Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

I, in general, am in support of e-bikes, e-scooters etc. as they promote a healthy lifestyle in the form of exercise, help reduce the cost of living for many (vs car or public transport), provide independence and freedom to many, and also help the environment in terms of no emissions.

However, being a bike rider myself, I see several problems. Firstly, the people who ride dangerously in the form of speeding, tricks, and ducking in and out of traffic. This is the same problem as motorbikes and cars being dangerous, though these vehicles are owned by people over 17 and with a licence. Maybe the same needs to be considered for electronic vehicles. Secondly, the infrastructure is lacking or at least, not functioning at its best. An example being along Christine Avenue, varsity lakes near Aldi and Varsity Primary School. The bike lanes are nearly always filled with parked cars. As a rider, I therefore have two choices. To ride on the road ducking between the bike lane then out in front of 60kph cars, or up onto the pathways, with slower pedestrians. Either way, it doesn't feel safe for anyone involved. If the bike lanes were actually free of parked vehicles, it would be safer all round. Thirdly, improved education for car drivers. Cars cutting off bike lanes at roundabouts or overtaking bikes at a very close proximity, again makes it feel dangerous to be on the road on an electric bike/scooter. Lastly, the amount of debris in bike lanes again feels unsafe. Nails and screws, rocks, slippery leaves etc. ultimately means it feels safer to cycle on the road which is generally cleaner, or the pavement which doesn't have the rocks or screws. Potholes and road cracks are also an issue with cycling. As said in my initial part, I feel electronic vehicles have their place on the road. However, the conditions need to be re-evaluated.