

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 372
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Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

As a resident of Palm Beach, as an ebike rider and also with two children that ride pedal powered bikes and Ebikes, I witness irresponsible riders EverydayMy kids go to Palm Beach State School and Palm Beach Currumbin high school and I pick them up in my car everyday. I also regularly walk my dog along the Tallebudgera, Palm Beach walkway, Currumbin beach to tugun, biking and Kirra. On a regular basis I see students riding irresponsibly on roads and designated footpaths for example: no helmets weaving in and out of traffic or pedestrians riding at unsafe speeds for the conditions unaware of what drivers can see / not see Riding in the wrong direction of marked cycle lanes near miss accidents Riding at night with no lights(I have dash cam footage of this and also sent it in to the relevant schools)All of the above examples are witnessed EVERY dayWhile mainly young school students it's not limited to them with adults guilty of the same behaviourThere are multiple issues with the use of Ebikes and regular bikes on roads and footpaths and after discussing with the vice principal at Pbc it seems they are at a loss also in regard to a solution. They told me that the police regularly come to the school and advise students at assemblies about fines that are applicable but the students know these are rarely enforced and to be honest unrealistic in application. They seemed very hands-off in regards to the whole situation.I suggested even having a teacher at the gate in the morning noting down any student that isn't wearing a helmet can get a detention but she advised this was not feasible. Which honestly blows my mind since students get detentions for wearing jewelry however something that could save their life is in the too hard basket.In regards to restrictions on the sale of certain types of Ebikes. This seems like a massive undertaking which won't yield any results. With many new emerging technologies there will always be something ahead of legislation to get around the existing bike laws which are already hard to police. For example you can buy conversion kits on eBay for standard bikes to Ebikes which are 3000w. And capable of 90 km an hour! And the most popular fat bikes are now capable of 50 km an hour which in my opinion is way too fast for the inexperienced riders operating themI think the government should introduce:1. working on mandatory bike education in schools. And potentially an Ebike licensing system.When I went to school, we did bike education about road rules, what drivers of cars can see and can't see, how to be courteous to drivers and to pedestrians. One of the biggest sources of issue is Ebike riders flying past pedestrians in close proximity, not slowing down when there are pedestrians or crowded areas or making sudden moves at speed.I also have my motorbike rider license and had to pass a the relevant test and practical to be able to obtain it during that course I was made aware of the additional dangers of being a road user on a motorbike and also the safety precautions to protect myself2. Speed cameras on foot paths targeting Ebike riders3. Issuing fines especially for the parents of riders who provide these Ebikes for their children and don't educate them.Before I allowed my children to ride normal bikes and now Ebikes I took the time to teach them how to protect themselves on the road and what the right and wrong thing is to do. I did this out of care for them and the community. I understand some parents may not have the ability to do this, which is why bike education in my opinion is Paramount. it's also important to differentiate the Ebikes and popular fat Ebikes from the more powerful electric dirt bikes that don't have pedals eg Surron they can go in excess of 75 km an hour. Riders of these type of bikes are blatantly breaking the law. They should be a priority for the police and anyone seen on them should have it a confiscatedRegards