

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I request that someone in power, please amend legislation in regards to e-bikes to avoid someone getting seriously hurt, and/or seeing our Pizzey Park skatepark without children and families. I believe it's a common opinion that e-bikes are a major concern on our roads due to the drivers, which are generally young teenagers, have no road sense. Consequently, they drive extremely dangerously and illegally (too fast, one-wheeling, zigzagging between cars, driving through red-lights etc.) However it's the e-bikes flocking at the Pizzey Park skatepark area that is my main concern and I need to be addressed promptly, as otherwise families with younger children will stop going there, or even worse, someone will get severely injured. My wife and I take our sons (4 and 7 years old) to the skatepark 1-2 afternoons/week and have done so for the last year or so. However in the last 6 months we have noticed a growing number of teenagers on e-bikes 'taking over' the bike/foot paths surrounding the skatepark (at times they also go on the actual skatepark) They have no respect or concern for other visitors and zigzag between people/children with extreme speed, often doing wheelies. They generally don't wear helmets, are loud and often use very inappropriate language. Last time we were at the skatepark, children almost got taken out at numerous occasions. We haven't witnessed any accidents ourselves, but other people have said there have been collisions. A few months back, there were actually some policemen at the skatepark (I'm not sure if it was because of the e-bikes or for something else), but as the police can't legally do anything, and the e-bike drivers know this, they were doing burnouts right in front of them and calling the police awful names. We are trying to teach our children that the police are 'good guys' and their job is to protect us, but with how the policemen were treated by the e-bike drivers, our boys got the opposite impression. Both our sons love skateboarding, but due to the growing number of e-bikes and their drivers' reckless driving and foul language, they have both asked to no longer go to the skatepark, a weekly family tradition all four of us have enjoyed. The fact is, our boys are not unique. I have spoken to several parents who all saying the same thing, either the children, parents, or both, no longer want to deal with the stress that the e-bikes are causing. So either you do nothing about this, and let the e-bikes take over and see families leave, or you make this a priority, and bring us our skatepark back please. Both my wife and I can see the value and practicality in having an e-bike, so we don't want to ban them all together, but the misuse of them, especially at Pizzey Park skatepark, needs to be dealt with asap! Regards, [REDACTED].