Cyclists fast becoming a park nuisance

Heather McNab

CYCLISTS have been reminded to slow down on shared paths at Sydney Park after a pedestrian reported a serious close call.

Enraged resident Kendell Horrocks, who regularly runs at the park with his dog, said "sloths" had taken over - with no signs of racing, forcing other park users and their dogs out of the area.

Mr Horrocks called for cycling to be banned on footpaths or sidewalks in the park,以及 for the City of Sydney to take a firmer stance on regulating the actions of cyclists.

Mr Horrocks said allowing cyclists "to stroll on footpaths and in parks where they have become an even more dangerous menace - especially to people with disabilities, the aged, our children both human and canine'.

His dog has been hit twice by cyclists in the park and he has reported several near misses to his ward in the council.

Cyclists using roadways must adhere to a speed limit but these restrictions do not apply on shared paths - such as those in Sydney Park - leaving pedestrians at the mercy of individual bike riders.

"Putting bicycles on footpath detours through public parks just makes walking (along) them a nightmare of constant near misses, and you are just always on edge," Mr Horrocks said.

She added that cyclists also failed to yield from their bikes along Brindabella Way, a green space adjacent to Sydney Park, as required by City signage.

A City spokesman said despite there being no speed limits on shared paths, "police riding should travel slowly and be ready to stop, as people on foot always have the right of way on shared paths".

Rangers regularly patrolled the area.

"With the addition of green space, Sydney Park is hugely popular with children, families, people riding, running, dog walkers and local residents - and there should be room enough for everyone," the spokesman said.

Shared paths in and around Sydney Park were there to help less confident bike riders, the spokesman said.

Mr Horrocks said in light of some cyclists' behaviour, tougher penalties should be introduced for those flouting the rule.

She also supported the introduction of bike user registration, as well as number plates for cyclists in order to easily identify offenders.