

Submission
No 115

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 10 August 2024

Partially
Confidential

My submission is for a requirement for "fat boy" electric scooters to be registered, insured for third party insurance, and riders to be required to be over 16 and licensed to operate, or else their sale banned.

There is growing concern in my area of Sydney, the Northern Beaches, at the amount of (so-called) electric bikes, known as "fat boy" (fat-tyre) bikes now being ridden both on the road and on footpaths by young people without licenses, training, or insurance. These bikes are really electric scooters/motor bikes - not electric bikes - the speed being controlled by a hand throttle, not pedal power, and they are ridden at speed. They are expensive, ranging from \$2,000 to \$4,000, and the marketing material states that they are locked at 25 km/hour for public use, and 50km/hour for private off-road use, with no requirement for the riders to have a licence or to be insured.

The bikes are being used as a cheap form of transport enabling children and teenagers as well as a growing number of adults, to use the roads and footpaths without responsibility and on-going costs. Should a pedestrian be hit by a bike on the footpath there is no way to identify the rider, as there is no requirement for it to be registered, therefore no license plate; the riders (children, teenagers and adults) are not licensed, and the bikes are not insured against third party liability. These bikes are becoming a major problem for residents, particularly older residents who like to walk on footpaths. They are also being ridden on the roads, at high speeds, the same speed as licensed motor bikes and cars, and their lighting is poor at night.

These bikes are freely marketed, sold and used to anyone with the money to buy them. These bikes need to be registered, the riders insured and licensed. They are not toys, and they are not electric bikes. They are electric scooters/motor bikes.

There appears to be little regard to the Transport NSW website which states that these electric motor bikes are illegal to be ridden on footpaths and the roads, and are for private use only. It is not fair to ask the Police to crack down on people who choose to ignore the rules. There needs to be a requirement for them to be registered, insured and ridden by licensed individuals only, and not on the footpath.