

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Dear Sir I am writing to both Mr Dan Purdie and Mr Brent Mickelburg to ask what is going to be done to police and improve legislation for the ever-growing number of electric Scooters, Bicycles and Motorcycles being ridden illegally on the roads, footpaths and parks. The way the illegality manifests itself is by the following examples; Speeding on both footpaths and roads. Where I live, there is a young man on an e-scooter with a full-face helmet and at approximately 4pm every weekday passes cars in the cycle lane. I witnessed a car nearly swerving into him as he passed the car on the inside when the car was navigating past a traffic island, he then abused the car driver. No helmets. More than one person on a scooter, routinely. Unsupervised children obviously under the 15 and some less than 12. E-bicycles with modified rear hub drives and large battery packs obviously over 250 Watts given the high speeds I have seen them doing and the size of the hub motor which I have seen online in ads for 3000W motors. E-scooters also with higher than the legal 200W motors given the speeds they are going. Not giving way to pedestrians. Most of the problems are with young boys and young men. I am not against this equipment, but I am increasingly frustrated that there is little evidence that anything is being done and the procurement and use of this illegal equipment is increasing. Someone I know recently purchased a new e-bike with a rear hub drive motor and it can be pedalled with motor assist via a thumb throttle, but it can also power the bike with no pedalling at higher speeds than is legally allowed. This was sold from a shop where they were told the law is "grey" on this. I have both an e-bike and an e-scooter, both of which comply with the laws. They are manufactured by major companies which seems to be self-regulating to comply to the laws. My e-bike is primarily used on mountain bike tracks and is speed limited to 25kph, but it would benefit from an extra 5kph. This is not permitted under the existing laws. I can pedal my non-e-bike faster than this with no restrictions apart from perhaps any relevant speed limits and my levels of strength and fitness. I have a full driver's license for a car and motorcycle which are capable of speeds greater than any speed limits in this country and are only limited by my compliance with the road laws and the mandated speed limits. If I don't comply, I know there are escalating consequences. Why have a law that only seems to be applied sporadically and is complied with by those who would comply anyway i.e. reputable wholesalers and retailers and vehicle riders like me? It is pretty easy to find scooters with power over 200W, check these to site out.

Why are the suppliers of the illegal equipment not policed? Since laws mandate maximum speeds and power, why are the retail chains not penalised for noncompliance? To be honest one of the things which annoys me about this law, apart from the lack of policing, is that most users are penalised for a minority. Community safety also needs to be of concern, given young riders have been seen to have little road sense, very little to no road safety experience or training and little regard for other road users and pedestrians. We all know where these illegal vehicles are used – it's not hard to spot them cutting across intersections in front of cars or screaming down the shared Flinders Parade walkway. Unfortunately, their parents seem to condone this behaviour as I doubt there would be many children able to afford these "toys". I'm in full support of the Police enforcing demerit points on

the parents – if only this penalty would be actioned, but as stated above, surely it would be easier to just penalise the importers of illegal equipment at the gate? Why not confiscate illegal equipment by repeat offenders and increase the fine for those offenders? Yours faithfully Nick Bell