

**Submission
No 118**

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

Name: Mr Robert Neale

Date Received: 14 August 2024

Dear Committee members,

I am blind and this is a submission as to the effects of e-bikes on the streets.

I use a white cane to get around the streets of Sydney, mainly by tapping along the line of the building. I also use trams and buses, and I find my way on and off those using my white cane and tapping.

At the moment the e-bikes are left all over Sydney streets, including lying against the buildings, where I tap along. They are abandoned in the middle of the street and it's difficult to get around either side. They are left leaning against the telegraph pole with the pedestrian button to cross the road. Often they are left near the tram ramp where you cross the road, so if there are bikes there, I cannot get across the road safely, as the cane gets caught in the spokes of the bike.

The sound of the bikes flying by me is a fear of being hit. It's a psychological distress as bikes ride past me very quickly. I can hear them.

My recommendation – like in most European capital cities there are docking stations that you have to pick up the bike from and take it back to, and if they are left on the streets they incur a fine similar to when you park your car in the wrong spot. You get a parking ticket.

One of my support people was in New York. He said, if you didn't take the e-bike back to the docking station you got a \$500 fine on your credit card.

The law is if you are 16 and over, you can't ride a bike on the footpath unless you are with a child, so I don't understand why that's not enforced. You can do anything on these e-bikes that you can't do in a car.

Robert Neale