

# New rules for shopping trolleys and share bikes

and other sharing service  
items left in public

## Why are the new laws necessary?

Shopping trolleys, share bikes and other sharing services offer convenient services to members of the public. However, if not managed properly, they can result in dumped or broken items obstructing walkways, dumped in parks and waterways, and impacting the enjoyment of public spaces.

The NSW Government has introduced new laws – *the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act 2021* and regulations – that put accountability firmly on operators of sharing services to do the right thing and remove their items quickly from public land.





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## How does it work?

Councils and other public land authorities may notify an operator that a sharing service item is causing an obstruction or safety risk or has been left unattended in one place for too long.

Once notified, the sharing service operator must respond and move the item within the following risk-based timeframes:

- **3 hours** if causing an obstruction or safety risk (except after 11pm and before 7am), or
- **4 days** if left in one place for **more than 7 days**.

If these timeframes are not met, the council or public land authority may take the unattended item to a place of storage and may issue a fine.

Fines for leaving a sharing service item unattended (excluding shopping trolleys) apply from **1 Nov 2022** of **\$660 per item** (\$1,320 for corporations). Fines for shopping trolleys will apply from **1 May 2023**. Higher fines may apply for a cluster of items. Higher Court-imposed penalties may also apply.

Councils or other public land authorities may move sharing service items causing an obstruction or safety risk to a safer place.

## Have an issue with an unattended shopping trolley, share bike or other sharing service item?

Always contact the sharing service operator in the first instance and explain your concerns.

If you are not happy with their response, contact your local council or public land authority.

Authorities have strong powers to require operators of sharing services to remove their unattended items from public land within risk-based timeframes.

## Responsible sharing service use

Operators must follow a Code of Practice which requires them to:

- ensure their items are safe to use, and
- clearly brand their items with their contact details.

Members of the public should use sharing service items safely and responsibly by:

- always following NSW road safety laws and other relevant laws,
- not leaving sharing service items in a way that poses a risk to others or obstructs access, such as blocking a footpath, and
- not vandalising sharing service items.

## Where to get more information

Office of Local Government

W: [www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty](http://www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/unattendedproperty)

T: (02) 4428 4100

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