Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitter Comments:

Submission: I am writing to contribute to the inquiry into the safety and use of personal e-mobility devices (PMDs) in Queensland. As these devices become more common, it is critical to have clear, consistent, and enforceable rules to protect both riders and the public. My recommendations are as follows:Apply the Same Rules as Bicycle Riders:PMD riders should be required to follow the same traffic and pathway rules as bicycle riders. This includes obeying signs and signals, using bike lanes where available, and yielding to pedestrians. Helmets Must Be Mandatory: All PMD riders must be required to wear an approved helmet at all times. This is a simple and proven measure to reduce the severity of injuries in the event of a crash. Set a Speed Limit of 40 km/h: Personal emobility devices should be limited to a maximum speed of 40 km/h. This helps balance convenience and safety, particularly when operating in shared spaces or on roads.Ban Mobile Phone Use While Riding:Using a mobile phone while riding a PMD should be explicitly banned and enforceable by penalty. Distracted riding is dangerous and should be treated similarly to mobile phone use while driving.Require Lights to Be On at All Times:All PMDs should be equipped with front and rear lights, and these should be turned on at all times while in use — not just at night. This will increase rider visibility and reduce the risk of accidents. Permit or License for High-Speed Devices: Any PMD capable of exceeding 40 km/h should require a special permit or license to operate. These higher-speed devices carry greater risks and should only be used by individuals who understand and accept those responsibilities. These changes would help Queensland manage the growing use of emobility devices in a way that prioritises public safety and responsible use.