

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I have witnessed the explosion of E-Scooter use in Hervey Bay over the last 2 to 3 years. We have a company hiring E-Scooters in our town, plus a large range of private scooter owners and users. I see that most users are teenagers, although older users are fairly common. The issue I see mostly while on my daily driving lessons, is a complete non compliance with road and footpath rules. (Not stopping at road signs or traffic lights, failing to give way, wheel standing on roads, excessive speed on roads and footpaths)A large percentage of users are not wearing helmets. Or if they are, the helmet is not secured by the straps. Young people especially are doubling (2 people on the scooter), often without helmets.It has become part of my driver training that we must be hyper aware of E-Scooters crossing intersections and pedestrian crossings at high speed.This leaves very little time for a driver to make a good decision about breaking heavily to avoid a collision, with the E-Scooter or following traffic.The increase in scooter numbers and higher powered scooters, will only exacerbate this situation in the future.I would suggest, at the very least, an in-school education program focusing on wearing helmets and general road rule education. (eg. Basic road rules, legal age for powered scooters, where scooters can be legally ridden, speed limits, capacity limits)