

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Whilst I think that the advent of e-bikes and e-scooters are wonderful inventions, I also think that their popularity as transport or recreation was serious underestimated by authorities especially when the devices were for relatively affordable prices. The rapid spread, particularly of e-bikes, has shown most popularity with young people who, in the main, are not mentally equipped to recognise the dangers of being caught up in modern day traffic. Either that or it is a blatant disregard of road rules. Incidents I have witnessed, include but are not limited to, e-bikes leaving the Palm Beach Currumbin High School with two, sometimes three passengers, none wearing helmets and weaving through school traffic and going through red lights; Passing a vehicle on the inside in a 50 kmh zone; Tailgating dangerously close to vehicles; Riding dangerously close to walkers at speed on the park paths without indication that they were approaching from behind; Small groups riding slowly in front of vehicles so that they impede traffic; Hurling abuse at vehicle drivers because they sounded the car horn to warn of a dangerous situation; and Failing to give way to a vehicle which had right of way at a roundabout. I don't begrudge e-bike riders and if I was younger I probably would like to have one but because of a lack of forethought or planning by appropriate authorities, a large proportion of our youths have been released onto our roads totally ill equipped for the hazards and for the rights of other road users who have had to undergo tests, licensing and training for the privilege of using the roads. It's not too late to rectify the situation but urgent action is required. I submit that each and every e-bike owner should be registered and should display an identifying number, following the payment of a fee and each owner should be tested in relation to road rules.