

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 393
Submitted by: [REDACTED]
Publication: Making the submission public but withholding your name
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Firstly I would like to say in my opinion these E-Scooters and E-Bikes are battery powered motorcycles. I have held my open motorcycle license for 45 years. If these vehicles are going to be ridden on public roads then the vehicle needs to be registered and the driver/rider licensed. Registration is required for 3rd party injury indemnification. Licencing is required to ensure the driver/rider is competent in the use of their machine and understands the road rules as applying to all vehicles using public roads. Senior citizens and those with mobility impairments are required to register their mobility scooters for use on public roads. It appears to me the requirement for e-scooters and e-bikes is a given. I would like to point out that my mother rode an electric bicycle to her work in England in the 1950's. She obtained at 15 years of age and held a license for this vehicle for 6 years prior to emigrating to Australia. I rode off-road motorcycles as a teenager and I know how much fun a motorcycle can be. My observations of some the e-scooters and e-bikes is their performance is similar to an off-road motorcycle in terms of speed and agility. I have seen teens wheelstand these things on our local roads and footpaths some wearing motorcycle style helmets others no protection at all. The real danger here is injuries to the riders by collisions with other vehicles, not only cars but trucks and buses. We have a duty of care to protect our kids from harming themselves and others. I would never be a party to taking away the enjoyment of these machines but it's time we acted before deaths occur. My solution Registered for on road use, special class similar to mobility scooters or special class of motorcycle. Approved Australian standard motorcycle helmet must be worn while riding. If there is no lighting on the vehicle, headlight, taillight and indicators then no riding on road between dusk and dawn. Learners permit from age 14 years and 6 months for machines with engine power up to a to be determined limit. 6 months minimum log book with supervised learning period followed by license test able to be taken from age 15. Faster more powerful vehicles should require a different class of license similar to motorcycles with the most powerful open license only available at age 17.