

Submission
No 111

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 11 August 2024

Partially
Confidential

Submission: The Need for Designated Docking Stations for E-Bikes

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the current situation with e-bikes being left on footpaths and public spaces without designated docking stations. While e-bikes provide a convenient and environmentally friendly mode of transportation, their haphazard placement on sidewalks has created significant obstacles for pedestrians, particularly for those who use wheelchairs, push prams, or have other mobility challenges.

Key Issues:

1. **Obstruction of Footpaths:** E-bikes are often left on sidewalks, blocking the path for pedestrians. This creates a cluttered and unsafe environment, forcing people to manoeuvre around them or step onto the road, which increases the risk of accidents.
2. **Accessibility Concerns:** For residents who use wheelchairs or push prams, e-bikes left on the footpath can be especially problematic. The bikes are heavy and difficult to move if they fall over, creating a barrier that limits accessibility and freedom of movement.
3. **Public Safety:** The presence of fallen or improperly parked e-bikes can pose a tripping hazard, particularly for those with visual impairments or for young children. This not only puts pedestrians at risk but also creates liability concerns for the community.
4. **Aesthetic Impact:** The sight of e-bikes scattered across public spaces detracts from the visual appeal of our neighbourhoods. This unregulated practice can make areas look untidy and neglected, affecting the overall quality of life for residents.

Proposed Solution:

To address these issues, I strongly advocate for the implementation of designated docking stations for e-bikes. These docking stations should be strategically placed in locations that are convenient for users but do not impede pedestrian traffic. This would:

- **Ensure orderly parking:** Designated docking would provide a clear, organized space for e-bikes, reducing the likelihood of them being left haphazardly on footpaths.

- **Enhance accessibility:** By keeping footpaths clear, we can improve accessibility for all residents, especially those with mobility challenges.
- **Improve public safety:** Designated docking stations would minimize the risk of accidents caused by improperly parked or fallen e-bikes.
- **Maintain community aesthetics:** Organized parking would help maintain the visual appeal of our public spaces, contributing to a cleaner and more welcoming environment.

In conclusion, while e-bikes offer numerous benefits, it is essential to manage their usage in a way that does not compromise the safety, accessibility, or appearance of our public spaces. Designated docking stations represent a practical and effective solution to the current challenges posed by e-bikes on footpaths.

Thank you for considering this submission. I hope that appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that our community remains safe, accessible, and visually pleasing for all residents.

Sincerely,