

**Submission
No 221**

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

Name: Mr Greg Ainsworth

Date Received: 18 August 2024

I believe the share bike and scooter schemes (like Lime Bike) are valuable and increase mobility in the city with many associated benefits. However, current management of the scheme is imposing too much cost on the community in three ways:

1) Parking & Storage - unlike schemes in some other cities (e.g., New York, London) where bikes have dedicated docking stations, the messy distribution of bikes on roads and footpaths is a constant hazard for all other users. There are countless anecdotes of pedestrians being forced onto roads, or unable to pass with a pram or wheelchair. Cars swerving. General sense of disrespect.

Note, I think this is very important. I would vote for no bike share schemes at all, versus bikes with no docking stations.

2) Too heavy - the bikes have been getting incrementally heavier. I don't believe the bigger/heavier bikes add to mobility and accessibility but they do increase the danger of injury of collisions, and also make them even more immovable when parked on a footpath.

3) Antisocial use - while I have no problem with kids having fun on the bikes (even if they're being a bit naughty!), the size and power of the bikes makes it dangerous when they're speeding through congested pedestrian zones. I think this is solved by making the bikes less powerful rather than rules about how or when the bikes can be used (less powerful will also make them less tempting for kids misbehaving).

The casual nature of the bike/scooter schemes is one of the features increasing mobility around the city. Some physical structures (rather than rules of behaviour) could make them more complementary with other modes of transport and accepted by the community.

A) Docking stations

B) Smaller/less powerful

Thanks,

Greg