

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Safety of pedestrians, elderly people, and people with small children is severely compromised by operators of e-bikes, e-scooters and similar when operated on footpaths and in carparks where people may be walking because the operating speeds are not limited enough and the users quite often disregard the unexpected interaction with other open area users and many are in the main inexperienced about vehicle operation safety. Disability motorised vehicle speed capability is generally much less than that achieved by operators of e-bikes, e-scooters and similar. Operators of e-bikes, e-scooters and similar ride at speeds over three times that of walking speed and an impact on a person walking can be fatal. The operators of e-bikes, e-scooters and similar travel on roadways with registered vehicles in an unsafe manner and at high speed with unpredictable swerving, disregard for traffic light signals and speed limits, and very often being doubled, even triple riders and under-aged. It is time to introduce e-mobility device speed limiters, registration of all motorised e-mobility vehicles so that victims of misuse have civil rights and compensation avenues available. Parents, guardians, and the purchasers/owners of e-mobility vehicles that provide vehicles for riders should have a firm duty of care to the broader community and be recorded on a Gov database and penalties/fines/confiscation of offending parties' vehicles should be part of an introduced firm policing legislation. Persons under 16yrs should be prevented as operators of e-bikes, e-scooters and similar unless speed capability is severely limited, and persons over 16yrs should be subject to a similar licensing regime as for registered Motorcycles. Safety and the prevention of harm to persons and property, should be at the forefront of the outcomes of this inquiry.