

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

As well as the significant risk of injury, death and property damage from unlawful use of e-bikes and scooters used in public spaces, I wish to comment on the use of e-bikes as an enabler of crime. Our community/neighborhood has experienced a significant increase in crime associated with the uptake of e-bikes particularly. These devices allow for increased range, mobility and speed of access to crime opportunities. Young criminals (previously unable to access drivers' licenses) are now using e-bikes to commit crimes across a much wider range and escape quickly by utilising roads, footpaths, trails and bush tracks where they know from experience that pursuing police cannot follow. Anecdotal evidence & observations from across the Noosa LGA suggests that groups of youths are travelling significant distances, late at night or very early mornings to break and enter, steal cars, vandalize infrastructure and commit acts of group violence. Personal evidence from our community directly supports this. The increase in this type of crime corresponds directly to the numbers of e-bikes observed in public spaces. The consequences of unlawful use of these devices are predictable and preventable, and I believe any reasonable person would agree legislators and our police and judiciary are obliged to do more to protect our communities from unlawful use of them. Existing laws do not appear to be enforced rigorously or consistently. Importers and retailers of these devices do not appear to follow current regulations, and the legislation appears to be insufficient to prevent unlawful sale and use by unlicensed minors.