies that operate in Sydney along with several solutions for these problems.

**BIKE PARKING** - These hire bikes are using valuable parking spaces for non hire bike bicycles. These hire bikes are designed to be secure no matter where they are left, but users of these bikes are leaving them in front of bike parking areas which blocks the parking for bicycle users which need to use these facilities. I would go further and say that it is not just the users of these bicycles that do this, but Sydney City Rangers and other rangers in areas like Barangaroo will move bicycles that have been left on the sidewalk into bike Parking spots which prevents them from being used. Specifically Barangaroo security mentioned directly to me that they had been directed by Precincts NSW to place these hire bikes in these locations preventing their legitimate use. These bikes are very heavy to move, made harder by the fact that the wheels are locked in order to prevent them from being moved. I believe that it is a significant issue that these bikes are so hard to move due to their weight. Because the rear wheels are locked the bicycle essentially needs to be carried when moving it. The bicycles are not stable when moving on the front wheel.

**SOLUTION** - Create a docking system like in many other cities around the world.

**BIKE PARKING** - These bikes are left strewn across the street. I work shift work and when I ride into the city on Sat/Sun mornings (and at other times, but it is worse on the weekends) or when I ride home on Sat/Sun nights, there are so so so many bikes just parked in the middle of the sidewalk, with many many many bikes on their sides. Not only do they prevent use of sidewalks but it is just unsightly.

**SOLUTION** - Create a docking system like in many cities around the world.

**BIKE RIDERS** - Riders often break the rules regarding bicycles. This is compounded by the fact that they are on e bikes which are much heavier than a normal bicycle and quite often are cycling on narrow footpaths in the city. These bikes are also used heavily by drunk revellers in the city.

**SOLUTION** - More connected, separated bike paths to connect every area of the city.

**SAFETY** - These bikes are in 50% of cases not provided with a helmet. Companies know they are not providing helmets. They move bicycles around the city and they are not providing helmets with at least 50% of them. I know this because I ride in the city nearly every day and many times I have counted. It is a \$344 fine for not wearing a helmet. These companies get a free pass by not providing essential safety gear. If anyone tries to tell me its the cyclists responsibility then this inquiry is not serious and has no purpose.

**SOLUTION** - More separated bike paths to make riding safer. Legislation should be reviewed to look at compulsory helmet legislation. If there is infrastructure to make riding safer then I don't believe helmets should be compulsory.

**SOLUTION** - The two main solutions that I think solve most of the issues around these bike share companies are

-More connected separated bicycle lanes, which will make riding safer for cyclists and pedestrians. It will also encourage more active transport.

-Create docks where these share bikes must be picked up and dropped off. This would solve so many problems like these bikes littering the streets, bikes not having helmets etc etc

In addition to these two solutions I believe the operators of these companies need to be regulated more closely and fined for not following their code of conduct which they clearly just ignore. They are massive multinational companies are socialising the costs of doing business to make a quick buck.

I believe that if the government is serious about increasing active transport and wants to continue using these bicycles then maybe they should consider them as public transport similar to buses, trams, trains and ferries. Moving to a single, heavily regulated operator would solve many of these issues.