

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I contend that the general public is vulnerable to injury (or worse) and significant cost related to medical fees and hospitalisation if struck by an e-biker when sharing a pedestrian footpath. All e-bikes and the like, including battery operated scooters should be registered and required to carry sufficient insurance cover for third party injury and damage to property. E-bikes, etc.. should not be allowed to use pedestrian footpaths, and required to use bicycle lanes where available or required to use the roads in the same manner as bicycles. Where they contravene the legislated road rules and regulations they should be subject to appropriate fines and penalties. There should be a maximum speed limit, say 30 kph, which should be set by the manufacturers of the e-bikes. There should also be a minimum age, say 13 years, applied to the registration with the applicant being required to demonstrate a knowledge/understanding of the road rules and conditions of use. I have noted whilst passing Palm Beach and Currumbin High School, at the end of the school day, that a very large number of students have e-bike, with many failing to wear their helmets other than on their handlebars. I never witnessed a police officer monitoring this dangerous practice! Also noted, was that many of the bikes were carrying two persons and several were inclined to show-off by riding their bikes on the rear wheel only - a very dangerous practice and indicates that many riders believe they are immune to good practice and responsibility. This indicates that legislation for the safe and proper use of e-bikes is long overdue!