

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitted by: Kim Garnham
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Submitter Comments:

I have concerns with how electric scooters, e-bikes and motorbikes are used on public footpaths and roads by those who have little understanding or respect for the road rules, and the advertising of these products encouraging their use in ways contrary to the current laws.* On public footpaths these vehicles are heavy, fast, and quiet making them a danger to pedestrians, particularly those who are young, elderly, or have reduced mobility, who may be unable to get out of the way of these vehicles and more susceptible to a collision.* On the roads, I have been passed by these vehicles travelling faster than the 60kph that my car was travelling. I have also experienced youths riding these vehicles through traffic, doing wheelies through traffic, and generally disregarding the road rules.* On social media, advertising rarely reinforces the current rules about use of these vehicles and in some cases actively flouts the regulations. Advertising images often show kids underage riding, people without helmets and with helmets not done up, kids riding on public land (parks or roads), and one ad I saw this morning showed someone doing wheelies on the road with traffic. Maybe advertising should include clear statement of the laws for the vehicle being advertised (illegal electric motorbikes v legal e-bikes).* There is some value in the legal use of e-bikes however there does need to be a way to enforce the appropriate use and prevent sales and importation of illegal vehicles.* It would be good to look at the value of a normal bicycle helmet when riding these devices or if they need a stronger helmet (something between a bicycle helmet and a motorcycle helmet) from a safety perspective.