

Inquiry into e-mobility safety and use in Queensland

Submission No:	402
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Publication:	Making the submission and your name public
Attachments:	See attachment
Submitter Comments:	

Submission to Queensland Parliament on light vehicles

Throughout this submission, e-bikes, e-scooters and mobility scooters will all be referred to as a Hansom class vehicle, referencing the Hansom Cab – a horse-drawn open carriage. Like the Hansom cab, these vehicles are light, open, fit one or two passengers and have some horsepower (but only one horse).

What's a Hansom?

- Mobility scooter
 - Largely used by older people
 - Cheaper than a car
 - Used for groceries and medical trips, designed to carry goods and a single person
 - **This vehicle saves money for old people and preserves independence**
- E-scooter
 - Largely used by commuting adults
 - Cheaper than a car, often combined with public transport, doesn't require parking
 - Used for commuting, designed to carry a single person and fold up for easy transport on buses, trains or in cars
 - **This vehicle prevents the need for an additional car in a household and reduces traffic during peak hours**
- E-bike
 - Largely used by teenagers, some by commuting adults
 - Affordable transport which doesn't require a license
 - Designed to carry a single person
 - **This vehicle grants independence to teenagers who are too young to get a full license and allows them to access jobs, socialising and volunteering in low and mid density communities**

Why do people use Hansoms?

Legally operating a car requires the user to have:

- Insurance money
- Fuel money
- A licence
 - Medical capacity to drive a vehicle
 - Correct age to drive a vehicle
 - Personal connections to support 70-100 hours of driving experience
- Access to a vehicle which requires storage, maintenance, registration

Some of the individuals who most need independent mobility cannot fulfil all these requirements. The old, the young, the poor. Hansoms fill a really important niche for these people, which is why they have exploded in popularity as they have become affordable.

What dangers do Hansoms pose?

The main danger is speed and careless driving. Hoons on fast bikes knocking over old ladies on the footpath.

How do we allow the benefits of Hansoms while preventing the downsides?

1. Legalise Hansoms as their own class of light vehicle: powered conveyances which go above 20 km/hr.
 - a. Free registration
 - b. Online multi-choice quiz of road rules with unlimited tries
 - c. New kind of number plates which are small and cool (plates provided at cost)
 - d. Registration is linked to an Australian ID and phone number (can be your parent or guardian's ID)
 - e. No age restriction
 - f. Not allowed on motorways
 - g. Allowed on pavements going maximum 20km/hr, allowed on roads up to 40km/hr
 - h. Helmets are mandatory if it has fewer than 4 wheels, and they need to be hard full-face helmets like BMX riders use
2. Apply hoon laws
 - a. If you are going above 40km/hr you can be booked on the spot
 - b. If you are going above 55km/hr, the cops book you and take your vehicle to be crushed (if it's stolen, they give it back to the owners and book you for theft)

No complicated laws based on wattage or cc's of engine size. Just a flat speed limit which can be easily identified and quantified from a distance. Speed cameras can catch them and mail out notices just like cars.

This approach seizes the benefits of Hansoms while empowering police to crush unsafe users.