

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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I would like you to please consider 3 aspects on ebike usage and safety in relation to my experiences on the Gold Coast.

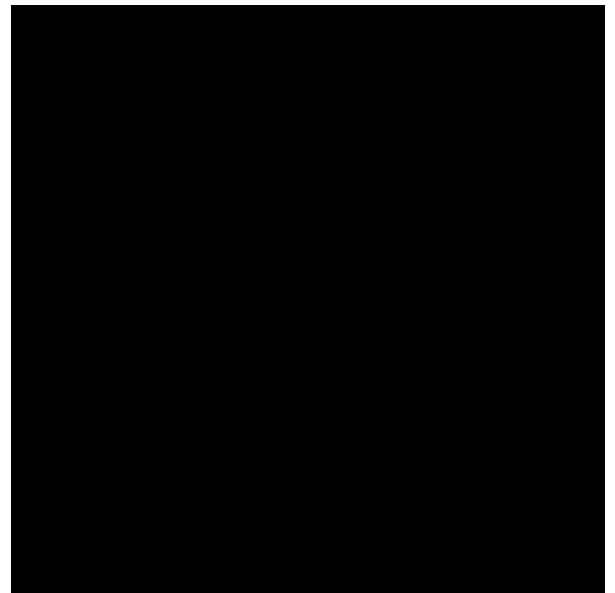
I am 65 years old and relatively fit. I love the Oceanway and can walk from Broadbeach to Main Beach. I also sometimes take my old pedal power bike along the pathway. I ride slowly and always take care of pedestrians. My husband and I plan to purchase ebikes so that we can still enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle but make it the extra distance to the Spit. (and further south when the Oceanway is finished) Ebikes can be seen as an asset to healthy outdoor lifestyles but they need to be better managed. Currently they are out of control and dangerous.

The safety of batteries needs attention but I'm not sure how you tackle that one. Also the speeds of riders on the open road are dangerous, mostly for the riders. My 3 main wishes relate to paths I walk regularly;

- 1) Paths for pedestrians and walkers/joggers should be separated. I see that there are separate pathways in Windsor in Brisbane. Perth separates the two and many other places around the World.

You can see below how popular the Oceanway is. Unfortunately I know of some elderly people who have stopped using this path because of reckless, speeding ebikes and scooters. I have seen them weaving dangerously through pedestrians and have often felt the whoosh of air as one had sped past me so close. The reckless riders leave no room for error for toddlers, pets, someone tripping or turning by mistake, no defensive riding by some of these electric vehicles. I have seen many people hurt, scared and there are near misses every day.

The Oceanway path pedestrian section needs to be much wider than the Windsor photo below because the Oceanway carries many more pedestrians. There is a grass space on the Oceanway which could be converted. Shame to lose the green but can add green and improve tree shade and avoid the need to constantly water the grassed areas in low rain times.



- 2) ebike and scooter rules need to be enforced. If they exceed speeds acceptable in high traffic areas they should be stopped, fined and bikes or scooters confiscated if they are

a danger to others. I have only ever seen police on the Oceanway once monitoring responsible riding.

I'm not sure what the answer is? More police? Cameras that are monitored and reckless riders fined? I'm not sure how you do this without registration but maybe technology these days could recognise riders. The main point is follow up. The riders that spoil it for others and make our paths unsafe will continue to do it if there are no consequences.

- 3) Once again I use Brisbane as an example. My husband and I hired ebikes in Brisbane from a docking station. We had to return them to a docking station or be fined. Lime bikes on the Gold Coast are often without helmets and they are often strewn around carelessly. I have seen them dumped in canals, in beach sand dunes, in gardens, across paths so blocking wheelchair access etc. The current hire system is open to abuse by users and passerbys. Docking neatly would correct this problem.



Thank you for your consideration. Ebikes can be excellent but they need infrastructure to make their usage safe for all.

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