

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

Organisation: Opera Residence Building

Date Received: 31 July 2024

Dear NSW Parliamentary enquiry / Minister for Roads and Transport / Sydney City Council /
Sydney City Road Safety Officer ()

I write as a very concerned City resident and The Chairman of The Opera Residence Executive Committee. I live in a unit on 71 Macquarie Street Sydney (Circular Quay) a building of 104 residential units.

The "share bikes" in the city has become a significant obstruction to the free passage of pedestrians in the city and especially the Circular Quay Opera House precinct. They are dangerous with small children and the elderly unable to avoid the many bikes littered on the footpath, an obvious trip hazard. Besides being unsightly, the bikes block the footpaths which are already overcrowded in the precinct which is obviously a major tourist attraction with large crowds especially on weekends.

There are significant surges of bikes during the busy periods when there is no room to walk on the congested footpaths. There is the added risk of significant "choke" points near the ferry terminals where crowd control is limited and risk of the public being trampled. During Vivid , NYE and other festivals this is avoided by barricades, security and police attendance.

The share bike companies are unregulated and compete with each other for market share by "flooding" the streets with bikes which becomes metallic pollution with frequent graffiti.

The City of Sydney has commenced trial by allocating dedicated bike parking areas which in the Circular Quay precinct is completely ignored by the share bike operators.

Hence it should be mandatory for:

1. dedicated bike racks with **limited numbers** for the Share bikes to be safely parked
2. Operators to install apps to prevent bikes mobilising in restricted zones eg. Opera House forecourt and botanical gardens
3. Operators to install apps preventing users from retrieving a deposit unless parked in a designated bike rack which should be lockable until the next user pays deposit.
4. Sydney City Council to charge penalties / fines to operators not complying
5. Sydney City Council to charge operators for abandoning bikes requiring removal.
6. NSW Government to restrict the number of shared bike operators.
7. Bikes should use designated bicycle paths and not footpaths in the city.

It is our observation that the majority of shared bike users in the Circular Quay precinct are youths skylarking with no helmets and not used for transportation beyond the region.

I believe many of the above recommendations are working well in tidy cities such as Berlin, Amsterdam and Scandinavian countries.

Regards

Chairman Opera Executive Committee