

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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From: Keith Jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, 18 May 2025 8:56 PM
To: Hervey Bay Electorate Office <Hervey.Bay@parliament.qld.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Hervey Bay EScooter Petition

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[REDACTED]
Thank You for the opportunity to submit.

The link did not work but I will put my point of view across here if that is ok.

Firstly the law was and I think it still is Under the age of 16 you can not ride an EScooter, if you are 12 to 16 years old you need to be escorted by an adult or parent who is riding on another EScooter. I think this is the first thing we should enforce fiercely as we have 8 year olds riding EScooters to school. Now we need to put a law through Government to be able to charge the parents a heavy fine of at least \$1000 for purchasing these EScooters for under age children to firstly stop putting their children at risk when there are perfectly good buses to take children to school without risking their lives riding to school. While on the age of children, I believe under the age of 12 children must be accompanied by an adult on the way to school on foot or being taken in a car or by Government contracted School Buses like [REDACTED] who I work for as a bus driver.

As a bus driver everyday I am in fear of hitting one of these kids on these EScooter, they have no regard for Road Rules, ride on the wrong side of the road, ride in the middle of busy roads at speeds of up to 70km, I have even had one doing 60 plus km while riding in the middle of the road turn and give me the finger as he did it. I believe the police on the Sunshine Coast have now started impounding the EScooters that go faster than pedal push bikes can go and classified them as Motor Bikes and hence have stated that these require a license insurance and a drivers license and if this is the case then it needs to be enforced state wide. A good deterrent for young people would be that if they are caught riding these vehicles illegally that they will be put back a year in obtaining their car license. Make this public and it will send a message.

Re not having enough police, I would like to say mine and the public I have spoken with me agree that the police have got to Labor Government ways of not enforcing anything so they do not want to do it now. I was at a set of lights near Stocklands shopping centre a few months ago now and I had a 4wd ute in front of me at a red light, on the opposite side of the road their was a police car waiting. Well the light changed and with a clearly marked "NO U TURN" the ute in front of me did a U Turn illegally right in fron of the police car which prevented them from taking off and the police car just sat there and let them do it. I was furious because police in this town do

not enforce the law and people do what they want, so I beeped my horn and pointed at the police car to go get the person. They didn't in fact they waited a little longer to take off and give them more time to get away. Due to this I contacted DAVID LEE MP through his office and he made arrangements in the next couple of weeks to talk to the officer in charge of Hervey Bay police. In my discussions with him the Officer in Charge said if his police car booked the person breaking the law they would not of been able to do something more important. Well what they were doing was not urgent (no siren). He also said it is unfortunate that a member of the public saw this????? I said to him they are breaking the law you are police officers and you need to enforce the law, it is what your paid to do??? He said we do not have enough police. I said strange whenever I drive past the police station there is about a dozen cars sitting there, they are not out on the road. I said I spoke to David and said to him, that I suggest the Government employ 3 data entry operators to put in the reports for the police officers after training how to. I then said I also suggested that every police officer must have a video camera on their body and switched on whenever they are carrying out a task which will also have audio to record what is said at the scene. He then turned around and said that would not suit us then we would not know what to say at court. I politely said, you were not obviously listening, every police officer would have a video and audio to record what happens and in court you would put that recording up for the judge to see and you would not have to say anything.

Back to the EScooters, it is illegal for most school age children to ride them and I as a bus driver is horrified that they are being allowed to ride them and ride them so dangerously. I for one would be looking for compensation from the government if I have to live the rest of my life with dreams of killing a young kid on one of these EScooters which they are riding illegally and dangerously. Why seek compensation, because it is a law they cannot ride them and the government and police are not enforcing the law here in Hervey Bay so they are responsible.

I would love feedback on the results of this inquiry and it needs to happen quickly not get dragged out.

Regards

Keith Jones

[REDACTED]

Concerned bus driver and citizen