

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

People riding E bikes in my local area pose a great risk to themselves, pedestrians and other road and footpath users. I have personally made a number of submissions to council seeking signage to warn footpath users of correct speed, giving way to pedestrians, and risks of hidden driveways. Council's response was people should know rules. I personally have been nearly struck by E bikes doing in excess of 60km hr on Mallawa Drive's footpath and many many other parts of Palm Beach. This risk happens to me several times a day walking out my front gate. I have witnessed hundreds of students from local schools, some in groups of over 50 bikes at a time, doubling, doing wheelies, without helmets, speeds exceeding 60km hr on the Gold Coast highway going through stop lights and up the wrong side of the road during before and after school hours. I frequently see parents doubling young children and infants not wearing helmets or correct attire. People should not be taking up FOOT paths when there is a road available to ride on. Speeds on footpaths should not exceed 6km and hr. Fast walk pace. Bikes must know that Pedestrians always have right of way. I have witnessed children, dogs even adults stop, step in an unpredictable pattern and be nearly struck by e bikes coming up behind them. I have witnessed many abusive e bike riders blaming pedestrians and children rather than their failure to drive with due care. We cannot trust people to do the right thing. All e bikes MUST have compulsory third party registration and they must not be ridden by people under driving age. It is not a matter of if, but when more fatalities occur. We have children who every afternoon do wheelies down Mallawa in and out of car traffic exceeding the road speed limit of 50km per hour. These bikes without registration cannot be identified. Police ignor it. We live in a civilised country and we need civilised rules to protect people who do the right thing. Children should not be given guns and a heavy ebike driven at speed, or even at 12km per hour hitting a pedestrian is able to do great harm. Children have poor decision making capacity, parents are unwilling and unable to control their children and people walking about for good health no longer feel safe. E bikes travel on one way roads any way they like. They do not obey stop signs, traffic lights or pedestrian pathways. It is impossible for a pedestrian to look in all directions every moment of every metre walked. This is made worse by the fact that these bikes are always exceeding the car speed limit. We have an obligation to protect pedestrians and children.