

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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I have become increasingly concerned with the behavior of e-mobility users. Living on the Esplanade is a great space for all types of activities including entertainment, water sports, walking, Jogging, driving, cycling and e-mobility devices. Unfortunately a high proportion of e-mobility users do not comply with the current Queensland laws and the Police are no where to be seen on this matter. My wife and I have almost been smashed many times over the past couple of years as we walk daily on the esplanade pathways between Scarness and Torquay. We have also witnessed many near misses and a death occurred only a short distance from our residence. Behavior that is of serious concern is speeding (speeds up to 60 Kph on paths and roads used by pedestrians and motorists respectively. Very few helmets are observed and often they are hanging on the handle bars and not being used. Doubling at high speed with no helmets is common place and often observed traversing road intersections via pram ramps without looking. Courteous polite behavior does happen but is not the norm. Often an e-scooter can be observed travelling at speeds up to 60 Kph in the middle of the esplanade late at night with no helmet in place. We live on the 4th floor,so it is easy to observe this behavior from the balcony. I fear more deaths are a certainty as many of the users are also affected by drugs and alcohol as can be observed by their behavior and language. This behavior is a blight on the esplanade and the Fraser Coast area with many visitors witnessing poor behavior and lack of police enforcement for the existing law. I support e-mobility devices for their low cost efficiency and low carbon mileage, they are a great transport option. Unfortunately their use is out of control and needs to be managed. Like everything rules have to be created and enforced so that people comply especially when innocent lives are at risk. Opportunities for improvement include the following.1. Registration of every device that is motorised including battery powered. This will allow identification of the device and compulsory insurance with Third Party as is the case for all other motorised vehicles. High Viz registration plates to be fitted on all e-mobility devices.2. Enforce the existing law.3. Educate the police with a view to removing the complacency surrounding e-mobility use.4. Educate the public with easy to understand reporting processes, similar process to crime stoppers. Could be incorporated into crime stoppers as part of the pallet of services.5. Use of cameras to identify non compliance, similar to road side speeding cameras in functionality. Ability to issue statutory fines from footage, use technology.