

E-scooter trial extension

Tuesday, 13 September 2022
Council

Strategic Alignment - Thriving Communities

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Public

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Adelaide (CoA) has been operating an E-scooter trial since February 2019. The current trial will expire on 31 October 2022.

The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) has requested that Councils currently participating in the trial forward a formal request for an e-scooter trial extension to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport by mid-September 2022 so they can prepare the Gazettal notice.

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been established to inquire into and report on Public and Active Travel which includes evaluating the use of e-scooters and potential opportunities for expansion or further regulation.

DIT has also advised that they are preparing a YourSAy (State Government online consultation hub) survey on the desirability of a framework to allow private use of e-scooters (and other devices) in line with a State Government election commitment.

It is recommended that Council authorise the Lord Mayor to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to request an extension of the trial for 12 months to enable the e-scooter operations to continue in the CoA whilst a review is undertaken at the State Government level of which CoA will be a participant.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT COUNCIL

1. Authorises the Lord Mayor to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, requesting an extension to the e-scooter trial for a further 12 months until 31 October 2023 whilst the State Government review and YourSAy survey is conducted.
 2. Notes that the Administration will continue to review and amend the permit conditions as necessary to improve safety and efficiency of the e-scooter operations.
 3. Notes that the Administration will continue to work with DIT and investigate options for infrastructure that improves comfort and safety for people walking and using e-scooters.
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IMPLICATIONS AND FINANCIALS

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| City of Adelaide 2020-2024 Strategic Plan | Strategic Alignment – Thriving Communities A safe, affordable, accessible, well-connected city for people of all ages and abilities, and all transport modes. |
| Policy | Climate Neutral Strategy and the associated Draft Climate Action Plan includes an action to foster the uptake of electric or active micro-mobility devices and advocate to the State Government to provide for their safe use on city streets. A Micromobility Policy is currently in development. |
| Consultation | Not as a result of this report |
| Resource | Not as a result of this report |
| Risk / Legal / Legislative | Not as a result of this report |
| Opportunities | Safety and infrastructure opportunities following a review of e-scooters. |
| 22/23 Budget Allocation | Not as a result of this report |
| Proposed 23/24 Budget Allocation | Not as a result of this report |
| Life of Project, Service, Initiative or (Expectancy of) Asset | The current Government Gazette Notice ends on 31 October 2022. |
| 22/23 Budget Reconsideration (if applicable) | Not as a result of this report |
| Ongoing Costs (eg maintenance cost) | Not as a result of this report |
| Other Funding Sources | E-scooter operators pay a permit fee to operate in the City of Adelaide. |

DISCUSSION

Background

1. The City of Adelaide (CoA) has been operating an e-scooter trial since February 2019. The current trial will expire on 31 October 2022.
2. For e-scooter operation to continue beyond 31 October 2021, an extension is required from the Minister. On 14 September 2021, Council received a report on the e-scooter trial evaluation and approved the continuation of the trial. Council also authorised the Lord Mayor to write to the Minister requesting approval to extend the trial for a further 12 months.
3. It is appropriate for Council to consider this decision in the Caretaker period as this constitutes ordinary business and Council is not the ultimate decision maker.
4. The Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) has requested that Councils currently participating in the trial forward formal requests for a trial extension to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport by mid-September 2022 so they can prepare the Gazettal notice.
5. A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been established to inquire into and report on Public and Active Travel which includes evaluating the use of e-scooters and potential opportunities for expansion or further regulation.
6. DIT has also advised that they are preparing a YourSAy (State Government online consultation hub) survey on the desirability of a framework to allow private use of e-scooters (and other devices) in line with a State Government election commitment.
7. The 2022-2023 Annual Business Plan and Budget included the Strategic Annual Priority of “Develop a policy position on Micromobility to enhance our advocacy on emerging modes of transport” which aligns with the Strategic Plan Key Action 1.11: Work with the State and Federal Government to future proof infrastructure for emerging modes of transport, and trial smart, sustainable forms of public transport. Initial work on the policy has commenced.
8. There are five other Councils currently participating in the trial:
 - 8.1. The City of Unley has been operating an e-scooter trial since 14 February 2022. At its meeting on 25 July 2022, the City of Unley extended the trial from 14 August 2022 to 14 February 2023.
 - 8.2. The City of Port Adelaide Enfield considered an extension until 31 October 2024 along with an extension to the Glanville Train Station at its meeting on 9 August 2022, the motion was not carried.
 - 8.3. The City of Charles Sturt and City of West Torrens are also participants in the Coastal Trial with the City of Port Adelaide Enfield. It is unknown when these Councils will be considering an extension.
 - 8.4. The City of Norwood Payneham & St Peters has been operating an e-scooter trial since 13 May 2021. Council is yet to consider an extension.
9. We will continue to work with the e-scooter operators for operational improvements, including those based on the outcomes of the e-scooter parking trial.
10. A report on the e-scooter parking trial outcomes is being finalised noting it will be presented to Council as per its decision on 12 July 2022. The report will be presented to Council at its meeting in February 2023.
11. We will continue to work with DIT and investigate options where e-scooter use might be facilitated off footpaths and to meet the needs of different street users.

Next Steps

12. It is recommended that Council authorise the Lord Mayor to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport to request an extension of the trial for 12 months until 31 October 2023 to enable the e-scooter operations to continue in the CoA whilst a review is undertaken at the State Government level of which CoA will be a participant.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil