

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 July 2024

Partially
Confidential

CONCERNS RE BICYCLE RIDERS USING NORMAL PEDESTRIAN FOOTPATHS AND CAUSING INJURY.

Hi, pushbikes are desirable as a means of physical and mental health and well-being, and good for the environment.

I jog most days. I live in Erskineville, but my jogs take me anything to a 20km radius from my address, and into many different Local Government Areas and Police Local Area Commands. For example, I will often jog in my area, or along Princes Highway to Sutherland, or up Gardeners Rd to Coogee etc etc. A variety of localities.

In all areas of Sydney the problem of pushbike riders using/speeding on normal footpaths has become DANGEROUS and CHRONIC in recent times. Food delivery riders, inexperienced hire-bike bicycle riders and just general riders possibly as the result of the cost of petrol probably explains the HUGE rise of bikes using footpaths. Often narrow footpaths.

As I understand it The Australian Road Rules at s250 outlines that any person over 16 years of age is not to ride a pushbike on a normal footpath (not being a designated bike path or shared path).

For example, last week, I observed a rider speed from behind into an elderly lady and speed off. We had to call her an ambulance. I myself have been 'clipped' from behind several times. Many, many riders don't slow down coming at you on a footpath, even narrow ones. I have asked a few riders at lights why they are using the footpath illegally and the majority get very aggressive. It seems that the laws regarding bikes on footpaths are not commonly known (or wilfully ignored). A bike going at 30km with the weight of that projectile and the weight of the rider makes for a dangerous cocktail for pedestrians lawfully using footpaths. In my daily jogs I see far more bikes on footpaths than I do on the actual roads.

I know this is hard to police/enforce. However could I formally request mobile police be on the lookout for bike riders on footpaths and act accordingly. Also, whatever educational resources may have may be put to making it known to Bike Shops, restaurants who deliver, Hire Bike Companies and the general public that it is dangerous and an offence to ride a pushbike on a normal footpath if over 16yrs of age.

Do not hesitate to contact me if any other information you may require of me. Thanking you in anticipation and kind regards.