

# MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 22 NOVEMBER 2017

## **SYDNEY Councils meet with Dockless Bike Share Operators**

*Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) held a Forum with Councils and bike share operators last week to discuss ways to work together to manage operations in our communities.*

**November, Sydney, Australia:** On Monday last week, SSROC, in collaboration with member councils met with dockless bike share operators to address community and council concerns. Representatives of Transport for NSW, Sydney City Local Area Command and a local council from northern Sydney were also in attendance.

With over 1.7 million people and seven of the top ten most congested roads in Australia, active transport is increasingly becoming a focus of transport planning for SSROC councils. The dockless bike share operations in Sydney have generated concerns and challenges but also provide opportunities for active transport and other potential benefits.

Ms Helen Sloan, Program Manager SSROC, stated:

“This was an initial meeting to get all the stakeholders in the room to discuss operational challenges, potential solutions and a future pathway.”

“Councils and operators met wanting to address community concerns and establish safe operating guidelines.”

There are a number of active dockless bike share companies currently operating across the region, with oBikes, Reddy Go, ofo, Earth Bike, and most recently Mobikes progressively rolling out bikes in the SSROC area.

Namoi Dougall, General Manager SSROC, advised that:

“SSROC is working on developing guidelines with our member councils in consultation with bike share operators. We will also be preparing a briefing paper to go to member council Mayors who are meeting later this month on this issue.”

“There is general agreement that there is a need to develop operational guidelines for:

- User and public safety
- Responsibility for unsafely parked or vandalised bikes
- Community education
- Building an economically sustainable industry”

Active transport, such as cycling, is beneficial to people’s health, reducing traffic congestion, and is great for the environment. The recently released NSW Draft Future Transport Strategy puts forward a 20+ year vision in which walking or cycling are the most convenient options for short trips around all Metropolitan and Strategic Centres and local areas. It is important though, that arrangements and guidelines are put in place and that dockless bike share operates in a manner that reassures the community and meets expectations.

**- ENDS -**

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## **About Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) Inc.:**

The Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (SSROC) is an association of 11 councils spanning Sydney's southern suburbs, eastern suburbs, CBD, and inner west and covering a third of the Greater Sydney's population, or 1.7m people.

SSROC provides a forum through which our member councils can interact, exchange ideas and work collaboratively to solve regional issues and contribute to the future sustainability of the region.

We advocate on behalf of our region to ensure that the major issues are addressed by all levels of government, including:

- Advocating for regional interests at all levels of government in areas such as planning and urban development, environment, waste management, and renewable energy
- Developing regional policies and positions on issues facing our member councils now and into the future

We work to deliver shared services, contracts and procurement to reduce the cost to council of delivering vital community services.

As the level of government that is closest to the community, member councils aim to keep the "local" in local government, while fully utilising the benefits of regional cooperation through SSROC.

You can keep up to date with the work we are doing at [www.ssroc.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ssroc.nsw.gov.au)