

Submission  
No 168

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

**Organisation:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 18 August 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

## **Use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options**

### **Parliamentary Inquiry 2024**

We have specific concerns regarding the use of e-bikes in bushland, particularly in National Parks and on Crown Land. The use of e-bikes in bushland causes enormous damage to existing tracks, fire trails and native flora. This is due to various reasons including:

- the faster speeds attained by e-bikes
- the greater power transferred to the wheels
- their ability to go uphill at speed
- accessibility into areas previously inaccessible to mountain bikes
- ability to forge new tracks into bushland where there are currently no trails

There have been numerous instances of e-bikes being ridden in National Parks, with YouTube videos even being posted online, such as one at the following video link. 1 min 50 sec into the video is riding in the National Park on "single" trails is discussed. 6 mins 15 sec into the video is where the ride into the National Park starts -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2BfPu8XIUv0>

While unpowered mountain bikes can currently be ridden on certain fire trails and specially designated tracks, this is not the case for vehicles. However there can be confusion in some peoples' minds as to whether an e-bike is considered to be a powered vehicle.

**It must be made abundantly clear that e-bikes are not permitted in bushland, particularly in National Parks.**

It is difficult to prosecute e-bike and electric scooter riders who break road and off-road rules because without registration, they are almost impossible to track. The cost of registration however should not be so prohibitive as to restrict their usage. This need not apply to the slower mobility scooters.

**A minimal registration fee should be applied to e-bikes and electric scooters.**

***Without prejudice: we wish to make clear that any and all statements made in this submission in no way suggests or infers that any person, business or organisation has done or intends to do anything untoward or illegal.***