Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Living and enjoying the Sunshine Coast I frequently use the Black Swan Park area adjacent to The Esplanade at Maroochydore for walking exercise. I find e-scooters and eBikes using the footpaths of this very family oriented area at speeds well in excess of the 12km/hr limit, additionally riders are frequently seen with passengers (neither wearing helmets) riding in a dangerous manner completely ignoring the legal requirements for these machines. Some of these eBikes are more powerful than petrol driven scooters yet no license required and it would appear no policing of the legality in riding them. I understand it is virtually impossible for the police to catch the offenders as they speed away snubbing their noses at authority. I note from our local press the frequency of accidents involving escooters is increasing and am surprised there are not more injuries as speed and erratically driven machines will ultimately lead to more serious incidents. I fear for the safety of young children and our older generation as the riders of these machines in highly populated zones will ultimately result in the death of a child who runs out in front of a speeding machine. I believe these e-scooters should be totally banned from pubic footpaths if they can't be restricted to speed limits below 12 km/hr. Regarding eBikes again the speed limit must be enforced and the speed limiters reconnected limiting the maximum to 25 km/hr when on the road. Strict penalties need to be applied and enforced as presently it is just lip service.