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

Name:Name suppressedDate Received:18 August 2024

Partially Confidential

This Parliamentary inquiry is welcome because it hopefully will sort out priorities

The inept succession of governments, who dancing to the tune of business moguls exhorting the mantra of economic growth, have enforced ever increasing housing targets onto Sydney residents via their councils at great social and environmental impact, worsened by the government falling further behind in provision of more public transport and road infrastructure, to support it.

This failure is now being exploited by the e-bike lobby promoting their deadly products as a panacea for traffic congestion, dutifully parroted in question 6 of the Parliamentary questionnaire.

Pedestrian Safety

The priorities have been reversed. The wrong question is being asked. The right question should be how to improve pedestrian safety.

The Questionnaire leads with a focus on the e-bike user with Question 6 about what is important to a light electric vehicle user and Question 7 on what might stop users with "Select all that apply". Seemingly safety questions following after are of lesser importance. The only answer to Question 8 that suggests that it might be alright to risk it for other touted benefits, is instead to maintain the status quo and ban electric vehicles, except mobility scooters, from footpaths. Question 10 is even more insulting by allowing only 3 of 7 safety concerns to be chosen, in contrast to Question 7.

Electric bikes and scooters must become registered and insured vehicles just like motorbikes, and ridden on the road only. It is up to governments to provide the infrastructure to accommodate them away from footpaths.

Self safety and danger to motorists blindly excluded from the survey

Moreover, a speed limit for bicycles ridden by children of 10km/h should be imposed. My exit and entry to my driveway has the intolerable risk of collision with by high-speed (estimated 30 km/h) cyclists, apparently high school students who seem oblivious to the danger of vehicles emerging from or entering driveways.

"Red Herrings"

Although not in the survey, propaganda that e bikes are linked to the benefits of exercise should be ignored in any deliberations because it is clearly totally false.

The environmental benefits of reducing emissions touted in Question 6 lose their its credibility when they depend mainly on coal or gas fired qualify power stations to boost the e-bike or e-scooter batteries overnight because there is no solar energy and winds generally drop overnight for wind turbines.