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**Portfolio Committee NO.6: Inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options.**

**Fire and Rescue NSW Additional Information.**

**Post incident handling of fire damaged lithium-ion batteries**

- When damaged, lithium-ion batteries have a risk of secondary ignition. They are left in a container of water by FRNSW to minimise the re-ignition risk.
- Occupants are advised to contact their local council to organise safe collection and disposal. Many local councils do not have systems in place for this.
- FRNSW is aware that in some cases, due to the difficulties in organising safe collection/disposal, occupants are disposing of contaminated water into drains etc and disposing of damaged batteries in household waste streams. These practices place occupants, the community and the environment at avoidable risk of harm.
- Proposed solution: A funded system in place that can be requested by the attending fire service to facilitate timely collection and safe disposal of the damaged battery/s.

**Change of use of premises for lithium-ion battery and e-mobility device maintenance, storage etc.**

- The rapid adoption of E-micromobility is leading many businesses to begin storing/charging/maintaining lithium-ion battery packs inside their premises. Many of these premises were never designed or intended to have an increased fire load posed by lithium-ion batteries. For example, a recent fire in an e-bike store under a residential unit complex forced the evacuation of the entire building due to rapid fire spread and toxic vapour release penetrating the residential part of the complex.
- The Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 provides for the notification of Schedule 11 hazardous chemicals that are used, handled or stored above certain quantities. Currently, LiBs and E-micromobility devices are classed as Class 9 dangerous goods articles and are not listed in Schedule 11. This means that there are no legislative controls for bulk storage of these articles. There have been a number of fire incidents around Australia involving e-micromobility devices in storage or at maintenance facilities, including some connected to share schemes. Planning controls around the location, notification to fire services, emergency planning and fire safety requirements for these sites are needed to mitigate the risks to the community