

Submission
No 205

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 18 August 2024

Partially
Confidential

I live with my wife at Bayview on Sydney's northern beaches.

There is a long walking path to church point from mona vale and we have had a lot of adverse experiences with e bikes.

We are both in our 60's and e bikes are very dangerous on footpaths for multiple reasons.

Despite northern beaches councils efforts to educate e bike riders with signage, the bikes travel at excessive speeds well above walking pace.

There are often up to 3 people on the bikes making them unwieldy and unstable.

Most ebike riders show no consideration of pedestrians.

E bike riders by virtue of the "might makes right " principle expect everyone else to get off the path and out of their way.

The paths are great for walkers but having to move off the path is dangerous for people like my wife who has a neurological disorder and cannot easily balance on the rough terrain off the paths. Her falls risk is vastly increased by ebikes and falls are a huge cause of morbidity and mortality in older people.

There are many older people who walk regularly and are unable to rapidly move out of the way of e bikes. I believe it is inevitable that pedestrians will suffer serious injury as a result of an accident with an ebike, or with an e bike making them move suddenly off the path resulting in a fall.

Safe exercise and socialisation are very important for all people including mums with prams and rendering our footpaths danger zones because of e bikes is completely unacceptable .

I haven't even started on the risks to e bike riders of high speed accidents and not wearing helmets.

Ebikes being used by over 16's on the road as essentially unregistered motorbikes driven by untrained riders are just accidents waiting to happen

I am happy to discuss further but wish my name to be withheld.