

Resolution of Council

23 February 2026

Item 12.4

E-Bike Safety for City High School Students

Moved by Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Miller, seconded by Councillor Worling –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) [the City of Sydney's Cycling Strategy and Action Plan](#) encourages families and children to cycle to school; this is a means to reduce congestion, improve health and well-being, and reduce air pollution;
- (ii) since 2007 the City of Sydney has constructed 30km of separated cycleways;
- (iii) in the last 12 months, approximately 4 million share bike trips were taken in the City of Sydney, almost double the number from the previous year;
- (iv) as of February 2026, Police have been given expanded powers to seize and crush illegal electric motorbikes defined as having a motor over 250W or a throttle that works above 6km/h;
- (v) in the City of Sydney, share e-bike providers have a speed restriction of 25km/h and in high pedestrian zones bike speeds are limited to 10km/h through geofencing technology. While it is legal for people under 18 to ride e-bikes, shared e-bike providers require riders to be 18 years or older;
- (vi) notwithstanding restrictions, it is predicted that e-bike sales will hit 300,000 units in 2026, with significant growth being driven by people aged 15 to 24 with 'seize and crush' orders likely to inundate the second-hand market with high-powered, illegal e-bikes; and
- (vii) children's hospitals in Sydney report 94 e-bike related injuries in 2025. Police are reluctant to engage in pursuits of children on e-bike 'ride outs' due to the risk of injury;

(B) Council further note:

- (i) there are currently a range of programs being developed for people to learn how to ride safely such as:
 - (a) the City of Sydney's [Cycling in the City](#) course for people who want to learn to ride on roads safely;
 - (a) a high school pilot program at Newtown Performing Arts High School for students in years 8, 9 and 10;
 - (b) bike safety courses developed by Transport for NSW; and
 - (c) Bicycle NSW and Student Bicycle License Scheme pilots with the Northern Beaches Council, Sutherland Shire Council and the City of Newcastle;
- (ii) there are no mandatory bike rider education programs in NSW and specifically none designed with a harm minimisation approach to bicycle safety that address:
 - (a) managing higher speeds and risks associated with bikes and e-bikes, as devices capable of inflicting harm on the rider and others;
 - (a) cognitive and behavioural de-risking geared specifically to adolescent risk-taking behaviour and peer-group pressure; and
 - (b) road rules such as education on speed limits, no-ride zones, parents' legal liabilities, and seize and crush rules; and

(C) the Lord Mayor be requested to write to the Minister for Transport and the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport requesting:

- (i) that Transport for NSW's bicycle education course, currently in development, focus on the harm minimisation principles outlined above; and
- (ii) that given usage of e-bikes and the extensive access to separated cycleway infrastructure that high schools in the City of Sydney be considered as a priority location for a pilot program.

Carried unanimously.

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