

27 November 2024

Ms Cate Faerhmann, MLC

Chair

Portfolio Committee No.6 – Transport and the Arts

By email: PortfolioCommittee6@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Chair

Thank you for inviting Local Government NSW (LGNSW) to appear before the Inquiry into the use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options. Please see below responses to:

- Questions on notice for Mr David Reynolds
- Questions on notice for Mr Shaun McBride

Questions on notice for Mr David Reynolds

1. **The CHAIR:** *There's an interagency group. Is Local Government NSW in any kind of consultation group around this? I assume you're not in that interagency group either?*

LGNSW response

LGNSW is not a member of the interagency advisory group on e-mobility but has participated in two stakeholder workshops on the issue hosted by Transport for NSW (TfNSW). The most recent was on 25 September 2024. LGNSW understands that the interagency advisory group is only made up of NSW Government agencies and does not include other stakeholders or peak bodies such as LGNSW.

LGNSW does also participate in the Road Safety Advisory Council hosted by TfNSW. This is a long-standing committee that deals with all aspects of road safety. E-mobility was on the agenda for the most recent meeting held on 11 September 2024.

2. The Hon. NATALIE WARD: *I heard what you said, that you haven't so far been invited to do that. Do you have an indication from the Government about a working group or have you been invited to do so, or are there next steps?*

LGNSW response

LGNSW has not received any indications or invitations from the NSW Government to participate in a working group or interagency or committee.

3. The Hon. NATALIE WARD: *As you sit here today, have you been invited by the New South Wales Government to participate in providing that feedback or any process going forward?*

LGNSW response

At present, LGNSW has not been invited by the NSW Government to participate in providing feedback in relating to the e-micromobility action plan or any draft e-scooters regulations. We expect that there will be further opportunities in future. LGNSW looks forward to the opportunities to provide further council feedback.

4. The Hon. Dr SARAH KAINE: *We did have some councils in here yesterday or the day before talking about the shared-bike schemes just coming in and it could vary from one scheme to six schemes. You haven't had feedback on that?*

LGNSW response

LGNSW understands that councils see value in having some limitation on the number of providers that may offer share-bikes in a particular area. LGNSW does not have a formal position on what that number may be, and it may vary from region to region. LGNSW notes that individual councils such as the [City of Sydney](#) have called for greater powers to cap the number of devices and operators in their local government areas to help limit the impacts of public amenity and minimise accessibility issues for people on footpaths.

5. The CHAIR: *The State government submission does say that councils have been requesting for some time greater powers to be able to cap the number of devices and operators in the LGA. Do you know the history of that engagement and the requests from local government, whether it's from Local Government NSW or individual councils to State government to request that power or to request the legislative change or whatever is required? Do you know the history of that and why there has been resistance or delay?*



LGNSW response

See response to question 4 above. Noting that this is a matter for individual councils, LGNSW is not aware of the history of this request.

Questions on notice for Mr Shaun McBride

1. The Hon. NATALIE WARD: *Thank you very much for your attendance and for your submission. My question is related to your paper referring to the previous trials. My understanding is that there are trials going on and we'll await outcomes and feedback from those. The previous trials in Western Sydney Parklands, the Australian Botanic Gardens and Lake Macquarie, do you have any data from those about what the feedback was, what the issues were and what the recommendations were at those trials, given that they've concluded?*

LGNSW response

LGNSW does not have any data from the e-scooter trials that took place in Western Sydney Parklands, the Australian Botanic Gardens and Lake Macquarie. These organisations do not report to LGNSW and LGNSW was not engaged in the trials. Furthermore, the Western Sydney Parklands and Botanic Gardens are not local government entities, and the Lake Macquarie trial was an independent exercise that was not part of the current five-council trial being conducted in collaboration with TfNSW.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide evidence to this inquiry. For further information, the committee secretariat is welcome to contact LGNSW Director Advocacy on 02 9242 4063 or at damian.thomas@lgnsw.org.au.

Yours sincerely

Mr David Reynolds
Chief Executive

Mr Shaun McBride
Chief Economist