

## 10.1. Bike-Share Operations in the North Sydney Local Government Area - response to Council resolution

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<b>ENDORSED BY</b>	Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	Nil
<b>CSP LINK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Our Living Environment<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1.2 Environmentally sustainable community</li><li>1.3 Clean and green places</li><li>1.4 Well utilised open space and recreational facilities</li></ul></li><li>2. Our Built Infrastructure<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>2.2 Vibrant public domains and villages</li><li>2.3 Prioritise sustainable and active transport</li><li>2.4 Efficient traffic mobility and parking</li></ul></li></ul>

### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to respond to a resolution of Council of 10 March 2025 regarding bike-share services operating in the North Sydney Local Government Area.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- In August 2024, Council made a submission to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes, and related mobility options. Amongst other things, the submission called for actions to address safety issues and greater regulation on the use of e-bikes and e-scooters.
- The findings of the Inquiry were tabled in the NSW Upper House in February 2025, and a response is anticipated from the NSW Government in May 2025.
- On 11 September 2023, Council resolved to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise negotiations and enter an MoU with Lime Bikes for a 12-month share e-bike trial to operate in the North Sydney LGA. However, no agreement was reached between the Operator and Council at the time.
- In late February 2025, Council staff met with representatives of Lime Bikes to discuss improving the operation within North Sydney. Lime Bikes indicated an interest to revisit the MoU with an aim to address the issues raised by the community and establishing a base level of operation for bike-share operators.
- The MoU is currently with the parties' respective legal representatives. It is anticipated that the MoU will be finalised within six months. Councillors will then be briefed on the draft memorandum.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** the report responding to the Council resolution of 10 March 2025 in relation to bike-share operations in the North Sydney Local Government Area be received.

## Background

At its meeting on 10 March 2025 in response to the Mayoral Minute, Council resolved:

- 1. THAT Council continue to lobby the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Roads to address regulation of bike and scooter share schemes to prioritise pedestrian safety and access and bike/scooter clutter.*
- 2. THAT Council seek to revive the Memorandum of Understanding with Lime Bikes to improve e-bike clutter on local streets.*

This report responds to the resolution.

On 11 September 2023, Council resolved to delegate authority to the Chief Executive Officer to finalise negotiations and enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Lime Network Pty Ltd (Lime Bikes) for a 12-month share e-bike trial to operate in the North Sydney LGA. However, no agreement was reached between the Operator and Council at the time.

Bike Share operators can operate within North Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) provided they comply with relevant legal and regulatory requirements. Council does not have any legal authority to prevent bike share companies from operating within the in the LGA.

In November 2023, privately operated bike-share services began operations within the North Sydney LGA. Whilst this has provided increased transport options in the LGA, it has also raised challenges and concerns within the local community regarding footpath obstructions and bike distribution, highlighting the need for dedicated parking solutions.

## Report

- 1. THAT Council continue to lobby the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Roads to address regulation of bike and scooter share schemes to prioritise pedestrian safety and access and bike/scooter clutter.*

In August 2024, Council staff made a submission to the Upper House Inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes, and related mobility options. The submission called for actions to address safety issues and to fully capitalise on the benefits of e-mobility. This included greater regulation on the use of e-bikes and e-scooters and increased funding for active transport to improve cycling facilities and road safety initiatives.

The Upper House tabled a report in February 2025 responding to over 300 submissions and making 34 recommendations, including the management of a tender process for e-mobility schemes across NSW to improve safety, operational, and accessibility standards, as well as updates to the NSW Road Rules to improve regulation.

The NSW Government is required to respond within three months from when the report was tabled. The response should be received in May 2025.

Separately, Council has written to the Minister of Local Government and the Minister of Roads in relation to introducing or amending legislation to assist Council's in the management of share bike operations.

2. THAT Council seek to revive the Memorandum of Understanding with Lime Bikes to improve e-bike clutter on local streets.

In late February 2025, Council staff met with representatives of the predominant bike-share operator in the North Sydney LGA (Lime Network Ltd) to discuss improving the operation within North Sydney.

Given the challenges faced and the potential for competing operators to have further negative impact on community impressions regarding bike share, Lime indicated an interest to revisit the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was previously discussed with Council, with an aim to address the issues raised by the community and establishing a base level of operation for bike-share operators.

The memorandum seeks to facilitate collaboration between Council and the bike-share operator through transparent reporting, agreed standards for service and maintenance, and responsibilities to mitigate any impacts of shared e-bikes on public amenity.

The MoU is currently with the parties' respective legal representatives. It is anticipated that the MoU will be finalised within six months. Councillors will then be briefed on the draft memorandum.

As reported to the Council meeting of 24 March 2025, Lime is working with Council and Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) to trial dedicated bike-share parking areas within the LGA and include trialling 'geofencing' areas in North Sydney CBD and Crows Nest. Depending on the success of the trial, permanent solutions could be funded by bike-share companies as part of a MoU.

### **Consultation requirements**

Community engagement is not required.

### **Financial/Resource Implications**

There are no financial implications for Council receiving the advice within this report.

### **Legislation**

NSW Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021