


Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

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Submitted by:	
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Subject:

SUBMISSION RE INQUIRY INTO E-MOBILITY SAFETY AND USE IN QUEENSLAND

Dear Sir/Madam:

I am personally not for or against the use of Personal Mobility Devices (PMDs), such as e-scooters and e-skateboards, as well as e-bikes in Queensland.

What I find is that they have been introduced (or have been allowed) too quickly without the proper review/s of their effect on the community. I would assume, that this is why there is now an Inquiry regarding the matter.

From my personal experience of being a stander by (not a rider), 20% of the users give 80% of the users a bad name due to the disregard for others, safety and any current rules in place.

Benefits

- There is an obvious benefit in their use both for commuting and fitness.
- These benefits are negated by the 20% (sited above) of users.

Safety

- Most of the safety instances I have witnessed is from the “younger” aged users. Although, to be honest I cannot narrow down a defined aged group.
- I have witnessed; excessive speeds (sometimes faster than cars), hire e-scooters blocking footpaths and left anywhere, most users do not use a bell as most push bike riders do and a high percentage of users with no helmet.

Issues

- I have not witnessed any issues with batteries and fire risk, but I am not a user.
- It perhaps would be good to review any options for recycling of lithium batteries for when they reach “end of life”.
- Whom is responsible for the device that is being ridden?

Suitability

- I am not up to date or aware of the current legislation regarding the use of PMD's.
- I would support a review of any current legislation and suggest the Queensland consults with other states on the issue so there is as much commonality as possible to try to reduce any cross-state border influences.
- Subject items that could be reviewed may be;
 - Speed Limits
 - Footpaths/Cycleways/Roadways usage
 - Helmet and Bell compliance
 - Whom is responsible for any incidents or accidents (especially when the rider may be a young as 10 years old, or younger).
 - Insurance issues (especially for a motor vehicle driver, whom is licenced, registered and insured) being impacted (to the vehicle) by a PMD rider (especially if they are young).

Effectiveness

- Certainly, a review is needed to cover the present time and the future use such as;
 - Illegal Devices
 - Dangerous Riding Behaviours
 - Review of Current and future law enforcement powers regarding the above

Gaps

- Please, as much as possible have a standard "Australian" approach to this

Communication and Education

- This issue will be complex in trying to connect with all of the public (Users and others)
- Schools, Driving Schools, All vehicle Licence Holders, Social Media and Web as a minimum, Road User Groups etc all have to be educated and communicated with
- Law Enforcement Officers also have to be kept up to date

In Summary,

These devices can benefit users but currently are not beneficial to non users because of the 20% (as listed above). A hard crack down on Laws, Safety and Compliance has to be undertaken as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

(Vehicle Driver and Push Bike User)