

The road ahead for share bikes

Introducing sensible
new laws for dockless
share bikes



Why are the new laws necessary?

Dockless bike share services can be an affordable and convenient part of a successful metropolitan transport network. However if not managed properly, they can result in dumped or broken bikes obstructing walkways and other public areas and impacting on safety and amenity.

The NSW Government has responded to these issues by increasing the powers of local councils and other public land impounding authorities to manage share bikes.

Changes to the *Impounding Act 1993* puts responsibility firmly on share bike operators to do the right thing. The NSW Government has responded to community concerns by increasing the powers of local councils and other public land managers to target irresponsible share bike operators.

The new powers balance the role share bikes can play in providing more transport options, with the community's concerns about dumped, broken and badly-parked bikes.

Have an issue with a share bike?

- Always call or email the share bike operator in the first instance and explain your concerns.
- If the bike poses a safety risk or has not been moved for more than a week, and the operator has not responded to requests to move it, contact your local council or other relevant authority.

They can immediately move or impound the bike.

They can also order the operator to move it and/or issue a fine.

New laws at a glance

- Anyone can notify an operator that a bike is causing an obstruction or safety risk, or has been parked in one place for more than seven days. This 'starts the clock' on the time within which the operator must respond.
- Once notified, the share bike operator must move a bike within risk-based timeframes:
 - three hours if it is causing an obstruction or safety risk, or
 - four days if it has been left in one place for more than seven days.
- Share bikes causing an obstruction or safety risk can also be impounded immediately or moved by a council or other impounding authority.
- Bikes not moved within the appropriate time limit of the operator being notified are taken to be abandoned and can be impounded.
- Where operators fail to respond within the appropriate time limit, they face a fine of \$500 per bike or a court imposed penalty of up to \$2750 per bike.
- Councils and other impounding authorities can issue a further order to operators to remove a bike that has not been moved within the appropriate time limit.



Responsible bike use

The laws build on voluntary guidelines developed by inner Sydney councils and feedback from councils, share bike operators and community groups.

Operators need to ensure their services are operated responsibly at all times.

Share bike users also need to take responsibility by:

- following NSW road safety laws at all times
- ensuring they do not park the bike in a way that poses a risk to others or obstructs access, such as blocking a footpath.

Penalties apply to people caught breaking road safety rules or vandalising share bikes.

The NSW Government will monitor the effectiveness of the new laws before deciding if more rules are required.

Where to get more information

Office of Local Government
www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sharebikes
(02) 4428 4100
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