Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitted by:

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Submitter Comments:

I moved to Maroochydore on the lovely Sunshine Coast from Sydney early last year. I lived in the inner city of Elizabeth Bay and Darlinghurst in Sydney for the past 30 years and never felt unsafe walking on the neighbourhood streets. Bikes etc are not permitted on the pavements where I lived in Sydney so when I moved to the Sunshine Coast it didn't occur to me that this was legal in Queensland. The first time a bike whizzed by me without signalling I got a huge shock. Fortunately I automatically walk to the far left side of a footpath/pavement as a matter of course so avoided a collision. I'm now constantly looking over my shoulder and on guard for e-bikes, bikes, e-scooters and the like and it makes walking fraught and not the pleasurable experience of the past. I'm also very concerned for the many visitors I have from Sydney as I have to constantly tell them to look out for bikes etc. Most are incredulous that pedestrians have to share a footpath with these lethal machines especially where footpaths are very narrow. The demographics of this area are varied with young families, young people and people like myself who are older and retired and I understand that everyone needs to be considered, however, even designated footpaths along the river are shared with bikes so there really is no where completely safe for walkers any more. It's the one gripe I have with the area as I love living here but do feel I'm at risk every time I step outside my gate.