Submission No 25

ELECTRIC AND HYBRID VEHICLE BATTERIES

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The Joint Standing Committee on Road Safety has as part of its TOR for this inquiry 'any other related matters,' in respect of the use of e-bikes in NSW. As such, I wish to lodge my considerable concern about the use of e-bikes, in particular by food delivery riders, around the city, where, almost on a daily basis, I find myself dodging food delivery riders on these vehicles, whilst I am walking on the footpath. I am a dedicated pedestrian. Sydney is a good city for walking, but the footpaths are narrow. While I would take issue with the whole notion of 'shared paths' for conventional cyclists, whose conduct towards pedestrians is, by and large, bad enough, footpaths as the main thoroughfare for e-bikes operating at speed is too much. That the food delivery riders are clearly riding as quickly as they can, and by whatever route possible, to make their delivery is indicative of what a sub-standard industry food delivery is, in term of workers' conditions, but the upshot of a lack of regulation of e-bikes is that pedestrian walkways, otherwise known as 'footpaths' are no longer secure for pedestrians. Is this what we want for our city. Time to get real.