

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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I've been wanting to post the following commentary / recommendations for a few months now but somehow naively thought this community safety and wellbeing issue would go away by itself it hasn't ...in fact it has rapidly spread to now becoming a major social / local community scourge.

The subject is of course the rampant proliferation of unregulated E Bikes / Scooters travelling anywhere from 10kph to 90kph plus - on mobile phones, with no helmets, on the wrong side of the road / bike lane(s) have now become a dangerous pox on our community ! I may be impeccably qualified to speak on this subject - as a [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] as well as my passion for competitive cycling both competitive and spending at least 14 hours to 20 hours per week cycling on Gold Coast roads and cycleways - I have observed that immediate intervention into these out of control E Bikes / Scooters is needed NOW ! All forms of Government have a duty of care to rate payers / tax payers ! Otherwise the death / injury rate to riders, pedestrians, motorists will continue to soar. Qld Police to their own admission cannot give chase or apprehend these juvenile offenders. They are unstoppable and seem to be highly disrespectful of any other pedestrian / road / cycle path user. It is chaotic out there – please come for a ride with me along the bike ways and roads and you will witness anarchy first hand. There are now clear legal implications and a duty of care on behalf of Councils, State Governments and even Federal Government to act swiftly. But Premier on a positive note ..there is now an opportunity to promote the humble bicycle in all its non motorised / non polluting / non violent human propelling forms as a more desirable option from a health / community liveability perspective. Incidentally, child hood obesity rates are soaring, internet addiction disorder is on the rise too .. let's bring physical training, fun, respect and self discipline back into the - again if we don't act now then I can't see this madness ending ! So Premier these are my recommendations: (i) Juveniles under 16 should not legally be allowed to ride E-Bikes / Motorised Bikes / unregulated motor vehicles – they should ride only “non-violent – non motorised non polluting “bicycles”. (ii) Juveniles once they reach 16 can ride E Bikes but they need to be fully “trained & registered” with number plates albeit at a much lower cost for registration.

(iii) Speed limit for motorised E Bikes as well as normal bikes on cycle ways should not exceed 25km per hour limit and council should have squillions of Smiling Speed Dials so all riders (including legal E Bikes) know how fast they are travelling (iv) Community education / recreation programs encouraging cycling to school for juveniles - those kids under 16 should be actively and comprehensively encouraged / promoted by both the State Education Department as well as local councils. (v) Adults / 16 years olds should only be allowed to “dink” passengers if the E Bike is equipped to do so. Many thanks [REDACTED]