Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

As a member of the public the use of e-bikes and e-scooters greatly concern me. We often walk along the footpath on the Broadwater, both near Biggera Waters / Labrador and also Paradise Point. The speeds which the e-scooters and e-bikes travel along the footpath are often faster than cars travelling on the adjacent road. Often they come without warning and given they make no sound, we have seen many near misses with pedestrians. Often children are raising them and deliberately play chicken along the path. They also go through the high use areas near Charis at high speed where there are children running around. My father used to walk with us before he passed away and we would ensure he walked between us to protect him from riders who come daringly close and refuse to slow down when the path is busy. We also often come across escorted and ebikes being ride irresponsibly on the road by adults and children. Often they do not obey the road rules and cut in and out of traffic. Unlike a motorcycle they have little visibility to drivers. Most times it is likely the person doesn't even hold a drivers licence and is inexperienced in the road rules. We have also often come across riders at night with no lights, and dark clothes riding recklessly on the road. I have extremely good eyesight and even I sometimes see them at the last minute. My husband, who is generally the passenger, says to me he didn't see them at all until I point the person out. To ensure everyone's safety there should be a requirement that only persons holding a drivers licence can drive one and that they must be registered and consequently hold CTP insurance to cover anyone they injure. This inquiry is long long overdue. All of what I have said above could easily be proved and documented by someone sitting along Marine Parade at Biggera Waters for a day or 2 watching the path and the road.