

**Submission
No 93**

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

Name: Mrs Helene Atkinson

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I am writing to express my increasing concern and frustration regarding the use and parking situation of share bikes in the Central Business District (CBD) of Sydney. As a resident of Sydney I have observed the growing number of share bikes being ridden and parked inappropriately, causing inconvenience and risk to pedestrians and disrupting the overall flow of the city.

I acknowledge the positive impact that share bikes have had on transportation accessibility and sustainability in our city. They provide a convenient and affordable mode of transportation, helping to reduce traffic congestion and carbon emissions. However, the lack of clear regulations and enforcement has resulted in an increasing number of bikes being left in inappropriate locations, such as blocking footpaths, obstructing doorways, obstructing fire exits from buildings and cluttering public spaces. Local council have advised that they have no control on the use of share bikes and that the issues around their use can only be managed by State Government.

The unregulated parking of share bikes poses a number of concerns. Firstly, it creates safety hazards for pedestrians, particularly those with disabilities or mobility issues. Elderly individuals and parents with strollers are often forced to navigate around these bikes, putting their safety at risk. Additionally, emergency exits and access points to buildings are often blocked, which causes safety risks in the event of an evacuation and could impede the response time of emergency services. We had an incident only last weekend, where a pedestrian tripped on abandoned bikes as he walked along the footpath in front of our building, and this resulted in him being hospitalised. It is gross negligence to ignore safety issues that are clearly visible to all.

Moreover, the indiscriminate parking of share bikes contributes to the visual clutter of our city. This not only affects the aesthetic appeal of the CBD but also gives the impression of an unorganized and unregulated environment. As a global city, it is essential that Sydney maintains a clean and organized appearance to attract visitors and investors.

Most residents in suburban areas would find it totally inappropriate for bikes to be left strewn constantly on their footpaths in front of their homes or actually left leaning against their homes, but this is the reality of our life living in the city. As residents of a heritage listed building, we have recently spent over \$2M restoring our building to present in the best possible way, however on a daily basis, we find bikes left leaning up against the building causing damage to render and paintwork which we then need to pay to have repaired. We are constantly contacting bike share companies to have bikes removed, yet they continue to be strewn across the footpath as there are no consequences for the companies who own them to manage the situation in a more reasonable way.

In light of these concerns, I kindly request your support in advocating for tighter controls on the parking of share bikes in the Sydney CBD. I propose the following measures to address this issue:

1. Introduce legislation limiting the numbers of share bikes in designated postcodes. An increase in bikes from 328 in January 2022 to 4,500 in May 2024 is significant and unmanageable.
2. Implement designated parking zones: Introduce clearly marked parking areas specifically designated for share bikes in strategic locations throughout the CBD. These zones should be easily identifiable and conveniently located near public transport hubs, commercial areas, and

popular destinations. Costs should be borne by the share bike companies and not tax payers or rate payers.

3. Increase enforcement and penalties: Collaborate with relevant authorities to ensure strict enforcement of use and parking regulations for share bikes. This can include regular monitoring, issuing fines for violations, and holding the bike-sharing companies accountable for the actions of their users. I constantly observe bike riders riding on footpaths, down the wrong way of one-way streets, not wearing helmets and not utilising the bike lanes that have been implemented. I have never seen anyone pulled over to address these breaches of the law.

4. Introduce registration of share bikes so owners contribute to the cost of road maintenance.

I believe that implementing these measures will help create a more orderly and pedestrian-friendly environment in the Sydney CBD. It will ensure that the benefits of share bikes are maximized while minimizing the negative impact on our city's infrastructure and aesthetics.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I kindly request your support in addressing this issue, as it directly affects the liveability and attractiveness of our city. I would greatly appreciate any actions or initiatives you can undertake to tighten controls on the use and parking of share bikes in the Sydney CBD.

I look forward to your response regarding this matter.