

## **Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland**

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I live in Margaret Street, East Toowoomba. It is a busy street with a mix of private homes, small businesses, medical offices, motels, and nearby schools. Hundreds of people use the footpaths on each side of the street every day.

Many E-Scooters also use these footpaths at frightening speeds. They move silently and seem to have no regard for traffic emerging from any driveway and weave around pedestrians. My husband has bone cancer but can go for short walks outside. We both look both ways when walking outside our front gate, but E-Scooters and E-Bikes move so fast that this does not ensure any level of safety. Let me give four examples of “near misses”. These examples all occurred on the last two days.

- I was waiting near our front gate at dusk for a friend. I was inside our property and was about to step out when an E-Scooter whizzed past, literally no more than half-a-metre away from me. I called out to the rider but by then he (or she) was already two houses away. He or she was driving very close to the fence on a wide footpath and driving very fast with no lights.
- My husband was walking on the footpath when an E-Scooter passed him (from behind) without any warning. If he had wavered at all (he uses a walking stick) he would have been hit. The E-Scooter was carrying two people.
- Today I was walking to the Chemist (less than 5 minutes’ walk away) when I stopped at the lights at the intersection of Mary and Margaret Streets. While waiting for the lights to change, an E-Scooter came towards me—it crossed the intersection against all of the lights. I took a step back to avoid it hitting me. It was quickly out of sight going north on Mary Street.
- After this last incident, I crossed with the pedestrian lights and walked towards the Chemist. I was walking on the left side of the footpath. But as I turned to my left to go down the steps from Margaret Street to the Chemist, an E-Scooter heading west on Margaret Street came from behind me, swerving to avoid me.

I am quite terrified of what could happen to me, to my husband, to school children going to and from school, to visitors to Toowoomba who walk to Queen’s Park from their motels, or to patients visiting one of the medical offices or Vert Centre here.

E-Scooters and E-Bikes should **never** be allowed to drive on all footpaths.

Submitted by Nerida Ellerton, [REDACTED]