

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No: 396
Submitted by: Joyce Shallcross
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

Thanks for the opportunity to provide input for this inquiry. I am 68 and my husband Warren is now 74. We have been riding push bikes for over 20 years on bike paths, rail trails and even mountain bike trails (husband only). We have seen all sorts of issues over the years. Thankfully, with more dedicated and shared pathways being built, problems have lessened. There are still cyclists who do the wrong thing and pedestrians who dangerously crowd the paths, but people seem better educated these days. Despite cycling (for pleasure) being one of the best forms of exercise, my biggest fear from cycling is falling/crashing. A collision even with a pedestrian or their dog could cause serious injury to someone of my age. If everyone would just keep left, there would be less to worry about. In the inquiry, can you please differentiate between an ebike and an "electric bike". I use both a manual bike and an ebike. BOTH need to be pedalled. An ebike allows me to travel further than my tired old legs might otherwise allow me and to get up hills I might otherwise have to walk up, but doesn't differ from the manual bicycle in any other way. They are speed limited and work on bicycle paths just the same as manual bikes. I classify "electric bikes" as those where you DO NOT need to pedal. They have accelerators and to my mind, fit better into the class of electric cars. As do electric scooters and mobility scooters. Whilst they might still be speed limited, they are better able to maintain those speeds (up hill for example) than a bicycle, making them better suited to travel with cars. They start faster from standing, something that most cyclists can't do (for example at lights). As for insurances etc, we have 3 vehicles for which we pay 3rd party insurance. I'd be happy to link our bike presence to those existing insurances. As for rules – I obey them and so should all. Keeping left on every path be a good "rule" and would fix a lot of issues. Happy to explain my thinking further if you need.