



Dear Friends on Michael's E-scooter email group,

Last week I sent you the report to Council for the Monday Night's meeting. If you wish to refer to it again I have published it on my website as a separate report for ease of access. [E Scooter trial evaluation July 2022](#)

7 Councillors voted to extend the trial and 5 were against extending it. If the vote had been 6/6 as Mayor, I would have had the casting vote.

I have been asked what my vote would be if the vote was tied. Many Councils such as Adelaide City Council and others are reportedly dysfunctional with what seems like with blocs locked in on personality politics. One of my primary roles as Mayor of a successful Council is to try to maintain the cohesion of the council as a body that serves the people of Unley rather than break down into self-serving personality politics.

The debate Monday night was also without personal attacks. The debate had good well researched powerful speakers on both sides of the debate. Given the vote was not tied at 6/6, I have NO say. By reserving my personal opinion all Councillors can share their frustrations with me and let off steam if necessary. Others can ask for help and advice. That way the next strongly contested debate is about the facts and not about the people voting. When members feel the Mayor is biased, anger can develop, and thoughtless voting blocs may develop.

Clarence Park Ward, Deputy Mayor Don Palmer, in favour & Cr Jennie Boisvert, against: Goodwood Ward, Cr Emma Wright, against; Cr Nicole Sheehan in favour. Fullarton Ward, Cr Hughes against and Cr Jordan Dodd in favour. Unley Park Ward both were against, Unley Ward and Parkside Wards were all in favour.

I asked our staff for some dot points

“Please find below a summary of key e-scooter points/facts, as requested yesterday.

- The City of Unley (CoU) has been operating an e-scooter trial since 14 February 2022.
- The 6-month extension will continue the e-scooter trial up to 14 February 2023.

E-scooter usage:

- During the period of the trial between 14 February and 30 June 2022, over 14,000 e-scooter trips were undertaken within the CoU, covering over 31,600 km, and averaging 74 trips per day.
- The most popular locations for e-scooter use have been in the northern half of the City including the Wayville Showgrounds and Unley shopping and civic precincts.

- The busiest times for e-scooter usage have been identified to be during the lunchtime peak 11 am – 1 pm and the PM commuter peak 4 -7 pm, indicating that people are using e-scooters for varied reasons including leisure and commuter purposes
- E-scooter usage between Unley and the City is also shown to be popular, with more trips travelling from the City to Unley (greater than double) than from Unley to the City.

E-scooter concerns:

- Council will seek to implement further No Parking Zone restrictions and designated preferred parking areas within the City of Unley area.
- An initial area-wide No Parking Zone (NPZ) trial in the Parkside area will be implemented bounded by Fullarton Road, Greenhill Road, George Street, Duthy Street, and Wattle Street. If this area-wide NPZ trial is successful, this approach could be applied more broadly across the Unley area, minimising the impact of e-scooter parking on our local residential streets with narrow footpaths.

Pedestrian Safety:

- The Department for Infrastructure and Transport only-allows e-scooters to operate with a maximum weight of 25kg and an operational speed of 15km/h to support pedestrian safety. On busier arterial roads, such as Goodwood Road, Unley Road, etc, e-scooter speeds have been further restricted to 10km/h.”

What pleased me about the report was that the objections and the suggestions you made were recorded and the main one responded to. One of the major concerns from some of you is: that scooters are littering Unley lying dangerously in wait, especially at night across footpaths. During the next six months, there will be **“We will implement an initial area-wide No Parking Zone (NPZ) trial in Parkside. It will be the area bounded by Fullarton Road, Greenhill Road, George Street, Duthy Street, and Wattle Street. If this area-wide NPZ trial is successful, this approach could be applied more broadly across the Unley area, minimising the impact of e-scooter parking on our local residential streets with narrow footpaths”**

At the meeting, a petition was presented opposing the extension and Mary Kulusniewski made a passionate deputation in opposition to e-scooters.

One great thing about Unley compared to Norwood is: that Unley has 40kph roads. Because of our SA state law, e-scooters in Unley are legally allowed to use these 40kph roads. This gets scooters off our narrow footpaths.

With my best wishes,

Michael

Mayor Michael Hewitson AM