

Media release for immediate distribution, 1 November 2019

Living Streets Aotearoa is shocked at Auckland Council approving 3200 hire e-scooters for our footpaths for another 6 months.

Pedestrians of all ages and abilities have been concerned at proposals to compromise their safety and their feeling of safety by allowing e-scooters and possibly other devices designed to be ridden at much higher speeds than walking speed on footpaths.

Electric scooters are on the footpath owing to a law that lets small children ride small bikes. It is not intended for heavy electric scooters with a 100kg person going 25 kmph.

Even NZTA CEO Mark Ratcliffe says, 'the current law is not fit for purpose'

E-scooters have caused ACC to spend \$400,000 on crashes (in Auckland) and have caused 2 deaths in the year they have been on our streets.

Put these electric high speed machines on cycleways and low speed roads.

People who have no choice but to walk or to use a wheelchair need the footpaths free of high speed electric vehicle-like device.

Our current Parliamentary Petition asks for "e-scooters and new forms of motorised vehicles or devices" (not intended for disabled people) to be banned from footpaths.

The petition can be found at:

 $\underline{https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_91586/petition-of-lizi-guest-for-footpaths4feet-keep-footpaths?}$

Living Streets and the Footpaths4Feet coalition look forward to working with the Government and Auckland Council to improve conditions for pedestrians to attract even more people to make walking a regular part of their day.

ENDS

About Living Streets

Living Streets Aotearoa is New Zealand's national walking and pedestrian organisation, providing a positive voice for people on foot and working to promote walking-friendly planning and development around the country. Our vision is "More people choosing to walk more often and enjoying public places".

The objectives of Living Streets Aotearoa are:

- ! to promote walking as a healthy, environmentally-friendly and universal means of transport and recreation
- ! to promote the social and economic benefits of pedestrian-friendly communities
- ! to work for improved access and conditions for walkers, pedestrians and runners including walking surfaces, traffic flows, speed and safety
- ! to advocate for greater representation of pedestrian concerns in national, regional and urban land use and transport planning.

For more information, please see: www.livingstreets.org.nz Contact Andy Smith, President Living Streets Aotearoa 021 474 740