

Submission  
No 313

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

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 20 September 2024

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Partially  
Confidential

Dear Ms Faehrmann

NSW Legislative Council – Inquiry: Use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options

Thank you for the opportunity of this submission to the inquiry.

I wish to bring to your notice some of my individual experiences regarding the ever-growing menace of cyclists on pavements.

I have seen a mother with an older child on a bike in front of her and a younger child behind her riding in line, across one section of a wide crossroads. The lights changed before the lagging younger child had even reached the middle of the road. A car waiting to turn right I guess, beeped them to hurry up, which caused the mother to stop her bike on the centre marking of that busy crossroad to berate the motorist.

The older child was already across to the opposite pavement; the youngest, slower, child, on a much smaller pink bicycle, was trying to walk and pedal across to join the mother, who seemed to have forgotten this child was dangerously positioned in the middle of the lane behind her, where motorists were waiting to turn. It was incredible to witness this mother's focus on abusing the motorist yet, oblivious of her younger child's precarious position on the crossing. As I understand it, none of them should have been cycling across the lights according to the current laws.

A few months ago, I was in the city waiting with many others, on both sides of the road, to cross the lights at York St, diagonally opposite the QVB at the eastern end. I was next to a mother with one hand on her pram; her other hand was holding the hand of a younger walking child. On the opposite side of the crossing many people were also waiting to cross, including a pizza delivery rider with a big pack on the bike.

When the lights changed, the bike rider weaved through the crossing pedestrians and eventually in between me and the lady with the pram. She was forced to pull her walking child and the pram one way, whilst I was forced to bump into the man next to me, to avoid being touched by the cyclist.

I would also mention many of these bikes, particularly delivery riders, have huge, wide, wheels and sturdy frames that could do serious damage to a pedestrian in the event of a collision.

Some months ago, I was walking along quite a narrow, uneven, pavement in Sutherland, with trees at intervals. I was adjacent to one of the trees and noticed in my peripheral vision a cycle wheel near me. Without looking left, I immediately moved nearer to the shop side of the pavement unaware of an adolescent on his bike who came streaking through the tiny space left between me and the shops.

I was so shocked I called out, "For god's sake". The fast-moving boy looked round and stopped by the next tree further down the road. The woman riding to my right on the bike I had previously seen (his mother I think), turned her head as she passed me, and profusely apologised. She also stopped at the tree with the boy. As I reached them the young man sincerely apologised to me as well. They both looked concerned and genuine in their

apology for which I was grateful. This begs the question, what was this mother thinking by cycling herself, and thereby approving of her son, to ride in this way, along a narrow pavement with a pedestrian in view?

As it happened, I was on my way to a physio appointment for treatment of a chronic neck problem. Had I been knocked down or injured by one of these pavement riders I'm sure my injuries would have been serious.

In the past few months, a random pedestrian in Caringbah commented to me when an adolescent weaved his electric fat wheel bike between us on the pavement in Caringbah Road (at a time of day incidentally, when he should have been in school).

A friend of mine was in Newcastle about one month ago and badly sprained her ankle when she had to step off the kerb to avoid a cyclist on the pavement.

Just a week ago another stranger commented to me as we walked out of Kirrawee station and a cyclist flew down the hill and round us.

Only this morning my son was walking up the same row of shops when a young boy speeding down the hill narrowly missed hitting my son.

Last week I spoke to a lady handing out council election leaflets at Kirrawee station, about my concerns and she said the problem of fat wheel cycle riders is 10 times worse in Cronulla.

A swarm of what look like Yr 7s frequently alight the train and scoot through Westfield in Miranda.

I have seen several older riders of fat wheel electric bikes carrying very young infants (less than 3 years of age) in child seats on the back of these bikes? How can this be allowed?

Not to mention the number of cyclists who take up train seats by either straddling their bikes across the five parallel train seats on one side and sitting themselves on the opposite side, or they tether their bikes to the central pole in between the train doors making it difficult for people to both alight and enter the train.

One wonders what the exploding ebike/escooter batteries would do to a train carriage and its occupants. It is commonly known that many such batteries spontaneously explode!

I am very upset about these various incidents. As a senior in good shape for my age, one fall or accident with a cyclist I feel would be the beginning of the end.

The Young Offenders Act (1997) classes people between 10 -14 as children who do not know the difference between right and wrong, how is it possible to put a heavy, large wheeled, motorised vehicle in their hands to do what they like with impunity? It is well documented that the adolescent brain is not fully matured until the age of 25. I suggest it is time for this law to change and someone needs to urgently start the process.

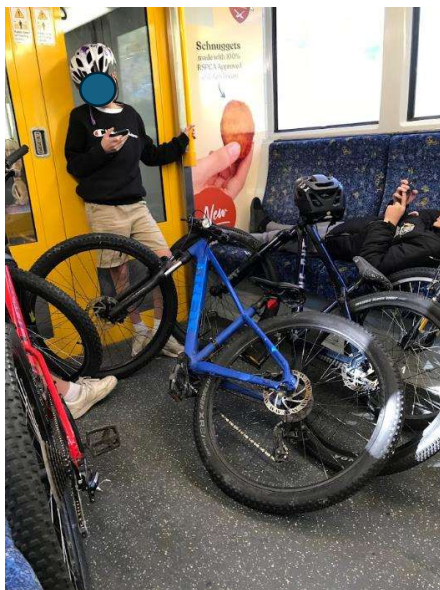
It is beyond my comprehension why those in authority have let this scourge of pavement riders develop to degree it has now reached. Some of these young boys are intimidating if confronted, whilst others are remorseful of their immature actions.

The point is young boys and adolescents have not developed either the mental capacity or the awareness which the road law requires to handle a powerful vehicle, motorised or otherwise and therefore should not be allowed to use these vehicles on pavements. When a bad accident happens, it will not only condemn the victim to possible complicated injuries, but it will also condemn the young cyclist to a life of guilt. Clearly their parents are either negligent or can't say, no, and no one in authority has bothered to keep up with the times and legislate appropriate boundaries for riding these new powerful vehicles inappropriately.

I am not surprised these cyclists want to use the pavements. There are rules which must be adhered to when riding on roads. There are NO rules for riding on pavements. Why not let motor cyclists weave in and out of pedestrians on pavements? Most of these electric vehicles go just as fast but many, if not most, are driven by children!

Pavement, Crossing and footpath users especially the old, the disabled and the young are being injured, intimidated and feeling vulnerable everywhere they go, every day.

Yours sincerely,





You can just make out the walking stick of the partially sighted man opposite





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**ST GEORGE & SUTHERLAND SHIRE**

# Leader

FREE

## 'Fat bike' crash: 3-year-old injured

**BY SHARON WILSON**

A 3-year-old child was injured after a 'fat bike' crashed into a bus stop shelter in Southport.

Chloe Jones, three, was riding her 'fat bike' near the bus stop when the incident occurred.

Ms Jones said she was walking with her three-year-old daughter when she saw the 'fat bike' heading towards the bus stop.

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The incident occurred on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at approximately 10:30 am. The child was riding a 'fat bike' which is a type of bicycle with a wider frame and larger tires, often used for stability.

The bus stop shelter was located on the side of the road. The 'fat bike' crashed into the shelter, causing the child to fall and sustain injuries.

The child was taken to the hospital for treatment. The incident has raised concerns about the safety of 'fat bikes' in public areas.

The council is investigating the incident and may consider measures to improve safety at bus stops.