

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Many others and I have found the culture and guidelines handling the use of e-bike and scooters in the Varsity Lakes area terrible and even on occasion unbearable. I am a young woman, and I have been harassed by a group of teenagers on electric bikes, who followed and taunted me as I walked a public sidewalk path, just along Lake Orr. This behaviour and lack of consequences has made me walk in my area less, as it feels wildly unsafe and uninviting. Tonight, I finally decided to submit this complaint, after I had a very near miss of a teenage boy on his e-bike while driving. He had no lights, despite it being dark and no street-lights. Had I not seen him at the last second, I would've hit him, causing him serious injury. I of course worry for him, but if I had hit him my life would be ruined by his actions. And while driving alongside him, I rolled down my window and told him to turn on his lights, which he promptly ignored as he kept his AirPods in. He then completely ignored a red light and drove on the opposite side of the road. These children do not obey road safety laws and definitely do not obey sidewalk laws. I also witnessed the horrible effects of a child's death due to lack of e-bike laws. Last year, a young boy was hit by a car while driving on an e-bike with his father. It is absolutely tragic what happened, but he would still be alive if his father abided to rules and logic when it comes to e-bikes. Tandem biking, driving on sidewalks and riding with young children should 100% be illegal, and it is insane that it is not already. How many more children have to die for this to be taken seriously? How many injuries? How many near misses? I want to be able to walk in my neighbourhood in peace. I want to be able to drive without the fear of possibly hitting a child, even if I am following all road laws. I want children to be able to come home at night, and not make their families and communities suffer from loss. I strongly urge for this issue to be taken to the upmost severity to protect our residents, streets and children.