

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 138
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
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Submitter Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this very important inquiry. I have previously contacted the office of Laura Gerber regarding my concerns about e-bikes and have since been directed to this site to make a submission. I live on [REDACTED] at Bilinga, and Pacific Parade abuts the rear of my property and my verandah overlooks Pacific Parade. Pacific Parade has been changed to a walking/cycling path and is a valuable community resource for the public to enjoy. However, since the introduction of e-bikes Pacific Parade has substantially lost its relaxing vibe, in fact it is a place of danger for walkers, particularly the elderly. Each and every school day, in the mornings and afternoons, I witness dozens of school kids riding to and from school, some are courteous and behave lawfully, but many others create danger to pedestrians, who are often elderly. These e-bikes are simply not limited to 25kph, or they have been modified as it is a regular occurrence to see them being ridden at 40-50 kph on Pacific Parade, even whilst navigating through pedestrians. On one occasion I witness an older lady, at the intersection of Pacific Parade and John Street, turn to look behind her and at that moment an ebike rode from behind and within 1 metre of her at about 30kph, she was clearly frightened and in an effort to save herself she fell over on the concrete and had to be assisted by members of the public. The concern here is obvious, yet it is heightened as it is well known that falls are particularly dangerous for older people. On one occasion on Pacific Parade, I was approached from behind by two teenagers on an ebike, the pillion passenger screamed at me, from a distance of no more than 60cm, as they went by, this was immediately followed up by a female teenager on an ebike who screamed obscenities at me from close proximity. The issue is that these ebikes are silent, they travel at speeds of up to 50kph (I am a trained Doppler Radar Operator), the riders are generally immature youth, and they are allowed to intermingle with walkers on walking paths. However, there is also a rising trend of them being used on the beach, which is not the place where one should have to be on the lookout for fast moving vehicles. On the road, the riders simply disobey the road rules, such as red lights etc. I have lived in my current residence since January 2025 and I walk and/or ride a push bike on Pacific Parade every day, twice a day, yet not once have I seen any form of police enforcement, or for that matter police presence. I understand the constraints on police resources. Pacific Parade has become a dangerous pathway for walkers. I believe that this activity requires not only regulation, but also regular enforcement to reduce the danger to older people on walkways. Thanks you for reviewing my submission.