

**Submission  
No 109**

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

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I am 61 years old. I have been a licensed driver since I was 17 years old. I hold a MR and motorcycle licence. I am a retired Sergeant of the NSW Police Force.

I have observed the proliferation of electric powered bikes and scooters with great concern.

I spend my time between the Northern Beaches of Sydney, and a rural property.

Whilst in metropolitan Sydney, I drive and ride vehicles. I also walk in beach side locations.

Over the past several years the number of people using electric powered bikes and scooters has increased dramatically.

Here on the Northern Beaches it is common place to see school age children riding these vehicles on the road in their school uniforms.

Their behaviour is at times concerning. Less than 50% wear a helmet while riding. Additionally, it's common place to see two, or even three persons on an electric powered bike. Routinely they are holding and using a mobile phone whilst riding, either unaware, or unconcerned of the danger that creates, and breach of the Road Rules.

There are adult riders who behave in exactly the same way, with no regard to Rules or Safety.

Pedestrians using the beach front frequently experience near misses with these electric bikes travelling at unreasonable speeds in close proximity to them. They are close to silent when operating, and that in itself makes them substantially dangerous to pedestrians who are moving slowly in close proximity. Shared zones seems extremely dangerous when observed in real time operation.

Anonymity seems to encourage poor decisions by riders. These vehicles travel at speeds that are very similar to cars and motorcycles. How to enforce regulations for vehicles that are not able to be identified seems to be the fundamental problem. This can be also said for bicycles that are not electric powered.

It seems the starting point is to make all road users identifiable. Frequently bicycle riders lament how they desire equality as a road user. That's a perfectly reasonable expectation. However, they should be treated the same as every other road users. Their vehicle should be identifiable to allow enforcement and assist with road related incidents that seem to be common place nowadays.

The notion of drivers of motor vehicles being licenced is also crucial to assuring they have an acceptable level of skill to drive or ride, but also knowledge of the Road Rules to make the road safe. Bicycle riders and electric bike riders should be held to the same standard. They are less safe if there is a cohort of users who are unaware of the basis standards that apply to safe use of the road.

There should be equity in enforcement, in penalties, and demerit points that carry across between any licence, for any type of vehicle.

The road is shared by many varied users. The electric bike cohort routinely exhibit behaviour that is noncompliant, which in itself adds to the danger all road users are exposed to. This can be changed, and should be changed as the situation will deteriorate if it remains unregulated.

These are my respectful submissions.