

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Palm beach, especially within 250 meters of and even the beach tidal area, is being increasingly overrun by all manner of unregulated and often, wrecklessly used, or discarded, electric powered conveyances. An increasingly large proportion of these, are capable of & are being operated at speeds, far in excess of normal pedestrian activity, even jogging & running. Speeds approaching roadway use, are being used, with complete disregard for order and safety, both on and off the footpaths & road side, along the Gold Coast Highway, in turning the one way, limited traffic, Jefferson Lane into a two way speedway, with no regard for giving way to pedestrians or vehicles, at the crossing Avenues, and lately, even at full speed, North and South, along the tidal slope of the beach. These conveyances are all highly invasive and potentially lethal to pedestrians and those stationary at leisure, by their approach being unexpected, virtually silent and visually minimal, and their operators, mostly unlicensed and/or untested, as to skill levels, age appropriateness and if there are any restrictions or rules of use and public/pedestrian priority and safety. The class of "standing operation" conveyances, such as scooters, wheeled boards and skates, are, I contend, presenting an extreme risk to any person in near proximity, (as well as the operator), due to their extremely limited capacity for emergency braking and evasion steering/operator control and physical constraint of both the operator and the conveyance, when control is lost. Another uncontrolled issue, particularly relating to "on-hire" conveyances, is the common, dangerous, (as well as visually polluting), practice of "drop where it stops" when it is discharged or no longer needed, and "park where you please", in any public place or facility, in a manner that impedes public use and safety. This surely, I believe, must carry legal liability back to the hirer, for injury and damage caused or incurred by this incorrect storage and possibly, littering or environmental pollution. There is also the documented, serious risk of lithium battery fire or explosion, from any type of failure, such as damage, extreme weather exposure or water ingress and substandard, or non-standard quality control and manufacturing. The whole frame of reference to these conveyances, is a "black hole" of unregistered, untaxed, unfunded associated capital and healthcare/emergency and paramedic requirements, unlicensed, uncontrolled, uninsured use with no defined liability of the user and no protection for injury or property damage victims. Virtually all levels of government are complicit in this and promote and subsidise and even legislate to support it and ultimately, as the saying goes, "The buck stops here". Please step back away from the religious zealotism that underpins this runaway, unmanned and uncontrolled, destructive expansionism. Sincerely, A concerned elector and ratepayer and family.